

Community Living Program Grants

State Agency: Commonwealth of MA, Executive Office of Elder Affairs

Project Title: Massachusetts Community Living Program

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Contact:

Ruth Palombo
One Ashburton Place, 5th floor
Boston, MA 02108
617-222-7512
Ruth.Palombo@state.ma.us

Project Abstract:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission seek to strengthen the capacity of the Aging and Disability Resource Consortia (“ADRC”) network to prevent people from unnecessary nursing home placement by 1) identifying adults aged sixty and over and adults with disabilities at risk for nursing home placement and spend down to Medicaid (“Target Population”); 2) offering the Target Population Long Term Care OPTIONS (“OPTIONS”), including information about consumer-directed options; 3) referring elders to Aging Service Access Points (“ASAPs”) for evaluation and home based services through the state-funded Enhanced Community Options Program (“ECOP”), while referring younger adults with disabilities to Independent Living Centers (“ILCs”) and other appropriate sources of home-based services; and 4) tracking services used, their cost and effectiveness in averting nursing home placement.

Goal 1: Build upon successful diversion practices at Massachusetts’ eleven ADRCs, addressing opportunities to develop their capacity to:

- provide OPTIONS, information on consumer direction, and referral to community-based services
- use their information and referral services and field-based staff to identify Target Population
- track OPTIONS’ effectiveness in diverting Target Population from nursing homes
- reach out to hospital, nursing and rehabilitation facility discharge staff to improve relationships
- identify service gaps that may contribute to nursing facility admission

Goal 2: Improve ADRCs IT systems’ collective capacity to track clinical status, Medicaid eligibility, services received and residency status of consumers using OPTIONS and ECOP.

Goal 3: Increase capacity of ASAPs, who are key partners within the ADRCs, to offer ECOP consumers the opportunity to direct their own services, using individual budgeting. By increasing ADRCs’ capacity to provide outreach and OPTIONS, this grant will help Massachusetts divert the Target Population from nursing home placement by connecting them with ECOP, other long-term support services, and Independent Living Center services.