



Georgia's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Grant

Overview:

The Money Follows the Person Initiative (MFP) is a five-year grant award that was made available as part of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The grant is designed to shift Medicaid Long-Term Care from its emphasis on institutional care to home and community-based services. MFP is a joint effort between the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to transition 618 consumers from institutional settings to a community setting. The goal of the MFP grant is to:

- Transition individuals from nursing facilities, hospitals and/ or Intermediate Care Facilities for Mental Retardation (ICF-MR) to qualified community residences.
- Rebalance the long-term care system by:
 - Offering enhanced transition services for 12 months for qualified persons transitioning from a qualified institution to a qualified community-setting,
 - Eliminating barriers or mechanisms that restrict the use of Medicaid funds so that individuals receive support for Long Term Care services in settings of their choice, and
 - Increasing home and community based services (HCBS) rather than institutional, long-term care services.
- Assure that quality procedures are in place and provide for continuous quality improvement.

Key elements of the demonstration are a commitment to self-direction, to quality management and continuous improvement in delivery systems, to transparency and openness in all aspects and seamless process for accessing services. Through MFP, the state will establish a seamless information and referral process, transition coordinators, support services to ease transition, transition peer counseling and increased availability of affordable housing and transportation.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

Most MFP participants will enter an existing HCBS waiver and must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Residing in an inpatient facility for at least 6 months
2. Receiving Medicaid benefits for facility services
3. Continue to meet institutional level of care



Target populations and HCBS Wavier:

- Older Adults – Elderly and Disabled Waivers
- Adults and Children with physical disabilities and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – Independent Living Care Waiver (ICWP) and
- Adults and children with Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) – New Options Waiver (NOW), and Comprehensive Waiver (COMP).

MFP Demonstration Services:

MFP offers demonstration and transition services to qualified MFP eligible participants. MFP uses home and community based Medicaid waiver services and “one-time” transition services to help people resettle in the community. In addition to HCBS core wavier services, MFP participants may qualify for the following transition services to assist them to move back into the community:

- 1 Peer Community Support
- 2 Trial Visits with Personal Support Services or PCH
- 3 Household Furnishings
- 4 Household Goods and Supplies
- 5 Moving Expenses
- 6 Utility Deposits
- 7 Security Deposits
- 8 Transition Support
- 9 Transportation
- 10 Community Transition Financial Services
- 11 Skilled Out-of-Home Respite
- 12 Caregiver Training
- 13 LTC Ombudsman
- 14 Equipment and Supplies
- 15 Vehicle Adaptations
- 16 Environmental Modifications

Qualified Residences

Eligible MFP participants will transition to qualified residences. Under MFP, qualified residences include:

- a home owned or leased by the transitioning individual or the individual's family member, or



- an apartment leased to the transitioning individual, with lockable access and egress, and which includes living, sleeping, bathing, and cooking areas over which the individual or the individual's family has domain and control
- a residence, in a community-based residential setting, in which no more than four unrelated individuals reside

MFP Transitioning Benchmark:

A total of 618 eligible participants will be transitioned during MFP demonstration.

CY	Elderly	MR/DD	PD/TBI	Totals
2008	2	20	1	23
2009	42	110	43	195
2010	30	110	60	200
2011	30	110	60	200
Totals	104	350	164	618

Timeline: The MFP Operational Protocol was approved by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) on June 30, 2008. Implementation of the MFP demonstration began **September 1, 2008.**

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