



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

November 22, 2013

Dear Waiver for Older Adults Participant,

The Affordable Care Act created a program called Community First Choice (CFC), which provides states the option to offer certain community-based services to individuals who meet an institutional level of care. Maryland is taking advantage of this opportunity and is consolidating personal care services across three existing programs - the State Plan Medical Assistance Personal Care program, Living at Home Waiver, and Waiver for Older Adults - under one State Plan program that offers both self-direction and agency model services.

This letter is to inform you of the changes that will be made to the Waiver for Older Adults as of January, 6, 2014. The Waiver for Older Adults will be merged with the Living at Home Waiver and be renamed the Home and Community-Based Options Waiver. All current services will remain available to you.

What does this mean for you?

On January 6<sup>th</sup> 2014, you will be automatically enrolled in the new merged waiver.

Any services you need for personal assistance, nurse monitoring, home-delivered meals, assistive technology, environmental accessibility adaptations, consumer training, personal emergency response systems, and transition services will be funded through CFC.

Any services you receive for case management, Medical Day Care, nutritionist/dietitian services, family training, and the newly available services of behavioral consultation, Senior Center Plus, and assisted living will be funded through the new waiver.

Your services, providers, and benefits will not change. You don't need to take any action to keep your services as they are now. If you reside in an assisted living facility, your services will continue to be offered through the waiver and not through CFC.

Your current providers will automatically be enrolled as CFC or Home and Community-Based Options Waiver providers. The payment rate we pay for providers for personal assistance services will change and your providers will be notified by the Department.

At your annual redetermination and quarterly visits, your case manager will discuss the new opportunities that will be available to you under Community First Choice. These opportunities include the availability of new services, a new approach to assessing your needs using a nationally-validated assessment instrument, the option to manage your own budget for personal assistance

services (including negotiating payment rates), and the option to receive training from the Maryland Department of Disabilities on how to self-direct your services.

You will have the ability to continue using your current case manager or you may choose a new provider of this service, otherwise referred to as “supports planning.” Your case manager, in the supports planning process, will help you navigate the changes, learn more about the budget, and manage the exceptions process to ensure your services continue to meet your needs.

Please feel free to contact your case manager if you would like to receive additional information and help understanding any of the new changes. Information is also available on the DHMH website at <https://mmcp.dhmf.maryland.gov/longtermcare/SitePages/Long%20Term%20Care%20Reform.aspx>.