

Adult Services Division – Choices for Care

Program Overview

Choices for Care (CFC) is a program covered under [Vermont's Global Commitment to Health 1115 Waiver](#). The CFC “High/Highest” option offers long-term services and supports to adult Vermonters who need nursing home level of care services. If a person is found clinically and financially eligible, they may choose where they want to receive their services whether it is in their own home, the home of another person or in a licensed residential care home, assisted living residence or nursing facility. Limited funding is also available for people who do not need nursing home level of care but do need some preventative or “Moderate Needs” services such as homemaker and adult day services.

Staff and Partners

The Long-Term Services and Supports Unit manages Choices for Care and includes 20 staff, 15 whom are regionally located to manage applications and clinical eligibility for people in their regions.

Many partners provide direct services under CFC, including:

- Adult Day Providers
- Adult Family Care Authorized Agencies
- Area Agencies on Aging
- ARIS Solutions (employer payroll services)
- Home Health Agencies
- Licensed Residential Care and Assisted Living Residences
- Licensed Nursing Facilities
- Providers of Personal Emergency Response Services
- Traumatic Brain Injury Providers

Recent Developments and Accomplishments

Choices for Care had many developments and accomplishments in SFY17. These include:

- 2% Medicaid rate increase in home-based services September 2016.
- One-time reinvestment of approximately \$800K in CFC savings for:
 - Moderate Needs provider rate adjustments (March 2017) and
 - Enhanced Residential Care rate increase (May 2017).
- Collaborated with Vermont's Division of Rate Setting and Department of Mental Health to finalize standards for in-state specialized nursing facility care incentive rates for Vermonters with atypical behavioral needs.

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- Contracted with the [National Core Indicators \(NCI\) for Aging & Disabilities](#) consumer survey, for implementation January 2018.
- Ranked number 3 in the nation for the delivery of LTSS and received the [Scan Foundation Award](#) for Access and Affordability.
- Initiated a stakeholder workgroup to identify potential payment and delivery reform for Moderate Needs services.

Future Directions

The Choices for Care (CFC) program continually seeks ways to improve consumer experience, how services are delivered and paid for, and to integrate with healthcare reform efforts in Vermont. Work in SFY2018 is expected to focus on:

- Continued quality management work plan related to new Federal Regulations for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to assure all Medicaid funded home-based settings meet specific characteristics regarding participant rights, freedoms and community participation in addition to person-centered planning standards.
- Launching the National Core Indicators (NCI) for Aging & Disabilities, to assess quality and performance from participants' perspectives.
- Identifying ways to improve the program application, assessment and person-centered planning process.
- Implementing online program training modules for CFC providers.
- Continued participation in healthcare reform efforts with the goal of improving the link between primary care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) and to identify a better way to pay for LTSS that promotes quality, cost efficiency, and access to services.

Results

As of June 2017 (SAMS Enrollment Data)	SFY17	SFY16 - SFY17 % change
Total Enrollments (high/highest/moderate)	5432	-1%
Home-Based Only	1707	3%
Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) Only	491	-3%
Nursing Facility Only	1892	1%
Moderate Needs Group Only	1342	-9%
High/Highest Only	4090	1%
<u>High/Highest</u> : Home-based & ERC % total enrollments	54%	0%
<u>High/Highest</u> : NF% total enrollments	46%	0%
% CFC Clinical Eligibility Completed in <30 days	93%	0%
MNG Wait List end of fiscal year	831	32%

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New CFC consumer experience data will be available from the NCI-AD survey, expected to be available in November 2018.

More information about Choices for Care can be found:

- [Adequacy of the Choices for Care System Report – October 2017](#)
- [Choices for Care Reinvestment Report – September 2017](#)
- [Consumer Experience Surveys 2013-2015](#)
- [CMS Quarterly and Annual Reports](#)
- [Information At-A-Glance Resources](#)
- [Program Manuals](#)