

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

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TO: Providers of Choices for Care Moderate Need Services
FROM: Susan M. Wehry, M.D., Commissioner 
DATE: February 18, 2011
RE: Policy Changes Related to Providing People with Moderate Needs Services

Consistent with our renewed commitment to person-centered services, the Department is amending three of its policies related to offering Moderate Needs Services.

1. Moderate Needs services shall continue when a person receiving services moves from one region of Vermont to another. In the past, the department asked people enrolled in Moderate Needs services to reapply when they moved to a new region of Vermont. Now, in these situations, a person will receive services in the new region with as minimal interruption as possible. If the new region has not met its funding cap, the new agency will serve the person using the new agency's funds. If the agency in the new region has met its cap, the agency in the former area will transfer funds to the new region to cover the costs of the person's care.

2. People enrolled in one Moderate Needs service shall receive priority for the receipt of another service. In the past, the department asked people enrolled in one Moderate Needs service to reapply when they want to add another Moderate Needs service. Now, we will give those enrolled priority status for adding a new service, based on the case manager's assessment of need. Once approved, people may choose a provider in their region, unless all providers in the region have reached their cap. In the case of no local providers, the person may receive services from a provider that has not reached its cap, in another region.

3. Independent Living Assessments (ILA) are valid for up to 12 months following the date of the assessment, except when a provider determines there has been a significant change in circumstances of the person who is applying. In the past, the department required a new ILA when a person requesting services had an ILA older than 3 months. Consistent with our case management standards, we have decided to change this approach. Now, if a person requesting services has an ILA older than 12 months, or a provider believes there has been a significant change since the last ILA, a new ILA must be completed.

If you have questions or comments about these changes, please contact Adele.Edelman@ahs.state.vt.us. You are also welcome to contact me directly.