

Real Choice Grant Activities Support Olmstead Plan

The president's New Freedom Initiative provides resources to assist states in implementing the United States Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v L.C.* These resources include Real Choice Systems Change for Community Living Grants funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The Real Choice grants provide funding for systems changes and infrastructure that will result in effective and enduring improvements in community long-term support systems. These grants are intended to assist people to:

- Live in the most integrated community setting appropriate to their individual support requirements and preferences
- Exercise meaningful choices about their living environments, the providers of services they receive, the types of supports they use and the manner in which services are provided
- Obtain quality services in a manner as consistent as possible with their community living preferences

The table below shows the Real Choice Systems Change for Community Living grants awarded in West Virginia.

Real Choice Systems Change for Community Living Grants

Grant	Lead Agency	Purpose
Transitioning to Inclusive Communities (2001-2004)	WV Bureau for Medical Services	Identify and assist individuals in nursing facilities or the community to return to, or remain in, the community settings of their choice
West Virginia Real Choice Systems Change Grant (2002-2005)	WV Bureau for Medical Services	Promote informed choice in home and community based services and supports
Community-Integrated Personal Assistance Services and Supports (2002-2005)	Center for Excellence in Disabilities at WVU	Promote self-direction in personal assistance services and supports (homemaker services, personal care, etc.)
Quality Assurance & Improvement Project (2003-2006)	WV Bureau for Medical Services	Strengthen West Virginia's ability to assure the health, welfare, and dignity of individuals participating in Medicaid home and community-based waiver services
Aging and Disability Resource Centers (2003-2006)	WV Bureau of Senior Services	Integrate access to all long-term care programs, including public and private-pay, and develop a uniform process to determine level of need, eligibility and individualized service plans
People's Advocacy Information and Resource Services (2004-2007)	West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc.	Empower and educate families who have children with special health care needs by providing information and education to promote community-based options

Transitioning to Inclusive Communities (TIC) – Activities include:

- Identifying and assisting people who desire to return to, or remain in, the community
- Developing a transition planning process
- Identifying and training community navigators
- Providing funds to individuals for time-limited transition/diversion expenses
- Establishing a peer support network

Federal funding of the TIC grant ended in 2004. Grant activities are scheduled to continue through September of 2005 with remaining federal funds through a no-cost extension approved by CMS.

West Virginia Real Choice Systems Change – Activities include:

- Providing information and referral services through a toll-free hotline, web site, brochures and fact sheets
- Creating a statewide database of community resources
- Supporting partnerships to address barriers to community living
- Influencing policy development and legislation
- Funding community-based projects that support Community inclusion and personal choice

Community-Integrated Personal Assistance Services and Supports (C-PASS) – Activities include:

- Developing self-directed services within the Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver program
- Providing training on self-direction

- Developing a directory of personal assistance services and supports
- Establishing a peer support network
- Promoting recruitment and retention of direct support workers

In 2004, the Bureau of Senior Services obtained funding to implement WV Choice, the self-directed service option within the Aged & Disabled Waiver program, through a Cash & Counseling grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Quality Assurance & Improvement Project (QA/QI) – Activities include:

- Developing a quality assurance process and improvement infrastructure for home and community-based services
- Defining and expanding core measures to assess the quality of Medicaid Waiver services
- Develop and implement data collection strategies for Medicaid Waiver services
- Involving Waiver participants, families, advocates and allies in the quality improvement process

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) – Activities include:

- Demonstrating the effectiveness of aging and disability resource centers in two counties, Marion and Ohio
- Integrating access to all long-term care programs, both public and private pay
- Developing uniform application, eligibility and individualized planning processes
- Evaluating the feasibility of establishing a statewide network of aging and disability resource centers

People’s Advocacy Information and Resource Services (PAIRS) – Activities include:

- Establishing a family-to-family health care information and education center, including a toll-free information and referral system and a PAIRS web site
- Conducting public forums and educating individuals and families about community health care options
- Promoting individual and family directed services and supports

As can be seen from the table below, the activities of the Real Choice Systems Change for Community Living grants are closely aligned with the West Virginia Olmstead Plan. This strong relationship is the result of collaboration between the Olmstead Coordinator and other state partners and stakeholders involved in Real Choice grant activities in West Virginia. Ensuring sustainability of Real Choice grant activities will support the Olmstead Plan.

Relationship between Real Choice Grants and West Virginia Olmstead Plan

Key Components	Goal	Real Choice Grants
Informed Choice	Establish a process to provide comprehensive information and education	TIC, WV Real Choice, C-PASS, ADRC, PAIRS
Identification	Identify every person with a disability who resides in an institutional facility	TIC
Transition	Transition every person with a disability who has a desire to live and receive supports in the most integrated setting appropriate	TIC
Diversion	Develop and implement effective and comprehensive diversion activities	TIC, WV Real Choice, C-PASS, ADRC, PAIRS
Reasonable Pace	Assure community-based services are provided to people with disabilities at a reasonable pace	TIC, QA/QI
Eliminating Institutional Bias	Eliminate institutional bias in funding long-term care supports	TIC
Self-Direction	Provide self-directed community-based supports and services that ensure choice and control	TIC, WV Real Choice, C-PASS, QA/QI, ADRC, PAIRS
Rights Protection	Develop and maintain systems to actively protect the civil rights of people with disabilities	TIC, WV Real Choice, ADRC, C-PASS, QA/QI, ADRC, PAIRS
Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement	Strengthen the quality of community-based supports through implementation of Olmstead Plan	TIC, C-PASS, QA/QI, ADRC
Community-Based Services, Programs and Activities	Develop, enhance and maintain array of community-based supports that are self-directed to meet the needs of all people with disabilities and to create alternatives to institutional care	TIC, WV Real Choice, C-PASS, QA/QI, ADRC, PAIRS