

**Administration on Aging
and
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Program

Organization Name: Maryland Department of Aging

Project Title: Maryland Aging and Disability Resource Center Program

Total Project Period: 9/30/2003 – 9/29/2006

Total Award Amount: \$800,000

Project Contact: Lisa Mullin, (410) 767-1064

Project's Overall Design:

The Maryland Department of Aging MDoA will develop pilot Resource Centers in one urban/suburban county and one rural county which will serve the elderly and people with physical disabilities. The program will be designed to accomplish two primary goals: to enhance existing infrastructure by creating a single point of entry at the local level capable of coordinating access to long term supports; and to streamline the Medicaid financial and programmatic eligibility determination process to make it less cumbersome for consumers. MDoA will develop the project based on several key assumptions including: successful systems reform is predicated on meaningful collaboration among system partners; change processes require extensive education, follow-up and re-education through the use of evidence based data and skill building; MIS linkages and redesigns must be cost-effective and adhere to HIIPAA; and state level policy changes will be required to effect local change. MDoA believes that introducing systems reform at the state level along with establishing Resource Centers county by county will create a foundation and groundswell that will assist them in achieving successful systems change statewide. A contractor will be secured to work with MdoA to develop evaluation design and methodology under guidance of a performance evaluation sub-committee of the state and local Advisory Committees. The project will use IT consultants to assist them in evaluating existing MIS systems and investigate software for client tracking, functional assessment screening and care planning.

Target Population:

- Year One – Persons 50 and older
- Year Two and Three – Persons 50 and older and Adults with physical disabilities

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Develop an interagency advisory structure at the state and local levels

- Establish a Maryland model for “single point of entry” Aging and Disability Resource Centers that will be visible, trustworthy, responsive, efficient and cost effective
- Empower consumers to exercise choice and increase the ability of caregivers to provide care
- Standardized forms and training materials will be put in operation across user agencies
- Streamline the Medicaid financial and programmatic eligibility determination process
- Create a “fast track” financial eligibility screening process
- Improve programmatic eligibility determination by expanding and coordinating systems for case identification, intake, screening, and assessment

Involvement of Community Based Organizations and Other Stakeholders:

- **Advisory Committee:** State and local committees will be created and will include representatives from state and local government, providers, advocacy groups, consumers, private sector stakeholders and educational institutions. Advisory committees will include a consumer as co-chair and a minimum of 50% of the members will be consumers or consumer advocates.
- **Partners:** Maryland Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources, and the Governor’s Office for Individuals with Disabilities