Money Follows the Person, Helps People Come Home

Washington State's Commitment to Community

People in Washington state receive care in many settings. Some live in their own homes. Some live in adult family homes. Some live in assisted living. Many spend time in skilled nursing facilities or other long term care institutions. Institutional care is the most expensive option.

Roads to Community Living, Washington state's MFP program, helps people return to the community with the right supports. It restores independence, strengthens families, and reduces long term Medicaid costs. In 2025, the average RCL transition cost was **$3,993**, and the program receives an **enhanced federal match** that lowers the state's share of costs.

Behind every transition is a person aching to go home. A person who wants to sleep in their own bed. A person who wants to hold their family close without a long drive. A person who wants to feel like themselves again.

If Money Follows the Person Is Not Reauthorized

Fewer people able to leave institutions

Washington state transitions more than **4,000 people** each year from nursing facilities and long-term care into Home and Community Based Services. MFP funds the staffing, coordination, tenancy supports, and one time costs that make these moves possible. Without MFP, impacts include:

- Reduced transition capacity
- Longer institutional stays
- Higher Medicaid institutional spending

This affects people with complex medical or behavioral needs who rely on careful planning to return home.

Greater pressure on hospitals and nursing facilities

Without MFP, more people may remain in:

- Acute care beds
- Hospital swing beds
- Nursing facilities
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Residential Habilitation Centers

Loss of enhanced federal match

MFP provides:

- Enhanced federal Medicaid match
- Federal dollars for innovation pilots
- Funding for transition goods, services, and staffing

If the funding changes, Washington must either backfill with state funds or reduce services.

Widening inequities

MFP supports:

- Community transition services
- Housing navigation
- Technology-enabled supports
- Culturally responsive engagement

Without it, disparities grow for Tribal nations, rural communities, people with limited housing options, and people with complex needs.

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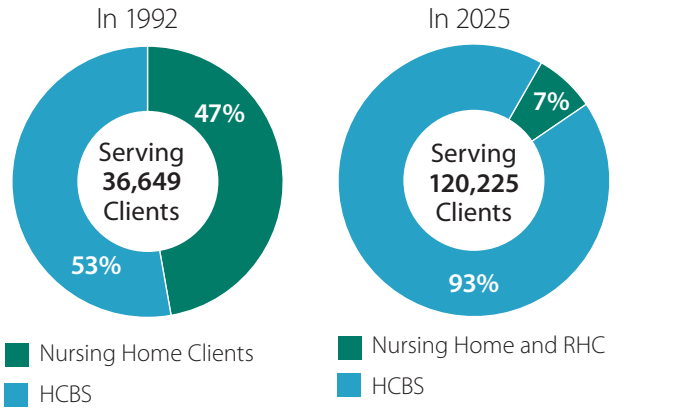
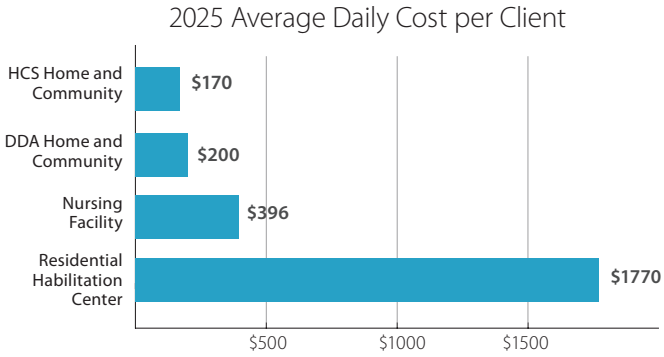
Progress in Washington State

Washington has made strong progress in rebalancing long-term services and supports. More people are now receiving care in community settings instead of institutions.



Cost Effectiveness

HCBS is preferred and more cost-effective. Even though costs vary, national and state data show it uses Medicaid resources more efficiently and supports better quality of life.



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Slowed progress on modernization

MFP supports:

- Data-informed decision making
- Innovative service models
- Building HCBS infrastructure

Loss of MFP slows work on technology supports, housing stabilization, and community integration.

Higher Medicaid costs over time

Institutional care is significantly more expensive than HCBS. Without MFP:

- More people remain in high-cost settings
- Transitions to community settings are delayed
- Medicaid spending increases

Helping Our Neighbors Come Home

Money Follows the Person is more than a program. It reflects our promise to help people return home, honor their independence, and use public resources with care and compassion.

A Long Road Back to Home

After two years in a Seattle nursing facility, Lisa was far from her family and community in Vancouver, making every visit a six-hour round trip. With support from Washington State's Money Follows the Person program, including her case manager, assistive technology, a Community Choice Guide, and housing help, she secured an apartment and returned home. Today, she celebrates holidays with her family in her own home for the first time in years.

MFP Transition Cost: $19,000

Savings: Less than two months of nursing facility care.

Transition to Independent Living

A 48-year-old plumber lost his job during the pandemic and survived a serious accident. After a year of rehabilitation, he worried about life after discharge. MFP helped his case manager secure housing and essential goods and services. He moved into his own apartment, regained stability. He shared that he never imagined he could be stable and happy again.

MFP Cost: About **$8,500** • **Savings:** Less than one month of nursing facility care.

Holding Onto Independence at Home

After several hospital stays, one client wanted nothing more than to return to the apartment that reflected their life and identity. Through MFP, the care team arranged short-term rental help, accessibility equipment, basic household items, caregivers, and a Personal Emergency Response System. These supports prevented eviction, made a safe return home possible, and helped the client stay independent in the community.

MFP Cost: $4,000 • **Savings:** Less than two weeks of nursing facility care.

The Support That Brought Her Home

After multiple hospitalizations and two stays in skilled nursing facilities, a client needed more support to safely return home. Through MFP, she received major home modifications, including a safe ramp, wider doorways, a new front door, and a fully accessible bathroom. Assistive technology, voice activated smart home features, and video doorbell helped her stay independent. Home-delivered meals and a swivel transfer pole strengthened her safety and stability. She was finally able to return home and be with her dog again.

MFP Cost: $22,000 • **Savings:** Equal to two months of nursing facility care.

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