

Massachusetts Systems Transformation Grant Abstract

Massachusetts was an early leader in developing a system to support community living for people with disabilities of all ages. Although still one of several leading states, tight budgets and competing priorities have slowed the Commonwealth's momentum to expand consumer direction and choice and to strengthen coordination across the system.

With the help of earlier Systems Change grants, Massachusetts has addressed individual barriers to community living and implemented a number of reforms to test nursing home transition, flexible budgets, collaboration between aging network providers and Independent Living Centers, and a number of other innovations. The CMS Systems Transformation Grant will enable Massachusetts to bring all of this work together into a strategic framework and stimulate further progress in key activities related to quality management, community-based long-term support financing/nursing facility diversion, and housing.

With strong support from the governor, key executive branch and legislative leaders, and a wide range of stakeholders, Massachusetts will transform its systems so that persons with disabilities or long-term support needs can remain in the community. This application focuses on three key goals that will help lift remaining barriers:

1. Establish comprehensive quality management systems
 - Develop comprehensive quality management strategy
 - Develop and disseminate quality management reports to all stakeholders
 - Evaluate quality management strategy
2. Develop alternative financing and diversion options to promote community living
 - Develop more effective payment methodologies to promote nursing facility diversion and transition from institutions back to community settings
 - Target high cost individuals with high unmet need to more effectively manage delivery of long-term supports to promote community living
3. Coordinate long-term supports with affordable and accessible housing
 - Improve coordination of long-term supports with affordable housing by placing housing support functions in community agencies and assessing housing needs as part of individual service planning
 - Increase access to affordable housing with long-term supports through Mass Access Housing Registry, education and outreach about home modifications, retrofitting existing housing, and strategies for home purchase and rental

The application represents a partnership among the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (and its agencies), the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the University of Massachusetts Center for Health Policy and Research, and various consumers, advocates and other stakeholders. The \$3.48 million requested will fund critical planning, program development, and implementation activities to strengthen the system for future generations needing community-based long-term supports.