MFP 101

Transition Funds

MFP 101: Transition Funds

- MFP Program Overview
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MFP Program Overview

Individuals can sign up for MFP transition assistance if they are:

- eligible for Choices for Care Long Term Care Medicaid,
- currently residing in a facility and have been for more than 60 consecutive days
- discharging to a qualified home and community-based residence.

Transition assistance includes:

- Transition Coordination
- Monthly Follow-up Calls
- $2,500 in flexible funding for transition needs

MFP Eligibility and Enrollment Process

- Referral is sent to the MFP office.
- MFP office staff check initial eligibility and assign a Transition Coordinator. (MFP office staff monitor eligibility throughout the MFP enrollment.)
- Transition Coordinator contacts Case Management Agency/Case Manager to continue MFP in-processing.
- Client Enrollment starts the day the Transition Coordinator signs the MFP Informed Consent Form.
- Transition funds can be spent after this date and after notification of a prior authorization has been received.

Spending MFP Transition Funds

Once transition funds are authorized, the client can start to spend them.

Ideally:

- Client, Case Manager, and Transition Coordinator discuss a need and determine if MFP funds can help address the need.
- Case Manager arranges for purchasing, order, and delivery of the item or service.
- Client receives the item or service. Case Manager enters the item or service into SAMS as a service delivery.
- Case Management Agency bills Medicaid for the item or service using Revenue Code 087 and the date the item or service is delivered as the date of service.
- Agency is paid for the item or service.

Spending MFP Transition Funds

Sometimes the Client goes ahead and purchases an item or service and seeks reimbursement.

- Case Manager and MFP staff determine if the item or service qualifies as an appropriate use of MFP transition funds.
- If yes, Case Manager enters the item or service into SAMS as a service delivery.
- Case Management Agency bills Medicaid for the item/service using Revenue Code 087 and the date the item or service is delivered as the date of service.
- Agency reimburses the Client for the item or service.

This method is not ideal, since the client is then spending their own money on Medicaid billable expenses, which violates the whole point of Medicaid.

MFP Transition Funds: for what can they be used?

Absolutely no:

1. Alcohol
2. Cigarettes
3. Cannabis and related items
4. Patient Shares or Co-pays

Five guiding principles to keep in mind:

1. *The items/services are determined by the type of housing.*
2. *The items/services should be decided on by the client. It is their money; they should have a say in what to do with it.*
3. *The items/services should directly benefit (and belong to) the client, not another person.*
4. *The items/services should support the client in their community-based home.*
5. *The items/services must be delivered within the client's MFP enrollment time.*

Uses for MFP Transition Funds

1. The items/services are determined by the client’s type of residence.
   - If the Client lives in their own home or apartment, many household expenses are approved including rent, appliances, electronics, heating fuel, food, respite or personal care, and home repairs, as well as personal items like clothing or cell phone bills.
   - If the Client lives in a family member’s home or apartment, most of the above expenses would be authorized, though some may not be. For example, the installation of a heat-pump in the family room of the son’s house, might not be authorized, but installation of a heat-pump in their bedroom would likely be authorized.
   - If the Client lives in an AFC home, most household expenses and items are not approved since AFCs are contracted provide room and board and respite care. For example, household use appliances, food, respite care, and heating fuel are all **not** authorized expenses in AFC homes.

Uses for MFP Transition Funds

2. The items/services should be decided on by the Client. It is their money; they should have a say in what is done with it.

- Just because a relative or support person thinks that the Client doesn't need new a new mattress, doesn't mean that the Client shouldn't be allowed to purchase a new mattress.
- If the Client has a legal guardian, or other competency or decision-making difficulty, effort should still be made to consult with the client in addition to consulting with their guardian. Keeping POAs and other support persons in the loop is good practice.

Uses for MFP Transition Funds

3. The items/services should directly benefit (and belong to) the Client and not another person.

- A Client may want to provide their neighbor with snow-tires because the neighbor drives them to the grocery store. This is not an allowable expense because the snow-tires only indirectly benefit the Client.
- In this situation, the Client could, however, use MFP funds to pay for their phone bill so they could redirect the monies they normally spend on the phone to help their neighbor.

Uses for MFP Transition Funds

4. The items/services should support the Client in living in their community-based home.

- Dream vacations to the Bahamas are not approvable expenses.
- A travel book about the Bahamas would be an approved expense.
- A 3-day hotel stay in FL is not an approved expense.
- A 3-day hotel stay while the bathroom is remodeled to be more accessible would be an approvable expense.

Uses for MFP Transition Funds

5. The items/services must be delivered within the Client's enrollment in MFP, which ends after no longer than one year of living in their community-based home.

- Earlier enrollment means more time to spend the money and more time to get things done!
- For example, if a Client enrolls on 15 Jan 2023, and moves home on 01 Feb 2023, they have from 15 Jan 2023 until 31 Jan 2024 to spend their MFP transition funds.
- All items/services must be delivered during MFP enrollment. In our above example, the Client could use MFP funds to pay for fuel oil delivered on 31 Jan 2024. They could **not** use MFP funds to purchase a "prebuy" contract or an Irving gift card in Sept 2023, since we don't know when that will be delivered.

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Questions