

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



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For immediate release

DHHR submits MFP demonstration project

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources has applied for a 2006 Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration with the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The demonstration will allow individuals currently in nursing homes to leave them and move into the community if they meet certain requirements.

West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III stated, "I have worked closely with those interested in this demonstration. We need to implement it and build on its success, and then look at number of individuals targeted for transition."

If approved by CMS, the MFTP Demonstration will provide West Virginia with an enhanced federal Medicaid match for helping to transition 110 individuals out of nursing homes and into their communities. Community transition services up to \$10,000 may be offered to those transitioning to help pay for one-time transition costs. These costs include a security deposit; set-up fees for utilities; moving expenses; essential home furnishings; home accessibility adaptations; etc.

"The project will hopefully provide West Virginia with an opportunity for demonstrating successful methods of providing long-term care supports in the most preferred and least costly setting possible," said DHHR Secretary Martha Walker. "It is vitally important to have a long-term support system that offers individual choice for supports in both the community and in institutional settings."

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services will determine eligibility for the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration in January 2007.