



## **Reform 2020: First Contact — Simplification, Access, Transitions Support**

### **Issue:**

- Hospitalization and nursing home stays are expensive and can lead to a drop in income and assets that require people to apply for Medical Assistance to meet their medical needs.
- Many seniors with complex care needs prefer to remain living at home and avoid public assistance programs but do not know how to navigate the system to meet these goals.
- People need information about the quality of home and community-based services to make informed purchasing decisions.
- People with complex care needs who move home or into different settings after a hospital or nursing home stays are vulnerable to serious problems that often result in readmission.
- The current state funding process for long-term care assessments and the pre-admission screening for nursing homes are complex and outdated.

### **Proposal:**

- This proposal streamlines access to services and supports to help older adults, people with disabilities and their family members navigate their long-term care options.
- The pre-admission screening process, required for everyone admitted to a Medical Assistance-certified nursing facility for more than 30 days, is streamlined to a regionalized process for documenting the need for nursing facility services and screening individuals for mental illness or developmental disabilities.
- The new MnCHOICES assessment for people 65 and older eliminates the Long Term Care Consultation allocation currently funded through nursing home rates and replaces it with a county reimbursement using a time study methodology.
- The Return to Community initiative, which has successfully helped nursing home residents move to the community, is expanded to additional populations.
- A new home and community-based services report card will provide information to help consumers make informed decisions.

### **Impact:**

- Counseling, information and other services are specifically designed to help people remain in their homes, use less expensive services, and avoid risk of spending down income and assets so they need to apply for public assistance programs to meet their medical needs.
- Changes will streamline access to services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities, help them and their families navigate long-term care options and make informed decisions about services that will meet their needs.

**Fiscal impact:**

- FY 2014: \$1.91 million
- FY 2015: \$3.44 million savings
- FY 2016: \$6.75 million savings
- FY 2017: \$9.85 million savings
- The Reform 2020 package contains elements that are contingent upon 1115 waiver approved by the federal government.

**Related information:**

- Minnesota Management & Budget website: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/>
- Statutory references: 144.0724, subd. 4; 148E.065, subd. 4a; 256.01, subd. 2, subd. 24; 256B.021, 256B.0911, subd. 1, subd. 1a, subd. 3a, 4d, 6, 7; 256.975, subd. 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d; Repealer [256B.0911, subd. 4a, 4b, 4b
- DHS Reform 2020 Web pages: [www.dhs.state.mn.us/Reform2020](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/Reform2020)

*DHS Communications: January 2013*