



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

November 26, 2013

Dear Medical Assistance Personal Care Participant,

The Affordable Care Act created a program called Community First Choice (CFC). Maryland is taking advantage of this opportunity and is consolidating personal care services across three existing programs - the State Plan Medical Assistance Personal Care (MAPC) program, Living at Home Waiver, and Waiver for Older Adults - under one State Plan program that offers both self-direction and agency model services.

This letter is to inform you of the changes that will be made to the MAPC program in the first few months of 2014. Those people who receive MAPC services and who meet an institutional level of care will have access to additional services.

What does this mean for you?

If you meet an institutional level of care (which means that your assessed needs would meet the criteria to qualify for admission to nursing facility paid by Medicaid), you will be enrolled in the CFC program and you will be eligible to receive these services: personal assistance, supports planning, nurse monitoring, home-delivered meals, assistive technology, environmental accessibility adaptations, consumer training, personal emergency response systems, and transition services.

If you do not meet an institutional level of care, you can remain in the MAPC program and you are eligible to receive these services: personal assistance, supports planning, and nurse monitoring.

Your personal care aide will be enrolled as a CFC provider when you meet with your supports planner and develop a new plan of service. All independent personal care aides will need to become CPR and First Aid certified unless you waive this requirement. You may keep your current provider or select a new provider. The payment rate we pay for your personal assistance services will improve, and will also change to an hourly rate approach, and your providers will be notified by the Department.

You will receive further information on how to select your supports planner in the coming months. You will be able to choose your supports planner between January and March to discuss the opportunities that might be available to you under Community First Choice. These opportunities include the availability of new services, setting your personal budget for services based on the new assessment process, your option to manage your own budget for personal assistance services (including negotiating payment rates with your providers, if you choose to do so), and the option to receive training from the Maryland Department of Disabilities on how to self-direct your services. Your supports planner will help you navigate the changes, learn more about the budget, and manage the exceptions process to ensure your services continue to meet your needs.

You will continue to receive nurse monitoring through the Local Health Department, and your current nurse case monitor may assist you with details of your services until a supports planner is identified.

Please feel free to contact your personal care nurse case monitor for additional information and help understanding any of the new changes. Information is also available on the DHMH website at <https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/longtermcare/SitePages/Long%20Term%20Care%20Reform.aspx>.