

WEST VIRGINIA TRANSITION NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT

July 1, 2009

PURPOSE

The Olmstead Office issues grant funding for the Transition Navigator Pilot Program. The Program assists West Virginia citizens with disabilities and seniors who reside in institutional settings to live and be supported in their community. Currently, the Program targets people residing in nursing facilities to “cut through the red tape” of the long term care system. Two pilot programs each employ a full-time Transition Navigator and cover 22 counties. Transition Navigators provide the following support: direct transition support; outreach and education; information and referral; assessment and planning; and advocacy.

Diversion support to avoid facility or institutional placement may be provided to individuals who are at **imminent risk**. **Imminent risk** is defined as the individuals’ health status or in-home supports have significantly changed and facility placement is actively being sought.

The funding available for this program is very limited and can support approximately 100 people (statewide) each state fiscal year. Participants may be eligible for up to \$2,500.00 in reasonable and necessary start-up funding support.

The West Virginia Olmstead Office will provide information and referral to the remaining 33 counties **not** covered by this pilot program. **For individuals residing in nursing facilities in these 33 counties, limited start-up funding may be available.**

ELIGIBILITY

The following eligibility criteria **must** be met to participate in this program:

- 1) the individual must have a disability as defined by the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA);
- 2) the individual must require assistance to establish home and community-based services; **and**
- 3) the individual must reside in an institutional setting; **or** be at **imminent risk** of institutionalization.

This program can be used to assist individuals residing in out-of-state nursing facilities who wish to return to West Virginia. The above eligibility criteria apply.

START-UP FUNDING DEFINITION

Allowable goods and services under this program are those reasonable and necessary to establish a household such as:

- 1) **Security deposit** that is required to obtain a lease on an apartment or a house;
- 2) **Essential and basic household furnishings** required to occupy an apartment or a house;
- 3) **Set-up fees or deposits for utility services** required to occupy an apartment or a house;
- 4) **Moving expenses** needed to move from an institution to a home and community-based setting; **and**
- 5) **Home accessibility modifications** needed to support the individual’s disability and increase independence.

Home accessibility modifications are those physical adaptations to the private residence of the applicant that are necessary to ensure health, welfare, and safety. Such modifications enable the applicant to function with greater independence in the home. **Examples of home accessibility modifications** include, but are not limited to: installation of ramps; installation of grab bars; widening of doorways; or modification of bathroom facilities.

Participants are responsible to comply with all local and state regulations and laws to ensure the entity completing the home modifications have the appropriate permits, licenses and bonding.

START-UP FUNDING LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS

- 1) **Funding is capped or limited to \$2,500.00 per participant.** If the applicant has start-up needs that exceed the cap, other resources must be acquired or leveraged.
- 2) Funding used to purchase start-up goods and services will be deemed the property of the individual, and **not** the property of a provider, agency, or landlord leasing or owning the residential setting. *Exceptions will be made for items purchased and loaned by the Transition Navigator agency that are temporary in nature; or items donated once the individual no longer requires its use.*
- 3) The following is not an all-inclusive list. Funding is **not** intended for the following:
 - a. costs associated with home improvements or repairs that are considered regular maintenance and upkeep of a home (includes but not limited to, repaired or replaced flooring, cabinets, decking, siding, roofing, or drywall);
 - b. medications or prescriptions (i.e., oxygen);
 - c. vehicle accessibility adaptations, modifications, or payments;
 - d. past due utility, rent, or mortgage payments (exception may be given when necessary to obtain housing or utilities); and/or
 - e. past due credit card or medical bills.
- 4) Recipients of funding agree to have the funding agency review or observe completed goods and services.
- 5) Checks will be made payable to the vendor, contractor or entity providing the goods and services requested in this application. Checks will **not** be made payable to the individual receiving services under this program.
- 6) Maintenance and service of purchased goods is the sole responsibility of the participant. This includes completing warranty requirements.
- 7) Detailed and itemized costs for all services, supplies, equipment, goods, and labor must be obtained for each start-up funding request. Examples are:
 - a. Requests for **security deposits required to obtain a lease or housing** must have a letter or invoice from the property manager or landlord that states the amount of the security deposit.
 - b. Requests for **set-up fees or deposits for utility service** must have an invoice or letter from the utility company that states the amount of the deposit or set-up fees.
 - c. Requests for **moving expenses** must have an invoice from the moving company that states the actual cost of the moving expenses.
 - d. Requests for **essential and basic household furnishings** must have a list of items with the actual cost for each item.
 - e. Requests for **home accessibility modifications** must have an invoice from the contractor that itemizes the actual costs for materials, equipment, supplies, and/or labor.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact the appropriate agency according to your county of residence:

Community Access, Inc.

(304) 766-2413

Boone, Clay, Fayette, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam, Raleigh, and Roane

Northern WV Center for Independent Living

(304) 296-6091 or (800) 834-6408

Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur

West Virginia Olmstead Office

(304) 558-3287 or (866) 761-4628

Berkeley, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Doddridge, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Jefferson, Logan, Marshall, Mercer, McDowell, Mineral, Mingo, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Ritchie, Summers, Tyler, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Wyoming