



FACT SHEET



Broadening Choices:

There are more than 1,600 consumers, providers and other stakeholders working to identify local gaps in long term services and supports (LTSS). Local Long Term Care Councils together with county Area Agencies on Aging are developing plans and implementing strategies to address those gaps.

The NY Connects Network

The state's proposed model for a No Wrong Door (NWD) includes enhancing the existing NY Connects program to serve as the "hubs" and will be expanded to include all counties in New York.

August 2014

Data is based on SFY 2012-13

NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care Services

NY Connects is a statewide, locally based "no wrong door-single entry point" into the long term care system and provides one stop access to free, objective and comprehensive information and assistance on long term services and supports (LTSS). A locally-based community resource, NY Connects links individuals of all ages (and their caregivers) with the most appropriate services and supports, regardless of payment source.

Background

NY Connects was established by New York to provide the state's residents with helpful, unbiased information about availability and access to long term services and supports.

NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Services and Supports is addressed in the New York State Elder Law § 203(8). The law specifies the key program functions to be implemented by local NY Connects:

- Information and Assistance: Provision of comprehensive, objective information and support for individuals and their caregivers/families about home, community based and institutional long term services.
- Public Education: An on-going education and awareness campaign to educate all residents about NY Connects, the long term services and supports in their communities.

Balancing Incentive Plan

NY Connects was funded at \$3.35 million in State Fiscal Year 2012-13, which was a reduction from the previous year's funding at \$3.8 million. Program authority, originally held by the Department of Health (DOH), was transferred to the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) beginning in 2011-12. (LTSS).

NY Connects has been recognized as New York's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), which is a federal designation for a no wrong door/single point of entry system for long term services and supports. New York's proposed model for a No Wrong Door (NWD) includes enhancing the existing NY Connects program to serve as the "hubs" and will be expanded to include all counties in New York.

The expansion is part of the Balancing Incentive Payment (BIP) Program, which authorizes grants to States to increase access to non-institutional community-based long-term services and supports. New York's "NWD Hub" is NY Connects (operated by AAAs or AAAs in conjunction with LDSS) along with specialized service partners OPWDD and OMH.

The guidelines and operating protocols for NY Connects/NWD Hub will be released in September 2014. Beginning with:

- A) Standards and guidelines for the \$6 million state portion is likely to be released in early September, possibly late August
- B) Standards and guidelines for the larger BIP portion will be released a few weeks later, probably in late September.

NWD Hub will have trained staff to fill out the NWD Screen (in the BIP work plan, it is referred to as the Level I Screen).

NY Connects as an Aging and Disability Resource Center

The current goal of the federal Administration on Community is to have Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) serve as single points of entry into the long term services and supports system for older adults and people with disabilities. In New York State, NY Connects serve as ADRCs and effectively assist consumers with identifying and accessing a range of home and community based resources that allow older citizens and persons with disabilities to maintain their independence, effectively slowing the rate of growth and expenditures of state Medicaid programs.

Under the Affordable Care Act's Balancing Incentive Payments (BIP), states operating successful home and community based programs could receive additional federal funding for non-institutional based services and supports. There are three structural changes that states must make within six months of application: 1) a statewide no wrong door-single entry point system; 2) conflict-free case management services; and 3) core standardized assessment instruments. New York State's goal is to broaden the scope of available information and ensure access for eligibility determinations.

Since the NY Connects program is currently functioning in most areas of the state, supporting and enhancing the existing program is an economically sound investment.

Long Term Care Councils

Long Term Care Councils are a key component of NY Connects. They identify gaps in services and develop plans and implement strategies to address issues. They're usually comprised of local social and human services agencies and work together with Office for the Aging as a partnership.

ADRC Status has generated \$12 million in grants in New York State

By having an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program in place (NY Connects in New York State), the state has received several grants from federal long term care reform initiatives.

See list below.

GRANT PROGRAM	TOTAL AWARD
Nursing Home Diversion Modernization (2008): 3 counties	\$ 927,710
Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program ¹ (2008): 4 counties	Up to \$1,000,000 (estimated)
Community Living Program (2009): 10 counties	\$ 959,284
Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant (2009): 2 counties	\$ 680,171
Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (2009): Statewide <i>ARRA Funding</i>	\$ 1,190,610
Lifespan Respite Care Program (2010): Statewide	\$ 188,950
Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) for Beneficiary Outreach and Assistance (2010): Statewide <i>Affordable Care Act funds</i>	\$ 2,567,032
ADRC Evidenced-Based Care Transitions Program (2010): 1 county <i>Affordable Care Act funds</i>	\$ 430,000
ADRC Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Program (2010): 1 region (DOH) <i>Affordable Care Act funds</i>	\$ 399,600
Accelerating Integrated, Evidence-Based, and Sustainable Service Systems for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities_Part A (2011): 51 counties	\$ 2,616,900
Accelerating Integrated, Evidence-Based, and Sustainable Service Systems for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities_Part B (2011): 6 Alzheimer's Association Chapters	\$ 686,000
Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs (2012): Statewide <i>2012 Prevention and Public Health Funds</i>	\$ 575,000 (for Year 1)
Estimated Total:	\$12,221,257

¹ Payment for services provided to Veterans in participating counties goes directly to AAAs.

Cost Saving

The Lewin Group's ADRC Cost Offsets Calculator shows that if only 2% of nursing home eligible Medicaid recipients remain in the community (737 persons), the cost savings in 2010 dollars is \$35,161,147 of which \$17,580,574 is a direct savings to the state. For every dollar invested by the State, there is a return in savings of **State** Medicaid dollars of \$3.45 million, or a 29% return on investment.

Partnerships

The NY Connects program is integral to maintaining lower cost community based care to NY residents and also keeps the door open to Federally funded grant opportunities to fund the development of sustainable pilot projects to further support seniors to age in place.

The NY Connects Network potentially includes existing NY Connects (ADRC) programs, Disabilities Regional Offices (DDROs), and OMH Regional Field Offices. It's anticipated that there will be a Request for Proposal (RFP) to contract directly with ILCs and/or CBOs representing individuals with disabilities.