

FACTSHEET

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Real Choice Systems Change Grants May 17, 2004

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced today the availability of approximately \$31 million in grants to states and other organizations to help develop programs for people with disabilities or long-term illnesses. The Real Choice Systems Change Grants for Community Living will help states and territories enable people with disabilities to reside in their homes and participate fully in community life.

In 2001, President Bush launched the *New Freedom Initiative*, which promotes the goal of community living for people with disabilities. Under this initiative, 10 federal agencies have collaborated to remove barriers to community living. In fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003 CMS awarded Real Choice Systems Change Grants totaling approximately \$158 million to 49 States, the District of Columbia, and two territories, specifically to improve community-integrated services and remove barriers to community living.

The grants opportunities announced today are intended to provide states and other eligible entities with funding to make lasting improvements to their home and community-based services programs. Eight grant opportunities comprise this round of Real Choice Systems Change Grants:

1. Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
2. Integrating Long Term Supports with Affordable Housing
3. Portals from Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) to Adult Supports
4. Comprehensive Systems Reform Effort
5. Mental Health: Systems Transformation
6. Rebalancing Initiative
7. Family-to-Family Health Care Information and Education Centers
8. National State-to-State Technical Assistance Program for Community Living.

More information about these grants and the *New Freedom Initiative* is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom/asp>