

“Choices At Home”: Connecticut’s Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Project

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT: The CT Department of Social Services and its State Unit on Aging in partnership with the Agency on Aging or South Central CT and community providers will operate “Choices at Home” with the goal of helping consumers who are at high risk of nursing home placement but not yet eligible for Medicaid to remain in their own homes. The objectives are: Provide consumers in the South Central Area with flexible service options utilizing a Cash and Counseling model with funds from the Federal Caregiver and State Respite Care Programs; Target services to individuals in the Area who are at risk of nursing home placement and spend-down to Medicaid; Develop a Single Entry Point system in the Area that provides access to long term care services and supports; and Conduct a process evaluation and design and implement a model comprehensive performance measurement program.

The expected outcomes of this project are: Consumers have a C&C option through the Caregiver and Respite programs; Consumers can receive screening, assessment, LTC options counseling, and services for at risk target group through the fully functioning SEP in the south central area; Individuals at risk of nursing home placement and spend-down to Medicaid will be effectively and efficiently identified through an assessment tool served through existing programs’ Change can be sustained beyond the grant period and incorporated into the state’s overall system of LTC and rebalancing effort.

The expected products include expanded website, assessment tool, screening tool, training manuals, web-based training materials, educational video and pod casts, evaluation results, and a cadre of trained staff, consumers, and providers.