

Bridge to Independence (B2I)
Money Follows the Person
Rebalancing Demonstration Grant

As part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act, funding was authorized by Congress in section 6071 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, making available rebalancing demonstration grants for Money Follows the Person in the amount of \$1.75B. Money Follows the Person was designed to help States balance their long-term care systems and help people transition from institutions to the community.

Facts about the grant:

- Increases the use of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and reduces the use of institutionally-based services;
- Eliminates barriers that prevent or restrict flexible use of Medicaid funds to enable individuals to receive long-term care in the settings of their choice;
- Strengthens the ability of Medicaid programs to assure continued provision of HCBS to individuals who transition from institutions;
- Ensures provision of continuous quality improvement of HCBS.
- Twenty-nine States and the District of Columbia have implemented MFP Demonstration Programs.
- On February 28, 2011, 13 states were awarded MFP Demonstration Grants.
- MS received \$37M over 6 years.

Facts about B2I (MS Money Follows the Person Initiative):

- Target population includes individual who are elderly or have a physical, intellectual, developmental or serious mental disability.
- B2I participants must have resided in a Nursing Facility or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) for at least 90 consecutive Medicaid covered days prior to enrollment;
- B2I participants must continue to meet institutional level of care criteria after transitioning to the community.
- B2I participants will receive HCB waiver services or Community Mental Health Center services.
- B2I offers additional demonstration services to assist individuals in their transition. Services include transition care management, support for the caregiver, life skills training and one-time purchase of things necessary to set up housing, like utility deposits and household items.
- Services for B2I participants are eligible for enhanced federal match, reducing MS's share to less than 15%.
- Projected start date for B2I is October 1, 2011.

Expected outcome at the end of the grant period:

- 595 individuals will be transitioned from institutions to the community.
- Transition coordinators will be available across the State to help people transition.
- The State's long term care system will be rebalanced with an emphasis on home and community services.
- Collaborations will have been established which will benefit the State in the areas of housing, transportation and consumer involvement.
- The State will have adopted a person centered planning approach in working with individuals.

For more information about the program, please contact Kristi Plotner at 601-359-6698, or e-mail her at kristi.plotner@medicaid.ms.gov. You can also visit our website at www.medicaid.ms.gov.