

CMS to provide MFP funding to non-participating States and to increase reimbursement for MFP supplement services. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

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by National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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Administration

CMS to Provide MFP Program Funding

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced this week that it will offer more than \$110 million to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) through Medicaid's Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. MFP support people who choose to transition out of institutions and back into their homes and communities. Several States have used this program to transition people living with brain injury in nursing homes to community-based programs.

The new [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) makes individual awards of up to \$5 million available for more than 20 States and Territories not currently participating in the MFP. These funds will support initial planning and implementation to get the State/Territory programs off the ground.

CMS also announced that States which are already participating in MFP will receive increased reimbursement rate for MFP supplemental services. These services will now be 100% federally funded with no State share. CMS is also expanding the definition of supplemental services to include additional services, including short-term housing and food assistance. For more information and to view participating States, go [here](#). To view the funding announcement go [here](#). States must apply by May 31.

HHS Holds Stakeholders Roundtable to Discuss Nursing Home Reforms

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a roundtable with stakeholders to discuss the [nursing home reforms](#) President Biden announced on February 18 and reiterated during his State of the Union address. The roundtable discussed nursing home staffing requirements, ideas for workforce development and retention, and COVID-19 booster shots. Secretary Becerra and roundtable participants reiterated the need to improve quality of care for residents and working conditions for staff.

The roundtable discussed the relationship between better care and higher staffing levels and delved into data-driven examples of how staffing increases can yield significant positive impacts. Secretary Becerra and roundtable participants also discussed the importance of investing in staff development to bolster retention of nursing home employees. The group underscored the importance of creating a culture that emphasizes that this is a "careforce" not a workforce. View the [press release](#) for more information.

SSA Announces New Online Tool for Applying for SSI

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has released a [new online tool](#) that applicants and individuals assisting applicants can use to request an appointment to apply for Social Security

Income (SSI). This request creates a protective filing date – which is used to determine when an individual can start receiving SSI benefits – as long as application is submitted within 60 days.

CMS Releases Informational Bulletin on Enforcement Discretion

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a CMS informational bulletin that informs State Medicaid agencies that CMS is exercising enforcement discretion during the COVID-19 public health emergency with regard to State submissions of updated Medicaid access monitoring review plans (AMRPs). CMS is delaying enforcement of the updated AMRPs that are due by October 1, 2022 until October 1, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

Reports and Resources

NASHIA Announces New Leading Practice Academy

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) has announced a new Leading Practices Academy on Behavioral Health and Brain Injury (LPA BH). The LAS BH is designed for States who want to explore, develop, and/or implement protocols and practices to improve outcomes for individuals with co-occurring brain injury and behavioral health challenges. For more information, read further [here](#).

Heller School Releases Report on HCBS

This week, [a report](#) out of The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and the Community Living Policy Center demonstrates how increasing access to Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) can reduce out-of-pocket costs for individuals with long-term supports and services (LTSS) needs, their families, and State Medicaid programs. The report complements a recent hearing from the Senate Special Committee on Aging on the [importance of HCBS for people who need care](#), and what it would take to improve access, including additional funding for caregivers. Read the [report](#).

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

Disability Employment TAC Offers Webinar

On April 12, the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) is hosting a webinar, Realizing Employment Success: A Tailored Approach for People with Brain Injury from 3:00pm -- 4:30pm (ET). The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), housed within the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, established a partnership with local community rehabilitation programs (CRP) to strategically serve people with brain injuries. The primary goal of the partnership is to support job seekers with brain injuries to receive tailored services from certified brain injury specialists through its competitive funding opportunities for local CRPs. DVRS works closely with the North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Program, which was awarded a five-year federal grant from Administration for Community Living (ACL). Presenters will be from NASHIA, North Carolina DVRS, and Community Partners, Inc. Register [here](#).

RR&T Center Offers Webinar on HCBS Outcome Measurement

On Monday, April 11, from 10:00am- 1:00pm (CST), the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement will hold an event about creating a global vision for developing outcome measure that lead to improved disability services and policies. The event will feature presentations from Julie Beadle-Brown of the University of Kent in the United Kingdom and Jan Šiška of Charles University in the Czech Republic. Other presenters include ICI's Roger Stancliffe, professor emeritus at the University of Sydney, Australia, along with Renáta Tichá and Brian Abery. A panel discussion will explore the different indicators, frameworks, and approaches used around the world to assess quality in disability service and policy contexts and propose improvements for the future.

Panelists will include Dorothy Hiersteiner and Stephanie Giordano from the Human Resources Research Institute, Shawn Terrell from the Administration for Community Living, Allan Heinemann & Anne Deutsch from Northwestern University, Carli Friedman from the Council on Quality and Leadership, Christine Linehan from the University College Dublin (Ireland), and Anne Rosken from University of St. Gallen (Germany). This event can be attended virtually or in person. [Register for the event.](#)

ADA Center to Host Webinar on Employment and ADA

The NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a [three-part webinar series, Employment and the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), March 30th, April 27th, and May 25th, 2 - 3:30 (ET). Webinar topics will be Disability Disclosure: From Application to Employment, The Interactive Process: The Foundation for Receiving an Effective Accommodation, and Employment: Long Haulers and COVID. Registration is free and required for each session. Register [here](#).

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

Rebecca Wolfkiel, Executive Director
execdirector@nashia.org

Zaida Ricker, Governmental Relations Consultant
zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com


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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.

Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.





National Association of State Head Injury Administrators | PO Box 1878, Alabaster, AL 35007