



FACT SHEET



Broadening Choices for Long Term Care:

There are over 1,600 consumers, providers and other stakeholders who are working to identify local gaps in long term services and supports. Local Long Term Care Councils together with county Area Agencies on Aging are developing plans and implementing strategies to address those gaps.

Consumer Feedback

“I do not live where they my parents live so I was at a loss as to how to get them help. It was a relief to find a knowledgeable, friendly person who could help me find information regarding services for them.”

July 2013

Data is based on SFY 2011-12

NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care Services

NY Connects is a statewide, locally based “no wrong door-single entry point” into the long term care system and provides one stop access to free, objective and comprehensive Information and Assistance on long term services and supports (LTSS). A locally-based community resource, NY Connects links individuals of all ages (and their caregivers) with the most appropriate services and supports, regardless of payment source.

Background

NY Connects was established by New York to provide the state’s residents with helpful, unbiased information about availability and access to long term services and supports.

NY Connects has been recognized by the federal government as an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The ADRC program is a collaborative effort of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Administration on Community Living which includes the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. ADRC programs raise visibility about the full range of options that are available, provide objective information, advice, counseling and assistance, and help people more easily access public and private long term services and supports.

MRT Reinvestment Waiver

NY Connects was included in the state’s request for an amendment to the Section 1115 Partnership Plan Waiver, submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in August 2012. If approved, the waiver would allow the state to reinvest up to \$10 billion of \$17.1 billion in federal savings generated by reforms. The waiver application includes funding for the expansion of NY Connects.

The additional funding for NY Connects would roll out over a five year period with \$10 million set aside for the first year and \$18.4 million for each of the remaining four years.

The Purpose

NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Services and Supports is addressed in the New York State Elder Law § 203(8). The law specifies the key program functions to be implemented by local NY Connects:

- Information and Assistance: Provision of comprehensive, objective information and support for individuals and their caregivers/families about home, community based and institutional long term services.
- Public Education: An on-going education and awareness campaign to educate all residents about NY Connects, the long term services and supports in their communities.

NY Connects was funded at \$3.35 million in State Fiscal Year 2012-13, which was a reduction from the previous year’s funding at \$3.8 million. The program authority was transferred from the Department of Health (DOH) to the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) as part of the 2011-12 State Budget.

NY Connects as an Aging and Disability Resource Center

The current goal of the Administration on Community is to have Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) serve as single points of entry into the long term services and supports system for older adults and people with disabilities. In New York State, NY Connects serve as ADRCs and effectively assist consumers with identifying and accessing a range of home and community based resources that allow older citizens and persons with disabilities to maintain their independence, effectively slowing the rate of growth and expenditures of state Medicaid programs.

Under the Affordable Care Act's Balancing Incentive Payments (BIP), states operating successful home and community based programs could receive additional federal funding for non-institutional based services and supports. There are three structural changes that states must make within six months of application: 1) a statewide no wrong door-single entry point system; 2) conflict-free case management services; and 3) core standardized assessment instruments. New York State would need to further invest in NY Connects to broaden the scope of available information and ensure access for eligibility determinations.

Since the NY Connects program is currently functioning in most areas of the state, supporting and enhancing the existing program is an economically sound investment.

Long Term Care Councils

Long Term Care Councils are a key component of NY Connects. They identify gaps in services and develop plans and implement strategies to address issues. They're usually comprised of local social and human services agencies and work together with Office for the Aging as a partnership.

ADRC Status has generated \$12 million in grants in New York State

By having an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program in place (NY Connects in New York State), the state has received several grants from federal long term care reform initiatives.

See list below.

GRANT PROGRAM	TOTAL AWARD
Nursing Home Diversion Modernization (2008): 3 counties	\$ 927,710
Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program ¹ (2008): 4 counties	Up to \$1,000,000 (estimated)
Community Living Program (2009): 10 counties	\$ 959,284
Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant (2009): 2 counties	\$ 680,171
Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (2009): Statewide <i>ARRA Funding</i>	\$ 1,190,610
Lifespan Respite Care Program (2010): Statewide	\$ 188,950
Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) for Beneficiary Outreach and Assistance (2010): Statewide <i>Affordable Care Act funds</i>	\$ 2,567,032
ADRC Evidenced-Based Care Transitions Program (2010): 1 county <i>Affordable Care Act funds</i>	\$ 430,000
ADRC Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Program (2010): 1 region (DOH) <i>Affordable Care Act funds</i>	\$ 399,600
Accelerating Integrated, Evidence-Based, and Sustainable Service Systems for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities_Part A (2011): 51 counties	\$ 2,616,900
Accelerating Integrated, Evidence-Based, and Sustainable Service Systems for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities_Part B (2011): 6 Alzheimer's Association Chapters	\$ 686,000
Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs (2012): Statewide <i>2012 Prevention and Public Health Funds</i>	\$ 575,000 (for Year 1)
Estimated Total:	\$12,221,257

¹ Payment for services provided to Veterans in participating counties goes directly to AAAs.

Cost Saving

The Lewin Group's ADRC Cost Offsets Calculator shows that if only 2% of nursing home eligible Medicaid recipients remain in the community (737 persons), the cost savings in 2010 dollars is \$35,161,147 of which \$17,580,574 is a direct savings to the state. For every dollar invested by the State, there is a return in savings of **State** Medicaid dollars of \$3.45 million, or a 29% return on investment.

Recommendations

The NY Connects program is integral to maintaining lower cost community based care to NY residents and also keeps the door open to Federally funded grant opportunities to fund the development of sustainable pilot projects to further support seniors to age in place.

The Association strongly supports the inclusion of NY Connects in New York State's request for an amendment to the Section 1115 Partnership Plan Waiver. The Association also supports the inclusion of NY Connects in the State's BIP application, if New York decides to submit an application.