



BOB TAFT
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

I am pleased to convey my support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand the *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community based service options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elders and people with disabilities are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

Ohio's proposal will add needed capacity to existing Medicaid waivers and service delivery systems. MFP will also add some "post institutional" services to smooth the way for people who are returning home from an institution. Finally, Ohio's MFP proposal will focus on a variety of subpopulations who desire to move out of an institutional setting. In order to represent the interests of those diverse populations, ODJFS will convene a steering committee of key stakeholders to assist in planning and implementing the grant over the next five years.

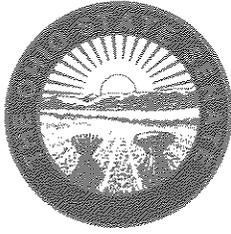
Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal is the next logical step in realizing the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*. I urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Taft". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Bob Taft
Governor, State of Ohio

Cc: Mike Leavitt, Secretary, HHS



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-8068

Committees:
Finance & Financial Institutions
Health, Human Services and Aging
Highways and Transportation
Insurance, Commerce and Labor
Judiciary-Criminal, Vice Chair

Patricia Clancy
8th District

August 25, 2006

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans
Attn: Erika Robbins
cc: Matt Hobbs
30 E. Broad St.
31st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

DDJFS
AUG 28 AM 11:51
OFFICE OF
OHIO HEALTH PLANS

Dear Ms. Robbins:

As a state legislator, I am in favor of the Money Follows a Person project. I support members of the Disability Community, such as Dr. Mark B. McClellan, who advocate for the "rights" of all.

As you are most likely aware, The Money Follows a Person is a demonstration project which would allow states to apply to CMS (the federal Medicaid agency). This application would in turn allow about 40 states in the next five years to be selected to receive a better federal match (FMAP) for this initiative. Money Follows the Person would require the federal government to reimburse the state for 100% of the first-year costs of home and community based services for individuals on Medicaid who move out of nursing homes or other institutions.

I encourage Ohio to apply for the RFP that CMS will be sending out this month.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the issue of The Money Follows a Person initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Clancy".

Patricia Clancy



Joy Padgett
20th Senate District

Ohio Senate

Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-8076
Fax: 614-995-1665
Toll Free: 1-800-282-0253
Email: sd20@mail.sen.state.oh.us

ODJFS

Committees:

Education, Chair
Agriculture, Vice-Chair
Highways & Transportation
Finance and Financial Institutions

Home:
871 Walnut Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
740-622-1527

SEP 11 AM 10:10
OFFICE OF
OHIO HEALTH PLANS

September 6, 2006

Ms. Erika Robbins
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans
30 E. Broad Street, 31st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

Dear Ms. Robbins:

I am writing today to express my strong support for the Money Follows the Person program. I urge the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to apply for the Request for Proposal (RFP) that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be sending out this month.

Unfortunately many people with disabilities from all age groups end up in a nursing home or other institution. The most common reasons for this are that they may not be aware of community based support services available to them, and the waiting lists for these services are too long.

Individuals should be given choices when it comes to their care. Although many people require the services of a nursing home, others have the ability to make it outside of a nursing home setting should be given the option to select community-based services.

There are many reasons why ODJFS should submit an RFP, but I feel the most important reason is that this program will allow individuals real choices in deciding where they live. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely,


Joy Padgett
State Senator



SENATOR TOM ROBERTS
5th District

Committees:
Finance & Financial Institutions
– Ranking Member
Agriculture
Energy and Public Utilities
Ways & Means and Economic Development

October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

I am writing to convey my support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

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I support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

Senator Tom Roberts

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 468-6247

District
628 Mapleside Drive
Troywood, Ohio 45426
(937) 854-3088



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8150
(614) 995-1522 (fax)
LWachtmann@mailr.Sen.State.Oh.US

Committees:
Highways and Transportation
Insurance, Commerce and Labor
Judiciary Civil Justice
Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid
Technology and Reform - Chairman
Ohio Retirement Study Council -
Vice Chairman

Lynn R. Wachtmann
State Senator
1st District

August 8, 2006

Director Barb Riley
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 East Broad Street, 31st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414

Dear Director Riley:

I am writing to encourage the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to apply for The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services waiver to implement the Money Follows the Person principles for Home and Community-based Services.

This concept is a great initiative and will have a positive impact on all involved individuals, family and the State of Ohio. I believe such a program will bring more personalized assistance to the disabled community.

Again, I am urge ODJFS to apply for the waiver to implement such a program and please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynn R. Wachtmann
State Senator
1st District



Fred Strahorn
Assistant Minority Whip, 40th House District

Committees: Public Utilities, Finance and Appropriations, Economic Development and Environment, Ways and Means, House Caucus Policy Chair, Joint Committee on Agency Rule and Review, Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council

October 25, 2006

Ms. Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms. Norris:

I am writing this letter in support of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' application for the *Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant* offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative*, a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control and independence. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community-based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities.

Millions of individuals with disabilities across America rely on long-term care services. Many Americans who need long-term services would prefer to receive services in-home and community settings rather than in institutions. "I believe that no individual should be forced into an institution to receive reimbursement for services that can be effectively and efficiently delivered in the home or community." The decisions relating to the provision of long-term services and supports are dictated by what is reimbursable under Federal and state Medicaid policy rather than by what individuals need.

The 'Money Follows the Person' Act was put into place to encourage states to allow the money to follow the person, so people who are living in nursing homes or other institutions could have the money "follow them" as they move out into the community onto community-based services. This initiative will add resources and leverage to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

"I believe the decision to apply for the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Grant is another step in the right direction for Ohio." However, for MFP to be a success, policymakers will need to provide the program with the permanence and stability to continue beyond the life of the grant. This grant will provide access to affordable and accessible housing, qualified direct support professionals, reliable transportation and opportunities for employment.

Capitol:

77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-2960, (614) 719-6940 (fax)
(800) 282-0253 (toll free)

District:

Parts of Montgomery County
(937) 227-3207
District40@ohr.state.oh.us
www.house.state.oh.us



For these reasons, I strongly support the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' application for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (614) 466-2960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Strahorn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

FRED STRAHORN
Assistant Minority Whip
40th House District



John M. Schlichter
State Representative, 85th House District

September 12, 2006

Erica Robbins
30 E. Broad Street
31st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

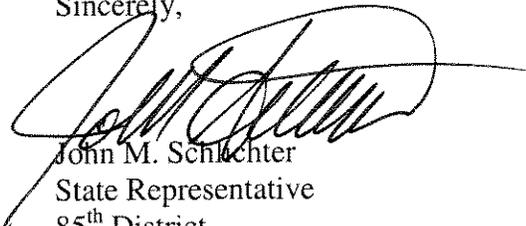
Dear Ms. Robbins,

As Representative of Ohio's 85th House District, it is my pleasure to write in support of Money Follows the Person program. This program would allow money paying for a person's services in a nursing home or other institution to be used for paying their services in the community.

This money would go to funding for community based services that would benefit many people with disabilities, including children and the elderly.

I support the Money Follows the Person program and the services it would provide to the families of the 85th district. If I may be of additional assistance to you in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


John M. Schlichter
State Representative
85th District

09JFS
2006 SEP 18 AM 11:26
OFFICE OF
OHIO HEALTH PLANS

Capitol:
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-7928, (614) 644-9494 (fax)
(800) 282-0253 (toll free)

www.house.state.oh.us
District85@ohr.state.oh.us

District:
Fayette and Parts of Pickaway
and Ross Counties
9491 State Route 753 N
Greenfield, Ohio 45123
(740) 333-7238



00 IFS

2006 OCT 26 AM 8:41

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Bob Taft, Governor
Kenneth W. Ritchey, Director

OHIO HEALTH PLANS

October 23, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms. Norris:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, I convey my support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

Ohio's proposal will add needed capacity to existing Medicaid waivers and service delivery systems. MFP will also add some "post institutional" services to smooth the way for people who are returning home from an institution. Finally, Ohio's MFP proposal will focus on a variety of subpopulations who desire to move out of an institutional setting. In order to represent the interests of those diverse populations, ODJFS will convene a steering committee of key stakeholders to assist in planning and implementing the grant over the next five years.

Our organization has actively participated in planning meetings for Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal. We will continue to support its implementation by participating in the Steering Committee, working with ODJFS to educate members of the Ohio General Assembly about the importance of HCBS alternatives, identifying and recruiting individuals who are currently institutionalized, and enrolling MFP participants into the Level I or Individual Options waivers.

We support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Ritchey
Director

OHIO HEALTH PLANS
2006 OCT 26 AM 8:41
00 IFS



Ohio Department of Aging

50 West Broad Street/9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3363
(614)466-5500 TTY (614)466-6191 FAX (614)466-5741

Bob Taft, Governor
Merle Grace Kearns, Director

October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Aging, I am pleased to express our support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

As the state agency that manages three HCBS Medicaid waivers with oversight from the state's Medicaid agency, we pledge to take an active role in implementing the MFP grant. My staff have been actively involved in the development of the grant proposal and in meetings with key stakeholders. We already have some experience with MFP strategies due to a special provision in Ohio law that allows nursing facility residents immediate access to our PASSPORT waiver for Ohioans age 60 and over -- a provision we call "Home First." During the first 15 months of implementation, 1265 nursing facility residents have relocated to community settings. Our experience demonstrates the wisdom of MFP as well as its potential success. I therefore urge you to select Ohio as a grantee and look forward to working on this exciting project.

Sincerely,


Merle Grace Kearns
Director



Ohio Department of Mental Health

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430

October 20, 2006

Phone: (614) 466-2596
TDD: (614) 752-9696
Fax: (614) 752-9453
www.mh.state.oh.us

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Mental Health, I would like to convey support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant application submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access* initiative (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, *Ohio Access* has driven the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of *Ohio Access*.

Ohio's proposal will add needed capacity to existing Medicaid waivers and service delivery systems. MFP will also add some "post institutional" services to smooth the way for people who are returning home from an institution. Finally, Ohio's MFP proposal will focus on a variety of subpopulations who desire to move out of an institutional setting.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health has actively participated in planning meetings and we fully support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal, although it will have a limited effect on our service system. We will continue to support its implementation and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.
Director

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH PLANS
OCT 21 AM 8:11
NN IFS

**Ohio Department of Alcohol
and Drug Addiction Services**

280 North High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2550



Bob Taft, Governor
Carolyn Givens, Director

October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

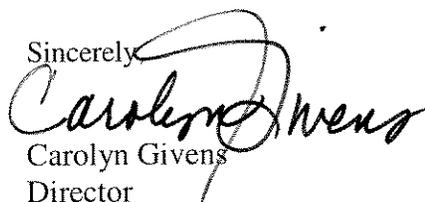
As the Director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), I would like to convey my Department's support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has guided the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities. While there has been a considerable achievement of portions of the *Ohio Access Initiative*, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's MFP initiative will add resources and leverage to move the *Ohio Access Initiative* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

Ohio's proposal will add needed capacity to existing Medicaid waivers and service delivery systems. MFP will also add some "post institutional" services to smooth the way for people who are returning home from an institution. Finally, Ohio's MFP proposal will focus on a variety of subpopulations who desire to move out of an institutional setting. In order to represent the interests of those diverse populations, ODJFS has committed to convening a steering committee of key stakeholders, including ODADAS, to assist in planning and implementing the grant over the next five years.

At the request of ODJFS, ODADAS has participated in preliminary planning meetings for Ohio's MFP proposal. Ohio's Medicaid program currently includes, as state plan services, consumer access to Alcohol and Other Drug (AoD) treatment services and these services may be eligible for enhanced federal financial participation for Ohioans participating in the MFP initiative. ODADAS will continue to support the MFP initiative implementation by participating on the Steering Committee.

In support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal, I urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Givens
Director



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Bob Taft
Governor

Bruce Johnson
Director

October 24, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms. Norris:

On behalf of the State of Ohio, Department of Development, I want to convey our support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person, (MFP), Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, (ODJFS), Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

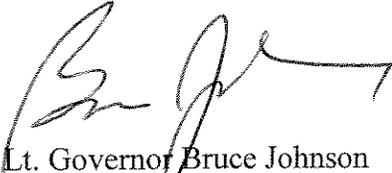
Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

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Judith Norris
October 24, 2006
Page 2

As Director of Development and Chair of the State's Interagency Council on Homelessness and Housing, I support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,



Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson
Director of Development

c: Mike Suver, Chief of Staff
John Barron, Chief Legal Counsel
Amy K. Kuhn, Deputy Director



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Bob Taft
Governor

Bruce Johnson
Lt. Governor

October 19, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) supports Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services, which supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home and community-based service options for elders and people with disabilities. However, despite these accomplishments, thousands of elderly and disabled Ohioans are on waiting lists for home and community-based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers. Ohio's MFP initiative will add resources and leverage to move *Ohio Access* to the next level by supporting institutionalized individuals as they move back home. MFP will also provide an opportunity to further expand the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*.

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OHCP supports Ohio's MFP proposal and urges the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

Leslie J. Warner, Office Chief
Office of Housing and Community Partnerships

LJW/MD



OBM

October 31, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

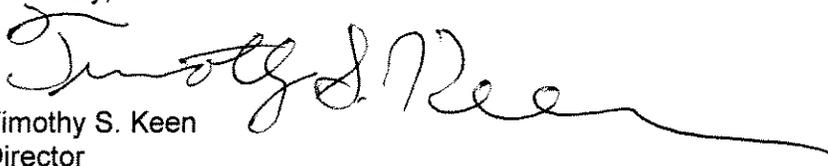
I would like to convey my support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

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Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal is the next logical step in realizing the vision of the *Ohio Access Initiative*. I urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,


Timothy S. Keen
Director



Douglas A. Garver, Executive Director
Joseph H. Gerdenich, Chairman of the Board

October 20, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

On behalf of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, I convey our support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency has actively participated in planning meetings for Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal. We will continue to support its implementation by identifying housing financing options and strategies that meet the needs of those transitioning from the institutional setting to the community. We will also work with other state agencies and advocacy groups to identify ways to address the housing affordability problems encountered by persons with extremely low income, which is characteristic of many of the grant's potential recipients. One of the strategies arising from the planning meetings involved funding a "bridge" subsidy – money to supplement a transitioning person's rent to the same extent as a Section 8 voucher until that person's voucher was awarded. As the lead agency for affordable housing in the state of Ohio, this is the type of program for which the Ohio Housing Finance Agency can coordinate its resources with other state agencies whose missions involve low-income housing. While at this time we cannot unilaterally commit financial resources to the subsidy, we are certainly open to the concept.

We support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Garver
Executive Director
Ohio Housing Finance Agency



October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

As Chair of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force (OOTF), I am writing to communicate our support for Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. OOTF is encouraged by ODJFS' continued commitment to the existing *Ohio Access Initiative* (which OOTF and other groups helped write and update) and to an expanded system of community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Ohio MFP's grant application represents an important step forward in rebalancing and addressing the institutional bias that continues to be a problem in Ohio.

Since the beginning of this grant writing process, ODJFS has solicited and considered stakeholder input from OOTF, through its' MFP Grant Sub-Committee, This committee remains invested in participating in this project. As an organization, OOTF is represented by self advocates from across the state. The Ohio Olmstead Taskforce is also made up of representatives from twenty-three statewide and local organizations--people with disabilities of all ages, family members and organizations advocating together for the right to live, work and participate in their communities.

In keeping with the spirit of the *Olmstead Decision*, OOTF believes that a well crafted and implemented MFP program in Ohio will make it easier for people currently living in institutions to relocate back to the community of their choice. Ohio law already allows Medicaid dollars to follow persons 60 years and older, who have been institutionalized in a nursing facility, so that they can receive care and services in a home/community based setting. (Similar to the Texas "Rider 37") OOTF is committed, through public policy education and advocacy, to developing the political will in Ohio to make this MFP concept available to all people living in our state's long term care (LTC) institutions.

Ohio's proposal contains key elements that OOTF believes are essential to a successful MFP program and to the continued rebalancing of how Ohio spends its LTC dollars. These elements include:

- Commitment to serve all persons with disabilities who meet the program's eligibility requirements and who need the program in order to transition out of an institution. OOTF believes that access to Ohio's Money Follows the Person program should be

based on the needs of the individual and the ability to provide adequate and appropriate supports and services, not on a specified demographic category or a specific type of disability.

- Emphasis on expanding consumer choice, consumer control and self-direction. OOTF believes that waivers should be designed so that the scope and intensity of supports, interventions, and overall management and direction is determined by the consumer, based upon each individual's unique abilities and circumstances. Person centered planning needs to start while the individual is still in the institution, continuing throughout the transition to the community, and after the individual is established and receiving services in their home and community based setting. The ODJFS' proposal recognized the importance of post-transition planning.
- Recognition that there must be effective collaboration between ODJFS or their designees and that relationships must be strengthened; with those who maintain and provide affordable and accessible housing for low income individuals, existing or MFP created Medicaid waiver service providers, and with existing or MFP created networks of formal and informal supports. OOTF believes that successful relocation is dependent upon the availability of informal and formal community supports and the coordinated receipt of waiver services, housing.
- Inclusion and recognition of the need for additional services and supports to be in place to maximize self-sufficiency: personal care assistance, homemaker services, and adaptive technology. One time transition costs must cover all of those items necessary for living in the community such as security deposit/first month's rent, furniture, household items, groceries, physical adaptation to the residence, bad debt, utility hook-ups, etc.
- Recognition of the need to include Peer Support, which is integral to the independent living philosophy of the state's Centers for Independent Living and to the work of many grassroots consumer driven organizations, and Independent Living Skills Training as essential services which should be provided through contracts reimbursable through the MFP project. OOTF works closely with the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council and believes that contracting with these entities as well as regional Centers for Independent Living and other qualified consumer-based organization would add extra value to the transition services offered through Ohio's MFP project.

In conclusion, OOTF has actively participated in the stakeholder meetings for Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal. We will continue to support its implementation by: participating, through representation by members of our MFP Grant Subcommittee, in ODJFS' MFP Steering Committee; educating members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Administration about the importance of HCBS alternatives and ways to rebalance how Ohio expends it's LTC dollars; and by identifying, advocating for and supporting institutionalized individuals to access Ohio's MFP program.

We support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,



Shelley Papenfuse
Elected Chair of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force



Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

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October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (Ohio SILC) supports the Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). We are encouraged by the willingness of ODJFS to undertake an expanded system of community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Ohio MFP's grant application represents an important step forward in addressing the strong institutional bias that continues to be a problem in Ohio.

Ohio SILC is a strong advocate for the systemic changes necessary to allow people to live in the community of their choice. We were a participant in the stake holder's group ODJFS gathered to seek input into their proposal and we will continue to collaborate with them through out the term of the grant.

Like other disabilities organizations from Ohio that may be writing to you, Ohio SILC considers the following principles as essential in a viable MFP program. These principles include:

- Commitment to serve all persons with disabilities who meet the program's eligibility requirements and who need the program in order to transition out of an institution. Access to Ohio's Money Follows the Person program should be based on the needs of the individual and the ability to provide adequate and appropriate supports and services, not on a specified demographic category or a specific type of disability.
- Emphasis on expanding consumer choice, consumer control and self-direction. Waivers should be designed so that the scope and intensity of supports, interventions, and overall management and direction is determined by the consumer, based upon each individual's unique abilities and circumstances. Person centered planning needs to start while the individual is still in the institution, continuing throughout the transition to the community, and after the individual is established and receiving services in their home and community based setting. The ODJFS' proposal recognized the importance of post-transition planning.
- Recognition that there must be effective collaboration between ODJFS or their designees and that relationships must be strengthened; with those who maintain and provide affordable and accessible housing for low income individuals, existing or MFP

created Medicaid waiver service providers, and with existing or MFP created networks of formal and informal supports. OOTF believes that successful relocation is dependent upon the availability of informal and formal community supports and the coordinated receipt of waiver services, housing.

- Inclusion and recognition of the need for additional services and supports to be in place to maximize self-sufficiency: personal care assistance, homemaker services, and adaptive technology. One time transition costs must cover all of those items necessary for living in the community such as security deposit/first month's rent, furniture, household items, groceries, physical adaptation to the residence, bad debt, utility hook-ups, etc.
- Recognition of the need to include Peer Support, which is integral to the Independent Living philosophy of the Centers for Independent Living and to the work of many grassroots consumer driven organizations., Independent Living Skills Training should be an essential service which should be provided through contracts reimbursable through the MFP project. Contracting with Ohio's eleven Centers for Independent Living and other qualified consumer-based organization would add extra value to the transition services offered through Ohio's MFP project.

We support Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda J. Curtiss".

Brenda J. Curtiss



October 26, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms Norris:

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to convey our support for Ohio's application for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

The Ohio DD Council applauds the release of Money Follows the Person Grants by CMS as a much-needed incentive for states to rebalance their spending to begin to implement what their citizens have been telling policy-makers they need and want – residential options located in communities that resemble homes instead of institutions. A review of Ohio's application includes many items that have been suggested by consumers, families and advocates as they seek to change the way Ohio provides and supports residential options.

Since 2001, the Ohio Access Initiative has driven the expansion of home and community based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities, with the support of organizations like the Ohio DD Council and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. However, despite that initiative, thousands of Ohioans who are elderly or have a disability remain on waiting lists for home and community based services through one of Ohio's Medicaid waivers, or through other programs supported by state and local funds.

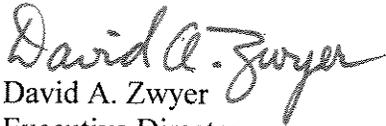
Money Follows the Person represents the next logical step in rebalancing funding for residential options in Ohio. It will not only build on existing initiatives to support institutionalized individuals as they move back home (e.g., adding additional capacity to existing Medicaid waivers), but it will pursue new options such as bridge funding to address critical housing issues during the transition period when the individuals first move out of an institution. Money Follows the Person will also add some "post institutional" services to smooth the way for people who are returning home from an institution.

Ohio's MFP proposal will focus on a variety of subpopulations who desire to move out of an institutional setting. The DD Council hopes to serve on a steering committee that will seek to address the interests of those diverse populations. We believe that our experience in reaching out to unserved and underserved populations will be particularly useful.

The Ohio DD Council has actively participated in planning meetings for Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal. We will continue to support its implementation in several ways including, but not limited to, supporting consumers and their families to meet with policymakers and to testify before the Ohio General Assembly about the need to rebalance our funding priorities for residential options, continuing to support the development of new community-based residential options, continuing to find better ways to measure the quality of services being provided, and seeking to develop our own grant proposals to complement the goals of Ohio Access and Money Follows the Person. We will also monitor progress made towards meeting the goals of Money Follows the Person, and work with ODJFS and key stakeholders to set incremental goals in each MFP proposal Ohio submits in the future.

Therefore, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council supports the application for Money Follows the Person submitted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and we urge CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Zwyer".

David A. Zwyer
Executive Director

Michael Scholl, Chairman
Kenneth Ritchey, Director, ODMRDD



THE ADVOCATE OF NOT-FOR-PROFIT
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October 23, 2006

Ms. Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

ODJFS
OCT 25 AM 10:17
OHIO HEALTH PLANS

Dear Ms Norris:

On behalf of AOPHA, the advocate of not-for-profit services for older Ohioans, I would like to convey the associations support of the Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant submitted by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency.

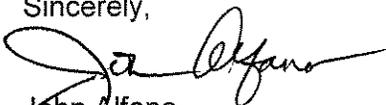
Ohio proposes to use the MFP grant to further expand Governor Bob Taft's *Ohio Access Initiative* (<http://www.ohioaccess.ohio.gov>), a vision for the future of Ohio's community-based services and supports emphasizing consumer choice, control, and autonomy. Since 2001, the *Ohio Access Initiative* has driven the expansion of home- and community-based service (HCBS) options for elders and people with disabilities.

Ohio's proposal will add needed capacity to existing Medicaid waivers and service delivery systems. MFP will also add some "post institutional" services to smooth the way for people who are returning home from an institution. Finally, Ohio's MFP proposal will focus on a variety of subpopulations who desire to move out of an institutional setting. In order to represent the interests of those diverse populations, ODJFS will convene a steering committee of key stakeholders to assist in planning and implementing the grant over the next five years.

Our organization has participated in the planning meetings for Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal. We will continue to support its implementation by participating in the stakeholders group or wherever needed. **However, we would like to see the waiver not limited to individuals residing in nursing homes.** AOPHA members, who are not-for-profit providers of senior housing through nursing care, believe in the right care at the right time in the right setting. Why should seniors have to go into an institution in order to get a waiver to leave that facility? AOPHA would advocate that waivers be provided to seniors to delay their entrance into a nursing home. Preventing nursing home entrance would save both state and federal funds.

In conclusion, AOPHA supports Ohio's Money Follows the Person proposal and urges CMS to select Ohio as a grantee.

Sincerely,


John Alfano
President/CEO

cc: Mary Haller, Chief of Stakeholder Relations, ODJFS Office of Ohio Health Plans