



# Independence Unlimited, Inc.

*The Center for Independent Living of North Central Connecticut*

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February 11, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Julie Hartage, Money Follows the Person Supervisor for Independence Unlimited, Inc. I am writing to express our strong support for the work of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Inc. ("the Center").

By way of background, Hartford-based Independence Unlimited, Inc. is a contractor under the State of Connecticut Money Follows the Person Program (MFP). MFP is a federal demonstration program funded by CMS and the state as part of a national effort to "re-balance" long-term care systems. MFP helps Medicaid-eligible individuals currently living in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, and other qualified institutions to successfully transition back into the community.

Independence Unlimited has worked in successful collaboration with the Center to advocate for fair housing practices on behalf of several of our consumers. The Center has conducted a number of invaluable trainings on fair housing rights at our agency and assisted us in identifying discrimination against our consumers. When we encounter discriminatory practices from landlords regarding the Rental Assistance Program, the Security Deposit guarantee, or against people with a disability we contact the Center to assist us in working with the landlord to resolve the issue.

The Center has been instrumental in making the MFP program work. Under MFP, Connecticut will receive, for those transitioning back to the community, an enhanced Medicaid match of \$9 million over five years, being reimbursed for 75 percent of costs for the first year back in the community instead of the customary 50 percent. This federal support is a financial incentive for Connecticut to reduce the use of more expensive institutional care for Medicaid recipients. The approach is more cost-effective for taxpayers and is expected to lead to improved quality of life for participants. People transitioning back into the community have the choice of where they want to live whether it's the person's own home, a family member's home, an apartment or congregate living. The Center helps make this possible.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Sincerely,

Julie Hartage

30 YEARS of  
CHANGING  
LIVES



