

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations

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April 14, 2011

Gregg Pane, MD, MPA, Director  
State of Virginia, Department of Medical Assistance Services  
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Dr. Pane:

This letter is to inform you of technical assistance services that are being offered to assist your state in coordinating community services and supports with housing options for individuals transitioning from institutional long term care settings to the community and those with disabilities and chronic conditions at risk of institutionalization.

As you may know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been a key stakeholder in the Community Living Initiative, begun in 2010 by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius as a way to continue the interagency efforts launched by the Obama Administration's "Year of Community Living." As part of this collaborative effort, HHS and the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) are working closely to address common barriers to housing and community living opportunities for persons with disabilities and chronic conditions, particularly those impacting individuals transitioning from nursing homes and other institutions into housing linked with supportive services in the community. Operating as part of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration, HHS and HUD announced their joint efforts under the *Capacity Building Initiative for Community Living*<sup>1</sup> last summer. The purpose of this project is to offer support to federal, state and local agencies and community partners to create functional partnerships that lead to a sustainable, collaborative system between housing and Medicaid and human services agencies.

The *Capacity Building Initiative for Community Living* proposes to provide targeted, intensive Technical Assistance to 5 States and 15 local pilot sites within those States to create these relationships across housing and human service systems. Your State has been selected as one of 5 States to receive intensive T/A efforts. Pilot sites within your State will be selected shortly.

Services We Can Offer. New Editions Consulting, Inc., the prime contractor for this project, operating under contract with CMS, has retained the services of nationally known experts who successfully identify and promote solutions to the housing and community support needs of vulnerable, low-income individuals with long-term disabilities. These consultants will first work with your MFP Project Director and designated state Medicaid personnel, operating agencies and contractors to develop or improve important partnerships among key housing and long term services and support organizations in your state. They will then identify, develop and implement strategies tailored to your needs to reinforce these partnerships.

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<sup>1</sup> See HHS-HUD announcement at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100622a.html>

The initial focus of our efforts will be to support partnerships with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to promote the successful implementation of the recent HUD Housing Choice Vouchers for Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) persons transitioning from institutions to the community ("Category 2" vouchers), which were awarded to PHAs in your state in January 2011<sup>2</sup>.

Our consultants will work with you and PHA staff to determine challenges impacting the formulation and sustainability of partnerships as well as the implementation of this voucher initiative. We will then suggest appropriate strategies that recognize the unique circumstances in your state and assist you in executing them. These activities may include interpretation and application of relevant best practices, development of cross-agency policy and procedural templates, training, facilitation, and advice by email, phone, and in-person sessions, as mutually agreed upon.

Getting Started. Your MFP Project Director has already had informal contacts from our consultants regarding this project. They will next be formally contacted by New Editions Consulting, Inc. to schedule (1) a conference call to brief MFP staff and others in the state on this important CMS-HUD project and to begin discussions of your needs and the services we can provide, and (2) a joint conference call with the PHAs to discuss cross-agency activities.

In addition to providing state-level technical assistance services, we will work with these agencies to identify as many as four local sites within your state that will also receive intensive services. Since many of HUD's programs are implemented by PHAs that operate at a county or city level, we plan to offer intensive services focused on supporting collaborations that create sustainable systems among the local housing providers, local Medicaid providers and operating agencies, and other local partner organizations.

More Information. Details on this landmark HHS-HUD collaboration are available on the *Housing Capacity Building Initiative for Community Living* project's website at: <http://www.hhs-hud-housing-collaboration.net>. The website also provides housing and supportive services resources, and material from the special webinar on the HUD Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers presented February 23, 2011.

The CMS Project Officer for this project is John Sorensen, Health Insurance Specialist, Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, who may be reached at: 410-786-5933, or email: [John.Sorensen@CMS.hhs.gov](mailto:John.Sorensen@CMS.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Barbara Coulter Edwards  
Director  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

Cc:

Jason Rachel, Project Director  
Virginia Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration  
Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

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<sup>2</sup> See HUD-HHS announcement at: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-003](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-003)