**COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE OPTION**

Strategic Objective and Implementation Timeline

*Updated May 20, 2014*

**Strategic Objective 4.7:** Design and implement a Medicaid Community First Choice Option (CFCO-State Plan) program in a manner consistent with legislative direction.

**Importance:** The Community First Choice Option is a new Medicaid entitlement state plan option established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Through CFCO, Washington State has the opportunity to leverage 6% in additional federal funding for the majority of home and community-based services, potentially freeing up state funds for long-term services and support reinvestments. Some of the enhanced match is necessary to meet maintenance of effort requirements, costs of new, required services and program staff necessary for design and implementation. A planning and implementation council made up of clients and their representatives must be involved in planning and implementation of the program.

**Success Measure:** Successfully meet benchmarks to develop and fully implement the Medicaid Community First Choice Option no later than August 30, 2015.

**Action Plan:** Major milestones include:

* Evaluate changes to current state plan and waivers and conduct CFCO benefit design forums though a federally-required development and implementation stakeholder process.
* Hire program staff to ensure adequate planning, development and implementation.
* Evaluate and implement necessary IT systems’ changes for client care assessment, financial eligibility determination and provider payment.
* Issue public and tribal notices and promulgate new rules.
* Develop new payment codes, policies, manuals and training materials.
* Negotiate to gain final federal approval and submit final state plan and waiver amendments.
* Implement the Community First Choice Option and establish ongoing program support.

