

Florida §1115 Cash and Counseling Demonstration

FACT SHEET

Name of Section 1115 Demonstration:	Consumer Directed Care
Date Proposal Submitted:	May 16, 1996
Date Proposal Approved:	October 9, 1998
Scheduled Expiration Date:	February 28, 2008
Date Demonstration Implemented:	March 1, 2000
Request to Amend Demonstration Design:	September 10, 2002
Demonstration Design Amendment Approved:	February 12, 2003
Request to Amend Budget Model Design:	December 23, 2002
Budget Model Design Amendment Approved:	Pending

SUMMARY

Florida is one of three States participating in the Cash and Counseling Demonstration Project sponsored jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Department of Health and Human Services. Cash and Counseling is a self-directed program that is designed to ensure the personal voice and control of consumers in decision-making. This demonstration supports the Olmstead Decision by promoting community-based services for persons with disabilities who otherwise would be entitled to institutional services. Services are delivered in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities. Eligible beneficiaries are randomized into two groups: a treatment group which receives a monthly cash allotment with which to purchase needed services under the personal care benefit, and a control group, which receives services under the traditional (agency-furnished) method.

Florida's Cash and Counseling Demonstration entitled "Consumer Directed Care," is offered to four distinct Medicaid populations: frail elders, adults with physical disabilities, adults with developmental disabilities, and children with developmental disabilities. The program is statewide for children with developmental disabilities and offered in selected counties for the adult and aged populations.

Since April 1999, the State of Florida operated the "Choice and Control" program, a state-only program very similar to the Cash and Counseling program, in 14 of the counties that did not offer Consumer Directed Care to the developmentally disabled adult population. Effective January 1, 2002, state funding for the Choice and Control program was terminated due to a budget shortfall and the State began transitioning participants into HCBS programs. In response, the State submitted an *Independence Plus* 1115 demonstration application requesting to amend their Cash and Counseling demonstration to allow former "Choice and Control" participants,

who were directing their own care with a cash allowance provided by the State operated program, to continue self-direction through the Consumer Directed Care demonstration. Because the current demonstration design still requires that all participants be subject to randomization, the State requested to add “Choice and Control” participants to the current demonstration as a second treatment group.

Florida is the first State to utilize the *Independence Plus* template, a recent HHS initiative designed to help states develop consumer-directed services. This *Independence Plus* demonstration amendment supports President Bush’s *New Freedom Initiative* as it allows participants to live in their family residence or their own home and have control over the planning and purchase of long-term supports and services by way of a cash allowance.

Florida is currently requesting to end the experimental “treatment/control” budget design of the demonstration and expand the demonstration statewide to adults and elders. This amendment is currently under review by the CMS Federal team.

ELIGIBILITY

- Medicaid eligibles qualifying under one of four populations:
 - frail elders
 - adults with physical disabilities
 - adults with developmental disabilities
 - children with developmental disabilities
- Require assistance with activities of daily living.
- Be willing to receive a cash allowance in lieu of personal care services via an agency.

ENROLLMENT

Florida has a target enrollment goal of 6,000 participants. As of January 2, 2002, the Consumer Directed Care demonstration had approximately 3,363 participants, with approximately half receiving the cash allowance. This amendment is projected to increase enrollment of the “cash group” by several hundred.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

Treatment group consumers receive a monthly cash allotment with which to purchase needed services under the personal care benefit. Beneficiaries, or their parents if they are minors, may hire their own workers and determine which services they need, along with how much of a service to receive. Beneficiaries may choose to manage their care independently, or with the assistance of a Fiscal Intermediary to handle paperwork functions.

Individuals assigned to the control group receive services from traditional Medicaid providers, with the State making all vendor payments.

ENROLLMENT/DISENROLLMENT PROCESS

The demonstration is voluntary, and participants may disenroll from the treatment group at any time. Participants will be involuntarily disenrolled from the treatment group if there is misuse of the cash grant, if the participant's ability to manage their cash grant declines and there is no representative available, or if the participant fails to provide documentation of uses of the cash grant.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

Personal care services are provided to consumers enrolled in the treatment group by providers of their choosing. Treatment group consumers determine the services they need, and from whom to receive them. The consumers pay their workers from accounts set-up for them through the State, which contains the amount of funds the Medicaid program would have spent on their personal care services.

Control group consumers continue to receive personal care services through the traditional agency model.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Florida will use the following quality assurance strategies:

- Further utilize surveys to evaluate participant satisfaction.
- Safeguards in place for participant protections.
- Continued use of mechanisms, such as counselors and fiscal intermediary services, to ensure the needs of vulnerable populations are met.