

**Kentucky Housing Corporation
Kentucky Transitions
Special Needs Housing—Housing for Persons with Special Needs**

Description

Kentucky Transitions, Kentucky's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project, allows eligible participants to move from an institutional setting back into the community in a housing environment.

Kentucky Transitions candidates must currently live in and must have lived in a Nursing Facility or ICF/MR-DD (or a combination of hospitalization and institutional placement) for six consecutive months prior to transition to be eligible. An individual is eligible for transition if he/she is Medicaid-eligible and has been receiving services through the Medicaid Program in the institutional setting for at least one month prior to transition. Those eligible for transitioning through *Kentucky Transitions* include elderly individuals and those with physical disabilities, individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and individuals with acquired brain injuries.

The Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) Information Technology and Systems Development staff developed a housing database for *Kentucky Transitions*. This excellent tool allows KHC staff to track and account for all housing activities through *Kentucky Transitions*. Additionally, it has the capability to capture data for reporting housing statistics. The database is easily accessible when traveling throughout the state. It provides required accountability to the Department for Medicaid Services through KHC's housing administration of *Kentucky Transitions*.

When and Why It Was Undertaken

Kentucky was awarded a \$49 million MFP Grant by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in January 2007. Utilizing funding from the grant, Kentucky developed *Kentucky Transitions*. *Kentucky Transitions* is being implemented as a partnership between the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, the University of Kentucky, and KHC. *Kentucky Transitions* allows eligible individuals to transition from institutional settings back into the community. This program is a creative way to also help area property owners/managers fill vacant property. By helping property owners rehabilitate units for program participants, *Kentucky Transitions* creates a win-win situation by providing housing for those in need, as well as filling vacancies in properties that might otherwise deteriorate. Participation in *Kentucky Transitions* for both residents and property owners/managers is strictly voluntary.

KHC assists eligible *Kentucky Transitions* participants in locating safe, decent, and affordable housing. A KHC housing assessment is completed if a person is in need of subsidy assistance. A subsidy is rental assistance based on income that is applied to the rent and paid directly to the property owner/manager. The individual and household must be income-eligible based on the income limits set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or other assistance programs.

The KHC *Kentucky Transitions* database allows *Kentucky Transitions* housing staff to track and capture the housing-related data needed to serve eligible individuals.

Results/Accomplishments

Including KHC's own internal partners, other partners – Department for Medicaid Services, University of Kentucky Human Development Institute, nursing facilities, families, and individuals – have all benefitted from this housing database.

Since October 1, 2008, there have been over 80 individuals identified and captured in the housing database. Fourteen of those individuals have completed the transition process and of those, six have been housed in KHC-administered units. The database has the capability to enter as many accounts as necessary, thus, enabling the *Kentucky Transitions Program* to meet its benchmark of transitioning 546 individuals within the five-year time frame.

While *Kentucky Transitions* is a unique, one-time demonstration project, it is the hope that with tools like the housing database, other housing activities and programs may easily adapt this tool in administering their respective housing programs.

Why It Is Meritorious

Kentucky Transitions provides better living conditions for Kentuckians with special needs, without increasing costs for the state and the new housing database decreases costs by being much more efficient than a more labor-intensive, manual method.

Because *Kentucky Transitions* is a federal demonstration program, there are no other tools and software available to capture the needed data and capability to track housing-related activities involved with this program.

Having a dedicated housing database for this unique demonstration program enables housing staff to be accountable for the services provided and to track individual client data.

Because KHC staff members responsible for this database have tested and determined critical and useful fields for the success of the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program, the database is easy to replicate. The only cost for the database was the work time for KHC employees to develop the system.