



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Provider Bulletin
Number PR0026

Subject: Transition Assistance
Provided Through the ID/DD Waiver

Issue Date: November 18, 2013

Effective Date: November 1, 2013

Scope

All DMH/H Certified Providers

Purpose

To provide information regarding the provision of Transition Assistance Services available through the ID/DD Waiver.

Subject

Transition Assistance is a one-time set up expense for individuals who transition from an institution (ICF/IID or Nursing Facility) to a less restrictive community living arrangement such as a house or apartment where they receive Supervised or Supported Living Services or a Host Home living arrangement and who do not use services provided through the Bridge to Independence (Money Follows the Person) program.

The following are required for eligibility:

- 1) The individual cannot have another source to fund or attain the items or support;
- 2) The individual must be transitioning from a setting where these items were provided; and,
- 3) The individual must be moving to a residence where these items are not normally furnished

An individual whose ICF/IID or NF stay is acute or is for rehabilitative purposes is not eligible for this service.

Items bought using these funds are for individual use and are to be property of the individual. If an individual moves from a residence owned or leased by a waiver provider, the items bought utilizing transition assistance must remain the property of the individual.

There is a one-time, life time maximum service of \$800 per individual. Service expenditures must be on the approved Plan of Services and Supports.

Examples of expenses that may be covered include:

- Expenses to transport furnishings and personal possessions to the new living arrangement;
- Essential furnishing expenses required to occupy and use a community domicile;
- Linens and towels;
- Cleaning supplies;

- Security deposits that are required to obtain a lease on an apartment or home that does not constitute paying for housing rent;
- Utility set-up fees or deposits for utility or service access (e.g. telephone, water, electricity, heating, trash removal);
- Initial stocking of the pantry with basic food items
- Health and safety assurances, such as pest eradication, allergen control or one-time cleaning prior to occupancy.

Essential furnishings include items for an individual to establish his or her basic living arrangement, such as a bed, a table, chairs, window blinds, eating utensils, and food preparation items.

Transition Assistance Services shall not include monthly rental or mortgage expenses, regular utility charges, and/or household appliances or items that are intended for purely diversional or recreational purposes such as televisions, cable TV access or VCRs or DVD players.

The following process must be utilized when accessing Transition Assistance:

- 1) At the Person Centered Planning meeting, the individual and/or legal guardian, the ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinator, Regional Program or Nursing Facility staff, provider and anyone else who may know what items the individual may need or want to set up his/her living arrangement agree upon the items to be purchased.
- 2) When a living arrangement is identified, the provider receives a Service Authorization from the ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinator and signs and returns it signifying agreement to provide the service.
- 3) The provider and, if needed, Regional Program/Nursing Facility staff take the individual shopping to buy identified items.
- 4) The provider makes the purchases and arranges to store the items until the individual is ready to move to the community living setting.
- 5) After the individual moves, the provider submits a claim to Medicaid for the dollar amount of the items purchased, up to \$800. If the total amount of the items purchased exceeds \$800, the provider can still only bill for a maximum of \$800.
- 6) The provider must maintain receipts for all items purchased in the individual's record and send copies to the ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinator.

End of Provider Bulletin