

Money Follows the Person: Annual Housing and Transportation Action Plan



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OVERVIEW

- **MFP Demonstration and Housing**
- **What's Missing From The MFP Picture and Why?**
- **How Do We Fill the Gaps?**
- ***MFP Annual Housing and Transportation Action Plan Strategies***

MFP Demonstration and Housing

- CMS identified housing as a critical element for state systems that support individuals moving to the community and has been working with HUD
- HUD asked PHAs to collaborate with state housing finance agencies, CMS, and local disability organizations to provide integrated, affordable, and accessible community housing options, encouraging PHAs to set local preferences and use public housing units, and rental vouchers to support people with disabilities and seniors in their move to the community.
- No HUD funding targeted for these individuals

What's Missing From The MFP Picture?

- For those who need or want to rent...
 - *a way to afford to live in an accessible apartment*
- For those who want to live with others in supportive settings...
 - *insufficient numbers of qualified residences*
- For those living in most settings...
 - *non-medical transportation*

Why Are They Missing?

- Lack of accessible housing stock and non-medical transportation options
- Housing, transportation and human services plan in different systems
- Inability to afford housing and non-medical transportation
 - People living in institutions often have no, or extremely low, income.
 - Sole income of many will be SSI, currently \$638 per month.
 - Some gave up homes to receive services in institutions because they could not access the services and supports they needed to stay in the community.
 - While some may obtain employment, they will not have sufficient income at the time of transition to afford rent or non-medical transportation.
 - Medicaid program cannot pay
 - No state-funded programs exist
 - Federal housing rental vouchers are scarce, and those available are not dedicated to individuals transitioning

How Do We Fill the Gaps?

The MFP Annual Housing and Transportation Action Plan

- MFP Housing and Transportation Task Force has made comprehensive recommendations
- Centers for Independent Living/Statewide Plan for Independent Living devotes major resources to housing initiative
- Both reflect that much work is needed on federal, state and local levels

Major Strategies in the Annual Action Plan to Address the Needs

1. Increase the affordability and availability of community housing for seniors and people with disabilities
2. Increase the availability of accessible transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities
3. Recognize the importance of the link between housing and transportation
4. Focus on education, awareness, and partnership building among housing and human service agencies and the individuals they serve

1. Increase affordability and availability of housing

- Develop a community living supplement
- Increase availability of sponsored residential and adult foster care providers through marketing and provider fairs
- Make the auxiliary grant portable for all populations
- Produce new housing units through QAP LIHTC and non-LIHTC initiatives, and low-interest loan programs
 - VHDA to form *Housing Solutions Work Group*
- Assess local housing capacity and assure that needs are included in local planning
- Direct federal housing trust fund monies, when they become available, to these populations

2. Increase availability of accessible transportation

- Disseminate information about transportation providers that offer accessible vehicles, and about new services available under the New Freedom initiative
- Incentivize specialized transportation providers to coordinate their services beyond geographic boundaries
- Incentivize specialized transportation providers to provide door through door transportation
- Develop a transportation voucher system

3. Recognize importance of the link between housing and transportation

- Develop interactive housing and transportation website
- Use the existing Transportation and Housing Alliance Toolkit as a resource
- Create incentives to develop housing on public transportation routes

4.a. Educate the housing community; awareness, and partnership building

- Offer assistance in follow up to HUD and Governor's letters to PHAs
- Provide technical assistance to local housing offices, planning authorities and HUD offices on understanding the needs of persons transitioning, on www.accessva.org, and on laws that govern housing services, options and choice Encourage use of *Virginia Easy Access*.
- Distribute Rutgers Medicaid Services Primer at Governor's Housing Conference
- Encourage PHAs to list accessible housing units on www.accessva.org
- Through speaking engagements, e-distribution list, *HUD Lines* and tele-tutorials, educate housing-related groups, including:
 - VAHCDO, PHAS, Housing Counselors
 - COSCDA
 - Housing Commission
 - Local planners and contract administrators

4.b. Educate disability/aging communities; awareness, and partnership building

- Orient individuals, advocates, local agencies to housing/transportation planning
- Disseminate Annual Action Plan
- Ensure input of disability/aging communities is considered in housing planning activities; create a mechanism to track local changes in policy and relate ongoing needs/solutions to statewide and national housing funding agents and authorities
- Develop HOME, CDBG, and HCV contact lists; disseminate to organizations to encourage participation in needs statements and priorities for resource allocation
- Document changes in housing policy; work with the SILC to interface with multiple policy makers/funding agents to foster and sustain increased housing options
- Assure that service agencies and advocates have information about housing agencies and a description of the services they offer through:
 - *Virginia Easy Access*
 - A housing resource bank on www.olmsteadva.com/mfp/
 - Dissemination of information on HUD-Assisted Apartments
 - Training of Transition Coordinators
 - Developing a Housing Primer for services agencies and advocates

Annual Action Plan

- Each strategy has:
 - A lead agency
 - A timeline
- Strategies recommended by Task Force have detailed work plans
- Office of Community Integration to track results

Questions?



For More Information

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Virginia's Money Follows the Person Project

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