

**Money Follows the Person (MFP)
Demonstration Project**

Overview

Ohio was one of 17 states to receive funding for the “Money Follows the Person” demonstration project (awarded in January 2007) enacted by Congress as part of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Ohio will receive up to \$100 million in enhanced federal matching funds over five years. These funds are to be used to relocate approximately 2,200 seniors and persons with disabilities from institutions to home and community-based settings, and to help Ohio balance the long term service and support structure.

Total funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to all states was \$888 million. Ohio’s award was the third largest following only Texas and California.

Purpose of Money Follows the Person (MFP) Grant and Its Connection to Ohio’s Unified Long-Term Care Budget

- The intrinsic goal of “money following a person” is contingent on Ohio “balancing” its Medicaid expenditures between institutions and home and community based settings. In this way, the Money Follows the Person demonstration project is closely linked with the Unified Long-Term Care budget.
- Both initiatives support the vision of individual choice of where a person lives and receives services, transitioning consumers who want to live in the community, and implementing a system that ensures the provision and improvement of person-centered and quality services in both home and community-based settings.
- Together, these initiatives will lay the foundation for balancing Ohio’s long-term care system in SFY 2008-2009 with cost savings likely to follow in the next biennia.

Congress and CMS required state MFP proposals to:

- Propose a system of Medicaid home and community-based care that is sustainable after the demonstration period and that is conducted in conjunction with an existing (or approved) home and community-based services (HCBS) program to allow continuity of Medicaid coverage for eligible consumers.
- Allow MFP participants to be eligible for participation if they have lived in a qualified in-patient facility (hospital, nursing facility (NF), intermediate care facility for mental retardation (ICF-MR) for a minimum of six months
- Transition MFP participants to a qualified residence (home, individually leased and lockable apartment, community-based residential setting with no more than four unrelated persons).
- Receive enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) of just under 80% for 12 months for qualified HCBS for each person transitioned from institution to community during the demonstration period.
- Enhance Medicaid home and community based services offered to MFP participants during the demonstration period.
- Participate in a national qualitative and quantitative evaluation conducted by CMS.

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Summary of Ohio's Proposal

Ohio proposes to use the CMS grant for Money Follows the Person to take the *Ohio Access Success Plan* (a project assisting nursing facility residents to move back to the community) to the next level – both as a resource to further expand existing home and community-based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities and as a way to overcome barriers – to truly “balance” Ohio’s long-term service delivery system.

MFP will add “fuel” and a coordinating function to Ohio’s existing HCBS system. In addition, because MFP will be targeted only to people leaving institutional settings, Ohio’s MFP will create a distinct set of “post-institutional” services that will smooth the way for people who are moving to a home setting from an institution. These services will be finite as people adjust to living in their own homes and transition to individualized service packages established either through an existing HCBS waiver or Ohio Medicaid’s state plan benefit plus other services and supports that are not funded via Medicaid.

Key Elements of Ohio's Proposal

- Address the needs of multiple populations in a phased-in approach over the five-year demonstration period. By the end of the demonstration, Ohio estimates 2200 people will be relocated from an institutional setting to a home setting.
- Promote consumer-direction of services.
- Use existing HCBS options such as Medicaid waiver programs, state plan Medicaid benefits, and Medicaid waiver initiatives. In addition, enhance the services offered through the use of finite demonstration services (see next bullet point)
- Identify and incorporate **existing services** (waiver services and state plan services); **demonstration services** (independent living skills education, peer support, benefits coordination, housing locator service, respite care, day habilitation, supported employment, social work and counseling, nutrition counseling, nursing), and **supplemental demonstration services** (service animals, home computers) into the project.
- Incorporate a referral and tracking system to track MFP participation and data.
- Create a council consisting of consumers and families, advocates, provider organizations and state staff to help plan and advise with implementing Ohio’s MFP demonstration project.
- Establish workgroups to identify issues, develop recommendations, and design processes and protocols to implement Ohio’s MFP demonstration project.
- Incorporate quality management into all aspects of the operational protocol and demonstration.

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