CMS announces supplemental funding for Money Follows the Person Demonstration program. For more information, read this week's Washington Weekly.

Washington Weekly!
by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
September 25, 2020

Administration News

CMS Announces MFP Supplemental Funding
This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the availability of up to $165 million in supplemental funding to States currently operating Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration programs. This funding will help State Medicaid programs jump-start efforts to transition individuals with disabilities and older adults from institutions and nursing facilities to home and community-based settings of their choosing. This reinforces the Administration’s commitment to transform Medicaid by fostering increased State flexibility and innovation and to ensure safety and quality for beneficiaries.

Thirty-three States, including the District of Columbia, that operate MFP-funded transition programs and plan to continue participating in MFP after this fiscal year are eligible to participate: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

Each State is eligible to receive up to $5 million in supplemental funding for planning and capacity building activities to accelerate long-term care system transformation design and implementation, and to expand HCBS capacity, such as:

- Assessing HCBS system capacity and determining the extent to which additional providers and/or services might be needed;
- Assessing institutional capacity and determining the extent to which the State could reduce this capacity and transition impacted individuals to more integrated settings;
- Provider and direct service worker recruitment, education, training, technical assistance, and quality improvement activities, including training people with disabilities to become direct service workers;
- Caregiver training and education;
• Assessing and implementing changes to reimbursement rates and payment methodologies to expand HCBS provider capacity and/or improve HCBS and/or institutional service quality;
• Building Medicaid-housing partnerships to facilitate access to affordable and accessible housing for Medicaid beneficiaries with disabilities and older adults; and
• Diversion strategies to prevent nursing facility admission.

In addition, States could use this funding opportunity to support HCBS planning and capacity building activities in direct response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as to plan and implement the use of telehealth for nursing facility transition activities that would normally be conducted in-person or to redesign service delivery models to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection among MFP participants.

**NQF Seeks Subject Matter Experts on Telehealth and Health Outcomes in a Disaster**

The National Quality Forum (NQF) will convene a multistakeholder committee to create a measurement framework linking quality of care delivered by telehealth, healthcare system readiness, and health outcomes in a disaster. The Committee will discuss, update, and enhance the previously developed telehealth framework to ensure its relevance for person-centered measurement, patient safety, and value-based measurement and to ensure it addresses new as well as ongoing opportunities and challenges, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NQF is seeking nominations for individuals and individual subject matter experts.

Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. All nominations must be submitted by 6:00pm (ET) on October 26. Review the Call for Nominations (PDF) to learn more. NQF Members and the public are strongly encouraged to provide their valuable input and perspectives on this new effort. Click here for more information.

**CDC Awards Grants for ACES Research**

In keeping with its Injury Center priority, along with overdose prevention and suicide prevention, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC)’s Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) is funding three research recipients for three years working specifically on ACEs prevention. Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). The first year of funding for all three projects is a combined total of $973,716. The following recipients were awarded:

• Effectiveness of Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience (ACER) and Community Organizing for Preventing Youth Violence and ACEs; Research Triangle Institute; Principal Investigator – Dr. Phillip Graham

• The Impact of an Adapted Version of the Strengthening Families Program on Reducing IPV Among Caregivers and ACEs Among Their Children; University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Principal Investigator – Dr. Katie Edwards

• Policy Strategies for the Prevention of Multiple Forms of Violence Against Children and Youth; Prevent Child Abuse America; Principal Investigator – Dr. Jeffry Klika

**Federal Grants**

**CDC Entertains Research Awards on Understanding Causes of Firearm Violence**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division for Violence Prevention (DVP) is committing $7,836,869 to fund sixteen research awards under “RFA-CE-20-006: Research Grants to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries”; and two will receive support as part of the competitively-funded "RFA-CE-20-002: Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth." Visit CDC’s Firearm...
Every day in the United States, about 109 people die from a firearm-related injury. For every firearm death, at least two nonfatal firearm injuries are treated in emergency departments. Yet, many of these injuries and deaths could be prevented. This September marks an important milestone in progress toward prevention, as CDC awards funding for research to understand and prevent firearm violence.

**Upcoming Webinars and Conferences**

**NC Prevention Center Offers Webinar on ACES and Suicide Prevention**
On Monday, Sept. 28, the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center and North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Branch will host the webinar, “Leveraging a Systems Thinking Approach for ACEs and Suicide Prevention in a Remote Environment,” starting at 1:00pm (ET). The webinar is designed to describe and introduce participants to systems thinking tools to assist in meeting the evolving needs of communities. For more information, click [here](#).

**I&R Support Center Hosts Webinar on Benefits Access During COVID-19**
The National I&R Support Center at ADvancing States is hosting a webinar on benefits access and enrollment during COVID-19. This webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, from 3:00pm to 4:00pm (ET). In response, the federal government and State and local agencies have sought to address basic needs, provide access to certain benefits, and modify service delivery for vulnerable populations.

Due to changes in federal regulation and law, States are responding with changes in policies and procedures to ensure individuals have access to public benefit programs, such as the Medicare low-income subsidies, SNAP, and LIHEAP. Presenters will describe examples of opportunities and adjustments that States have made to connect older adults and persons with disabilities to critical benefit programs during the pandemic. Data from an ADvancing States COVID-19 membership survey will be shared. Additionally, Massachusetts’ SHINE program will describe how they are operating and responding during the pandemic to continue to connect consumers to benefits such as Medicare and the Medicare low-income subsidies. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**RR&T Center to Host Minnesota Gathering for Person-Centered Practices**
The NIDILRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training (RR&T) Center on Community Living and Participation will host the Minnesota Gathering for Person-Centered Practices on Oct. 14-15, from 8:30am-4:30pm (CT) in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and The Learning Community for Person-Centered Practices. The Minnesota Gathering is a major person-centered virtual event that brings together nationally recognized speakers, practitioners of person-centered practices, and real-world families coping with COVID-19 restrictions. The Gathering includes a Learning Marketplace, which allows any participant to post a topic of interest and invite others to join an online small-group meeting. Registration is free and required by Oct. 1. Click [here](#) to register.

**Federal Agencies to Host Webinar on HCBS During COVID-19**
The Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) host a monthly webinar series that invites subject matter experts to share insights and best practices to develop high quality home-and community-based services (HCBS) and programs beyond regulatory compliance. On Oct. 1, the agencies will hold the webinar, “HCBS Innovation During COVID: Federal, State & DD Act Partners,” from 2:00pm (CDT) – 3:30pm (CDT). This webinar invites attendees to learn about:

- CMS waivers and flexibilities (analysis and discussion)
- Replicable strategies and partnerships that leverage existing infrastructure to address
PHE issues

- Policy areas where we need collaboration and innovation to ensure the safety and well-being of HCBS beneficiaries during and after the PHE

Click here to register.

Registration is Open for the HCBS Conference

Registration is open for the 2020 Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Conference, sponsored by ADvancing States, to be held virtually over two weeks on December 2-3 and December 8-10, 2020. The national conference annually brings together State, federal, and local policymakers, as well as leaders who administer, manage, and deliver waiver and other HCBS programs. The purpose of the HCBS Conference is to share practices and policies that improve State systems delivering long-term services and supports (LTSS) for people of all ages and abilities. Register by October 16th to secure the Early Bird rate and save $100!

Visit our website

This update was prepared by:
Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy
publicpolicy@nashia.org

Jennifer Braun, Chair, NASHIA Public Policy Committee
jennifer.braun@health.mo.gov

Rebeccah Wolfkiel, Executive Director
execdirector@nashia.org

Becky Corby, Governmental Relations Consultant
rcorby@ridgepolicygroup.com

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.