

# Money Follows the Person: By the Numbers

**This Medicaid funded program helps beneficiaries transition to community living.**

The program is an important way to bring people back into the community, meet their healthcare needs, and raise their satisfaction while lowering healthcare expenditures. It is currently available to those who have received care in an institutional setting for a minimum of 90 days. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has not provided states with any new funding for the program since 2016. A bill was recently introduced in the Senate which would extend it.<sup>1</sup>

## MFP challenges

Decreasing referrals, lack of community services, and lack of affordable housing are just some of the challenges of implementing the MFP program. Individual states have addressed these challenges with a variety of strategies including: strengthening relationships with providers and local agencies, using an online application for participants, and even reaching out personally to nursing home patients who may be interested in the program.<sup>2</sup>

## MFP reauthorization

The Affordable Care Act extended MFP to the end of September 2016, and appropriated \$2.25 billion for the program. States can use any unspent funds through fiscal year 2020.<sup>1</sup> The EMPOWER Care Act, introduced by Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)<sup>3</sup>, would extend it another five years (through 2022) at current funding levels and reduce the amount of time a participant must have been in an institution to be eligible.<sup>4</sup>

### MFP scorecard<sup>2</sup>

**44 states** participating

**63,337** cumulative transitions

**67% of participants** had total expenditures decline

**92%** are satisfied with where they live

**8%** had an unmet care need, **vs. 18%** pre-transition

### Case study: Illinois<sup>2</sup>

**1 of 6 states** with increasing number of transitions each year from 2013 through 2015

**300 new housing units** added to the referral network every year

**Approach:** The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, which manages the [state's MFP program](#), collaborated with the Housing Development Authority, the Department on Aging, and the Department of Human Services to expand access to housing for MFP participants<sup>5</sup>

**\$204 to \$978 million in healthcare savings** during the first year post-transition from 2007-2013<sup>2</sup>

## Sources:

1. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/ltss/money-follows-the-person/index.html>
2. <https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/publications/money-follows-the-person-2015-annual-evaluation-report>
3. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2227>
4. <http://www.ancor.org/newsroom/news/ancor-advocating-money-follows-person-program>
5. <https://www.ihda.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2017-Annual-Comprehensive-Housing-Plan-Final-Draft-1.pdf>