

# Fast Facts

## MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

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### What is Money Follows the Person (MFP)?

Money Follows the Person is a public policy concept similar to the public school voucher program. The MFP program would allow people with disabilities living in institutional settings to move into less restrictive settings and for the government funding to follow them.

For example, an individual being served in a state funded developmental center may be given the option to move into a less restrictive setting. The funding dedicated to serving that person in the developmental center would no longer be provided to the developmental center, but used to support that person in their new setting.

### Why Does Ohio Need MFP?

Money Follows the Person would change the way the state of Ohio funds services for people with disabilities. Today, funding streams are established to pay for a bed rather than to support a person. This "take it or leave it" approach creates no incentive for providers to improve the services and supports for their clientele.

A move to MFP would further empower individuals with disabilities to make choices about how they live their lives.

### Who Would Be Eligible?

Elderly individuals, individuals with mental retardation or a developmental disability, people with physical disabilities and people with mental illness who have lived in a hospital, nursing facility or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mental Retarded (ICF/MR) for at least six months.

Ohio's demonstration project proposes to transition the following individuals (after five years):

Elderly =	1,428
MR/DD =	584
Physical Disability =	158
Mental Illness =	61

In 2013, Ohio will stop receiving enhanced match for MFP.

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### Action to Date

Ohio is one of 17 states awarded a federal demonstration grant to rebalance their service delivery system to reflect a money follows the person approach.

The state is coordinating six working groups to help facilitate the design and implementation of the demonstration project.

### By the Numbers

In 2004, Ohio's nursing facility occupancy rate was 87% and the Medicaid utilization rate was just under 67% leaving about 13,000 empty nursing facility beds.

Ohio has a ratio of 64 beds per 1,000 older people, compared to 52 beds per 1,000 for the nation as a whole.

For more information, contact:



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### What Would Ohio's Plan Look Like?

Ohio is slated to receive \$100 million during the next five years in enhanced Medicaid reimbursements from the federal government to implement a Money Follows the Person rebalancing project. The program is designed to serve individuals who have lived in an institutional setting for at least six months.

However, Ohio's plan may not allow the money to "follow the person." The demonstration grant proposal seeks to expand existing community based options without a clear plan for reducing institutional services. In the project proposal, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services admits, "Although Ohio allows the 'banking' of unused nursing facility beds, there is no mechanism in place to permanently close them [emphasis added]." Without a mechanism to close those beds, there is the option to fill them at a later date (backfilling).

### How Much Does MFP Cost?

The demonstration grant is expected to generate \$100 million in extra federal support. Because the program is designed to transition individuals from institutional settings to community-based settings, there is the potential for long-term cost savings if a true MFP public policy is adopted (one that does not permit backfilling).

<u>Average Cost of Care (2004):</u>		<u>Setting</u>
Developmental Center =	\$ 126,017	Institutional
ICF/MR (<15 persons) =	\$ 85,432	Institutional
ICF/MR (≥16 persons) =	\$ 64,463	Institutional
Nursing Facility =	\$ 59,604	Institutional
Home/Community Waiver* =	\$ 38,756	Community
Supported Living =	\$ 29,763	Community

### What Needs To Be Done?

If backfilling of beds is permitted to continue, no cost savings will be realized from the MFP demonstration grant. The result will be a larger service delivery system that will remain inflexible to the needs of Ohioans, an unacceptable plan for Ohio's future. Tell your lawmakers what you think about this approach!

More information can also be obtained online at [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov).

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Is there a DD Council Center for Public Policy in your area?

DD Council Centers for Public Policy are resource centers for advocates and policy makers to learn more about the issues and how people view them.

Athens/Marietta Area:  
HAVAR Inc.  
Contact: Scott Dennis  
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\* Home/Community Waivers include the Individuals Options, Level 1, Transitions, Ohio Home Care, and PASSPORT.