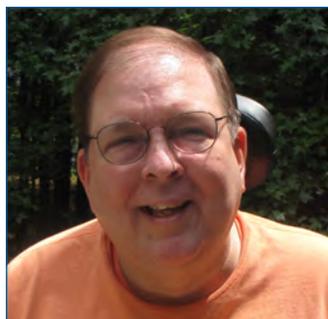


ADULT WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

MFP helps a man living with MS transition to a personal care home.



"Living here has helped my relationship with my kids tremendously. We do stuff together all the time."

– Stephen, Kennesaw, Georgia

Prior to living in a nursing home, Steve, 58, was living at home with his family and working as an electrical engineering supervisor for a local manufacturing company. Steve worked for several years after his MS diagnosis until one day when his legs gave out while driving sending him into a roadside ditch. Steve's MS got progressively worse each year until he could no longer tackle stairs and care for himself safely at home. He had a minor fall in 2007 that sent him to the hospital and then to a nursing home, when going home was no longer an option. Steve spent two years living in the nursing home where he described his life as "restricting." He qualified for Medicare several years earlier because of his disability and became Medicaid eligible upon entering the nursing home. While in the nursing home, Steve was informed about MFP and nine months later he moved into a personal care home.

Steve's biggest housing challenge was finding a personal care home with less than four people living in it – a MFP requirement. Steve's personal care home provides cooking and housekeeping services and 24-hour assistance, if necessary. Steve pays no utility bills but does contribute \$200 per month to the cost of the personal care home. Medicaid covers 10 hours of personal care a day and transportation to doctor visits. Medicare and a private insurance supplemental policy pay for the rest of Steve's medical needs. Steve says the best part about being home is the freedom. Looking to the future, Steve hopes that his "body keeps allowing him to do what he wants to do." His favorite pastime is racing remote control boats with his son on the weekends. He looks forward to seeing his children (ages 21 and 17) grow up, graduate college and become successful.

ADULTS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

MFP helps a mother and son move back to the community with housing assistance and help with one-time moving expenses.

"I never thought it was possible. I almost gave up hope because I could not find housing on my own."

– Mary, Augusta, Georgia

Mary, 60 and her son Randy, 36, live together in a small home after spending several years in a nursing home. Complications from her diabetes and a subsequent leg amputation first sent Mary into a nursing home. Randy, who was born with Cerebral Palsy, followed soon after when family members were unable to take care of him at home. Mary had always been Randy's full-time caregiver and when she could no longer care for him, the nursing home became their only option. Mary and Randy lived in the same nursing home and leaving was not an option for Mary unless she could bring Randy with her. Mary looked for housing on her own but was unsuccessful. Georgia's MFP demonstration program helped make the transition home possible for both Mary and her son.

Mary found out about MFP through a Medicaid case manager who visited her in the nursing home. Once she applied, it took about 10 months to transition home. Much of that time was spent trying to locate housing and arrange services for Randy. Through MFP, Mary and Randy got help with transition coordination, one-time moving expenses and household furnishings. Today, Mary relies on Medicaid for prescription drug coverage to treat her heart condition and Type 1 diabetes. She also uses durable medical equipment including a wheelchair, walker and hospital bed, and receives 6 hours of personal care a day. Randy qualifies for both Medicaid and Medicare and needs 24-hour care and assistance with all his basic needs. Medicaid also provides transportation to doctor visits.

Today, Mary is enrolled in Georgia's Independent Care waiver and Randy is a participant in the Developmental Disability waiver. Since moving home, Mary's quality of life has greatly improved. She values her freedom the most and says that Randy is happy living at home. In the future, she looks forward to getting out of the house more often and spending time with Randy and her other children.

ADULT WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Medicaid covers services that help individuals with disabilities live independently.

*"I really wanted to leave the nursing home but was told there were no funds to help me. Then a social worker came and told me about Medicaid's MFP program."
– Edward, Brunswick, Georgia*

Edward, age 64, lives independently now, after spending three years in various nursing homes across his home state of Georgia. He first entered a nursing home following the amputation of both his legs due to an infection. Edward describes the care he received in the nursing homes as "alright," but his goal was to leave and live on his own. With limited savings and his disability, Edward became dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid soon after entering the nursing home. Medicaid's Money Follows the Person demonstration made Edward's transition home possible. A social worker in the nursing home told Edward about MFP. MFP helped coordinate Edward's transition, helping him find an affordable senior-living apartment complex, setting him up with household furnishings, and connecting him to a network of providers in the community.

Overall, Edward is in good health, though he takes medicine for his heart. With Medicaid's help, Edward receives homemaker and meal services a few hours each day. Medicaid also pays for his power wheelchair, which enables him to grocery-shop and get around town. He does daily exercises to keep his upper body strong, making him capable of transferring independently. Edward says the best part about being home is something quite simple – the freedom to choose what and when he wants to eat. Edward is enjoying his new independence and stays active going to church and attending bible study.

SENIOR WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY

MFP helps diabetic woman who needs weekly kidney dialysis move back home.



*"MFP has been a Godsend; it's really made a difference in my life."
– Ruth, Lincolnton, Georgia*

Ruth is a 75 year-old woman with type II diabetes who requires kidney dialysis and suffers from congestive heart disease. Ruth worked all her life as a seamstress and prior to the nursing home, lived independently in a small apartment connected to her daughter's home. Ruth ended up in a nursing home after a hospital and rehabilitation stay resulting from complications from her diabetes. The main reason she was not able to return home was lack of transportation to and from dialysis. Ruth lived in a nursing home for about one year until Money Follows the Person helped transition her home. Ruth qualified for Medicaid when she entered the nursing home and is also covered by Medicare because of her age. A social worker at the nursing home helped Ruth apply for MFP. Because her apartment was already handicap accessible, Ruth did not apply for MFP home modification funding and was able to move back home two months after applying for the program.

Transportation is the critical Medicaid service that enables Ruth to live in the community. A van picks her up and drops her off for dialysis three times a week. She also has an aide that comes four days a week for two hours at a time. Since moving home, Ruth has lost over one hundred pounds and no longer needs insulin shots each day. Her daughter says she looks better now than she did ten years ago. Her hopes for the future are to enjoy life and time spent with her four children and seven grandchildren.

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The Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program is a Medicaid initiative designed to shift Medicaid long-term care spending from institutional care to home and community-based services. MFP was authorized in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and then extended in the Affordable Care Act. MFP provides 365 days of enhanced federal funding to states to transition Medicaid-eligible individuals living in institutions back into the community. Currently, 44 states are implementing MFP demonstration programs. For more information on MFP see: Money Follows the Person 2011: A Snapshot, Pub #8142-02. Currently 30 states have operational MFP programs. For more information on MFP see: Money Follows the Person 2010: A Snapshot (Pub # 8142).