

Florida §1115 Cash and Counseling Demonstration

FACT SHEET

Name of Section 1115 Demonstration:	Consumer Directed Care Plus
Date Proposal Submitted:	May 16, 1996
Date Proposal Approved:	October 9, 1998
Date Demonstration Implemented:	March 1, 2000
Scheduled Expiration Date:	February 28, 2008

SUMMARY

Florida is one of three states that participated in the Cash and Counseling Demonstration Project sponsored jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Department of Health and Human Services. The Cash and Counseling Demonstration Project allows individuals to purchase needed personal care services with a monthly cash allotment. The goal of the demonstration project is to ensure the personal voice and control of consumers in decision-making. This demonstration project also supports the Olmstead Decision by promoting community-based services for persons with disabilities who otherwise would be entitled to institutional services.

The original demonstration design randomized eligible beneficiaries into two groups for evaluation purposes: a treatment group that received a monthly cash allotment and a control group that received services under the traditional (agency-furnished) method. Florida has completed the evaluation phase of the Cash and Counseling project and has been approved to eliminate the use of the control group and allow all demonstration participants to self-direct their care through the cash allowance.

TARGET POPULATION/ELIGIBILITY

- Medicaid eligibles qualifying under one of five populations:
 - frail elders
 - adults with physical disabilities
 - adults with developmental disabilities
 - children with developmental disabilities
 - former “Choice and Control” participants
- Require assistance with activities of daily living.
- Be willing to receive a cash allowance in lieu of personal care services via an agency.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

As of February 2005, approximately 835 individuals are receiving cash allowances for services.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

Consumers receive a monthly cash allotment with which to purchase personal care benefit

services such as personal care attendants or homemaker services. Consumers (or their parents if they are minors) hire their own workers and determine which services they need, along with how much of a service to receive. A Fiscal Intermediary assists consumers with handling paperwork functions such as payroll, paying appropriate federal/local taxes, etc.

COST SHARING

There is no cost sharing under this demonstration.

ENROLLMENT LIMIT/CAP

Florida has an enrollment limit of 3350 persons.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

Consumers managed their cash allotments through an account set-up for them by the State and Fiscal Intermediary. The amount of the cash allotment is determined by the amount the Medicaid program would have spent on the consumer's personal care services for the month. Using this monthly allotment, consumers determine what and how much personal care services they need. Consumers purchase services/items from any provider of their choice and hire workers of their choice (which can be family, friends, or agency workers).

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Florida will use the following quality assurance strategies:

- Utilize surveys to evaluate participant satisfaction.
- Required State and individual emergency back-up systems to ensure participant protection.
- Use of case managers and fiscal intermediary services to ensure that participant needs are met.

MODIFICATIONS/AMENDMENTS

CMS has reviewed several demonstration amendment requests from the State of Florida throughout the course of program implementation:

- February 28, 2001, CMS approved the modification of the State's Operational Protocol to allow statewide enrollment for children.
- On July 10, 2002, Florida requested to make minor technical amendments to the Quality Management Plan section of their Operational Protocol to enhance their ability to monitor the demonstration. The State also requested to open demonstration enrollment to disabled adults and elders in one county, Monroe County. CMS approved the request on October 4, 2002.
- On September 10, 2002, Florida submitted a formal request to add a second treatment (cash) group to the demonstration. The State requested this in order to restore the consumer directed benefit to a group of 150 participants, who formally self-directed under a recently terminated State program that operated in 14 counties that did not offer

the demonstration to adults with developmental disabilities, and were now being transferred back into a traditional agency model of care. CMS approved the amendment on February 12, 2003.

- On December 23, 2002, Florida submitted an *Independence Plus* application requesting to amend the demonstration by eliminating the randomized design and expanding the demonstration statewide for the disabled adult/elderly populations currently covered under the demonstration. Florida was the first State to make use of the *Independence Plus* initiative (a recent HHS initiative designed to help states develop consumer-directed programs) to amend its Section 1115 demonstration. CMS approved the amendment on May 30, 2003, and on December 30, 2003, approved implementation for January 1, 2004. This amendment is projected to increase the number of individuals self-directing by more than 2000.
- On June 2, 2004, Florida submitted a request to amend its Operational Protocol to remove language requiring legal guardian/parents to be the designated representative for their child participating in the program. Because CDC+ prohibits representatives from being paid workers, this amendment will enable single parents to designate another person as their child's representative and permit the parent to serve as their child's paid personal assistance service provider. CMS approved the Operational Protocol amendment on July 30, 2004.
- On March 31, 2005 Florida submitted a request to amend the demonstration by expanding enrollment to 25,000 consumers from the Developmental Disabilities waiver and the Family and Support Living waiver. CMS cannot at this time (July 2005) grant approval for this request until such time as an accurate assessment of budget neutrality can be made.