



# Money Follows the Person Peer Outreach and Referral Program

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# Open Doors



# New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL)

- Statewide, not-for-profit membership association of Independent Living Centers.
- ILCs are unique disability-led, cross-disability, locally administered not-for-profit organizations, providing advocacy and supports to assist people with disabilities of all ages to live independently and fully integrated in their communities.

# Independent Living in New York

- ILCs have been transitioning and diverting people from institutions for more than 20 years.
- ILCs are RRDCs for NHTD/TBI waivers as well as providers of services.
- ILCs are fiscal intermediaries for CDPAS program.
- Six ILCs are regional lead for Ombudsman Program.

# NYAIL Money Follows the Person

- Prior focus of MFP was Identification and Outreach.
- New focus on transition and peer services.
- NYAIL initiated MFP January 2015
- Two components:
  - Peer Outreach and Referral (Part A)
  - Transition Center (Part B)

# Transition Center Project

- **Goal:** Identify potential participants in nursing facilities, developmental centers and intermediate care facilities and facilitate successful transitions.



# Transition Center Structure

- 9 Regional Lead ILCs
  - Transition Coordinator/Liaison
  - Transition Specialist(s)
- 14 Auxiliaries ILCs
  - Transition Specialist(s)
- NYAIL Staff
  - Project Director
  - Statewide Transition Specialist
  - 2 Nurses
  - Social Worker

# Transition Specialist Role

- DOH programs – NHTD/TBI/MLTC
  - Work collaboratively with NHDP and SC to resolve barriers to transition
  - Identification of Community Resources
    - ILC staff in all areas of state
  - Community Preparedness Education
  - Follow-up after transition
    - QoL Surveys



## Peer Outreach and Referral Program:

- **Goal:** Provide peer support to individuals and/or their families concerned about transitioning.



## Peers: Who qualifies?

- Peers will approximate the characteristics of the individuals (age, physical and/or developmental disability);
- When possible, peers will have transitioned from an institutionalized setting into the community.

## Peer Services Structure:

- Fee-for-service model: NYAIL has entered into MOUs with ILCs to supply paid peers.
- Twenty four participating; each committed to supplying a minimum of two paid peers.
  - Peers are paid between \$12 and \$20 per hour.
- Peers are available in every county.
- Over 50 peers with physical disabilities and over 25 peers with developmental disabilities.

# Peer Training:

- All peers are required to complete an eight hour web-based training within two months of becoming a peer. Training themes include:
  - Program rules and regulations
  - Overview of peer support
  - Communication and active listening
  - Disability etiquette
  - Cultural, developmental and linguistic competence
  - History of disability rights and independent living
- Continued learning opportunities to support peers and prevent burnout. In person and virtual meetings.

## Peer Services:

- Transition Specialists will offer peer services to all MFP participants.
- Peers will conduct a face-to-face meeting within 10 days of referral or document barriers to meeting.
- After transitioning to a home or community based setting, the individual can continue to receive peer services.

## The Peer Visit:

- Peers meet face-to-face with individuals to discuss the possibility of transition, help address any barriers, share personal experiences, etc.
- At the end of the first visit, peers will request the individual complete a brief satisfaction survey.
- An individual can request an additional visit with a peer, and, if approved by NYAIL, the peer can spend a pre-approved number of hours with the individual.

## Peer Outreach:

- Peers are paid for organizational outreach.
- The “Speakers’ Bureau” approach is popular among centers. Two or three peers visit a nursing facility and share their transition stories.
- Peers also partner with Transition Specialists and other ILC staff when visiting long term care councils, ombudspersons, etc.
- Peers have presented at conference, long term care councils, resident councils, ombudspersons, MFP Stakeholder meetings, senior centers, area agencies on aging and other locations identified by the local centers.
- Statewide marketing campaign in development.

# Peer Services to Date

Target Population	Peer Matching (as of 11/25/2015)
ID/DD: Intellectual or Developmental Disability (OPWDD)	45
Dual Diagnosis: TBI + Mental Illness	1
TBI: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI Waiver)	12
ELD: Elderly, over 65 (NHTD)	37
PD: Physical Disability under 65 (NHTD)	57
Unknown Population	14 (mostly because of referrals generated by peers, so target population has not been verified by a Transition Specialist)
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>



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Visit [www.ilny.org](http://www.ilny.org) or call 1-844-545-7108 to learn more about the Open Doors MFP projects and the New York Association on Independent Living.



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