



## CoA Seeks to Maximize Federal Funds

### And Rolls up its Sleeves to Advance Money Follows the Person (MFP)

MFP is a \$56 million dollar federal demonstration grant that intended to rebalance the long-term care system so that individuals have maximum independence and choice concerning where they live and receive services. While very important, transitioning 700-5,000 people with disabilities and older adults out of nursing homes and back into the community is only one of five major goals of MFP. Diversion initiatives are key.

**Hundreds of People in the Pipeline:** So far, 41 people have been transitioned and are now living in the environment of their choice. 700 nursing home residents are in the pipeline, having applied to MFP. What's this mean? Staff and transition coordinators are determining eligibility, completing assessments, developing care plans, finding housing, coordinating services, etc.

### CoA Identifies approximately 11 million dollars in possible Medicaid enhanced match funds:

Of the 41 people transferred back to the community, only 21 met the qualifications established by DSS/OPM in the "MFP Protocol" submitted to the federal government. CT has an added requirement that "persons transitioning under MFP must meet the financial eligibility requirement for Medicaid waivers." Due to this state-added requirement, CT received an "enhanced match" for only 21 of the 41 people transitioned - and lost an enhanced match on 20. It is projected that this pattern will continue moving forward. If this CT stipulated requirement for eligibility remains, then CT will be throwing away millions of federal dollars over the next couple of years. We can fix this by modifying CT's Protocol through executive branch approval (or if necessary through legislation). (see the reverse side of this document for more info.)

**CoA Seeks additional untapped federal funds:** The CoA is working to maximize federal funds (and requiring zero state dollars) through simple legislation that allows for conversion of Section 202 HUD housing into assisted living facilities. In illustration, Horace Bushnell Housing in Hartford was awarded federal funds for the National Assisted Living Conversion Program and began making the necessary modifications to the facility. Unfortunately, due to present state law they cannot proceed. With an easy legislative fix, this opportunity can be realized and services will be provided for people to "age in place" and also help individuals transitioning out of nursing homes under MFP. This no-cost proposal would expedite MFP.

**Continued Legislative Support Needed for the Long-Term Care Reinvestment Account:** MFP will receive an estimated \$11 million dollars as an enhanced Medicaid match on 700 participants of MFP being transitioned out of nursing homes. Continued commitment by policymakers is needed to safeguard the long-term care reinvestment account so that these new federal funds can be reinvested into the home and community-based system (per mandate of the federal government).

**More MFP Staff Needed:** The state hiring freeze has kept two federally funded positions unfilled in the MFP office (at DSS), slowing transitions and under-utilizing new federal funds. Executive branch approval is needed to fill these positions.

### See these CoA Fact Sheets for more Information:

- [LTC Reinvestment Account](#)
- [MFP: The Whole Picture](#)

### CoA

210 Capitol Avenue, Room 509  
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 240-5200  
Website: [www.cga.ct.gov/coa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa)  
Email: [coa@cga.ct.gov](mailto:coa@cga.ct.gov)

*Working at the State Capitol and beyond to ensure a brighter future for our state and for older adults of today and tomorrow.*

### Did you know?

**CoA Chairs**  
MFP Workforce  
Development Workgroup

And serves as an  
**active member**  
of the diverse & dynamic  
MFP Steering Committee



Dawn Lambert, Project Director for MFP, is interviewed by Julie Evans Starr on WTIC-1080's Living Well CT