



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

TO: County Board Superintendents
County Board SSA Directors
County Board Business Managers
COG Directors

FROM: Patrick Stephan, Deputy Director, Medicaid Development and Administration

DATE: July 24, 2008

SUBJECT: *Martin* settlement waivers and HOME Choice

As the Ohio Department of MR/DD (ODMRDD) has been increasingly utilizing *Martin* settlement funded waivers to transition persons residing in an institution into the community, a need has arisen for access to funds that will assist the person in establishing a new residence. When Ohio was awarded the Money Follows the Person CMS grant (known in Ohio as “Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice” or HOME Choice), it appeared that the *Martin*-settlement funded Individual Options (IO) waiver roll-out and HOME Choice would align in terms of timing and goals, since one of the primary goals of HOME Choice is to transition approximately 2200 individuals from different systems out of institutions.

Because the implementation of HOME Choice has been delayed, ODMRDD and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) have established a process to enable County Boards of MRDD to be reimbursed for the funds spent on “start up” items such as one-time security and/or utility deposits, linens, furniture, etc., that are needed to transition an individual out of an institution and into the community. The detailed list of allowable and unallowable items for reimbursement can be found in the “Community Transition Services” portion of ODJFS Ohio Administrative Code rule 5101:3-51-04, which is attached for your reference. County Boards will be reimbursed for purchases made on or after July 1, 2008, and can continue to access these funds until December 31, 2008 or until the implementation of HOME Choice, whichever comes first. Once HOME Choice has been implemented, individuals will utilize a different process to access these funds, and training on that process will be available prior to its implementation.

In order to ensure ODMRDD provides the necessary information to the appropriate counties, please send an email to Chris Miller at christina.miller@dmr.state.oh.us by close of business on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 which states the following:

- 1.) How many individuals your County Board plans to transition/has already transitioned out of an institution and onto a waiver between July 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008;

AND

- 2.) How many individuals your County Board plans to transition out of an institution and onto a waiver between October 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

For additional information about this process or for any questions relating to HOME Choice, please contact Chris Miller at christina.miller@dmr.state.oh.us or 614.644.5519.

JFS 5101:3-51-04 Definition of Community Transition Services

(as written in JFS' Rules for HOME Choice)

(H) "Community transition services" are services providing goods, services and support for the purpose of addressing an identified need in the HOME choice demonstration program participant's all service plan, service plan, ISP or non-waiver HOME choice demonstration program service plan, as appropriate, including improving and maintaining the HOME choice demonstration program participant's opportunities for membership in the community.

(1) Community transition services are intended to meet the following criteria:

- (a) The goods and services will decrease the need for formal support services and other medicaid services;
- (b) The goods and services will take into consideration the appropriateness and availability of a lower cost alternative for comparable services that meet the HOME choice demonstration program participant's needs;
- (c) The goods and services will promote community inclusion and family involvement;
- (d) The goods and services will increase the HOME choice demonstration program participant's health and welfare in the home and/or community;
- (e) The HOME choice demonstration program participant does not have the funds to purchase the goods and services, or the goods and services are not available through another source;
- (f) The goods and services will assist the HOME choice demonstration program participant in developing and maintaining personal, social, physical or work-related skills; and
- (g) The goods and services will assist the HOME choice demonstration program participant in living independently in the home and community.

(2) **Allowable community transition service expenses include, but are not limited to:**

- (a) Security deposits that are required to obtain a lease on an apartment or home;**
- (b) Essential household furnishings, including furniture, window coverings, food preparation items, and bed/bath linens;**
- (c) Set-up fees or deposits for utility or service access, including telephone, electricity, heating and water;**
- (d) Services necessary for the participant's health and welfare, such as pest control and one-time cleaning prior to moving in to the residence;**
- (e) Moving expenses; and**
- (f) Necessary home accessibility adaptations.**

(3) **Community transition services do not include:**

- (a) Experimental or prohibited treatments;**
- (b) The ongoing cost of room and board;**
- (c) Regular utility charges;**
- (d) Food;**
- (e) Uniforms and memberships;**
- (f) Electronics and other household appliances or items that are used for entertainment or recreational purposes; and**
- (g) Cable/internet access.**

(4) Reimbursement for community transition services shall not exceed a cumulative maximum of two thousand dollars for the items purchased or deposits made during the participant's period of eligibility for the HOME choice demonstration program. The CM, SSA or ODJFS HOME choice demonstration program care coordinator, as appropriate, shall not approve the same type of community transition services for the same HOME choice demonstration program participant unless there is a documented need for ongoing community transition services or a change in the HOME choice demonstration program participant's medical and/or physical condition requiring the replacement.

(5) Community transition services shall not duplicate similar waiver or administrative services available on an HCBS waiver on which the HOME choice demonstration program participant is enrolled.

- (6) In order for a provider to submit a claim for reimbursement of community transition services,
- (a) The specific goods and services to be purchased shall be:
 - (i) Determined by the HOME choice demonstration program participant in conjunction with his or her CM, SSA or ODJFS HOME choice demonstration program care coordinator, as appropriate,
 - (ii) Based upon the HOME choice demonstration program participant's established need, and
 - (iii) Specified on the participant's all service plan, service plan, ISP or non-waiver HOME choice demonstration program service plan, as appropriate, and
 - (b) The purchase of community transition services shall be coordinated by the ODJFS-designated HOME choice financial management service (FMS) provider and reimbursed in accordance with rule 5101:3-51-06 of the Administrative Code, and the requirements set forth in the FMS contract.