

Medicaid Community-based Attendant Services And Supports Act of 2001

MiCASSA (S. 1298): A Summary

MiCASSA gives people real choice in long term care options by reforming Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid) by ending the institutional bias. **MiCASSA allows individuals** eligible for Nursing Facility Services or Intermediate Care Facility Services for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) the **opportunity to choose** instead a new alternative, "**Community-based Attendant Services and Supports.**" The money follows the individual!

In addition, by providing an enhanced match and grants for the transition to Real Choice before October 2005 when the benefit becomes permanent, **MiCASSA offers states financial assistance to reform their long term service and support system** to provide services in the most integrated setting.

Specifically what does this bill do?

- 1) Provides community-based attendant services and supports ranging from assistance with:
 - activities of daily living (eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, transferring),
 - instrumental activities of daily living (meal planning and preparation, managing finances, shopping, household chores, phoning, participating in the community),
 - and health-related functions.
- 2) Includes hands-on assistance, supervision and/or cueing, as well as help to learn, keep and enhance skills to accomplish such activities.
- 3) Requires services be provided in THE MOST INTEGRATED SETTING appropriate to the needs of the individual.
- 4) Provides Community-based Attendant Services and Supports that are:
 - based on functional need, rather than diagnosis or age;
 - provided in home or community settings like -- school, work, recreation or religious facility;
 - selected, managed and controlled by the consumer of the services;
 - supplemented with backup and emergency attendant services;

- furnished according to a service plan agreed to by the consumer; and that include voluntary training on selecting, managing and dismissing attendants.

- 5) Allows consumers to choose among various service delivery models including vouchers, direct cash payments, fiscal agents and agency providers. All of these models are required to be consumer controlled.
- 6) For consumers who are not able to direct their own care independently, MiCASSA allows for "individual's representative" to be authorized by the consumer to assist. A representative might be a friend, family member, guardian, or advocate.
- 7) Allows health-related functions or tasks to be assigned to, delegated to, or performed by unlicensed personal attendants, according to state laws.
- 8) Covers individuals' transition costs from a nursing facility or ICF-MR to a home setting, for example: rent and utility deposits, bedding, basic kitchen supplies and other necessities required for the transition.
- 9) Serves individuals with incomes above the current institutional income limitation -- if a state chooses to waive this limitation to enhance the potential for employment.
- 10) Provides for quality assurance programs which promote consumer control and satisfaction.
- 11) Provides a maintenance of effort requirement so that states can not diminish more enriched programs already being provided.
- 12) Allows enhanced match (up to 90% Federal funding) for individuals whose costs exceed 150% of average nursing home costs.
- 13) Between 2001 and 2005, after which the services become permanent, provides enhanced matches (10% more federal funds each) for states which:
 - begin planning activities for changing their long term care systems, and/or
 - include Community-based Attendant Services and Supports in their Medicaid State Plan.

SYSTEMS CHANGE

- 14) Provides grants for Systems Change Initiatives to help the states transition from current institutionally dominated service systems to ones more focused on community based services and supports, guided by a Consumer Task Force.
- 15) Calls for national 5 to 10 year demonstration project in 5 states to enhance coordination of services for non-elderly individuals dually eligible for Medicaid AND Medicare.