

TMH Frequently Asked Questions:

Question #1: How do I apply for the Take Me Home (TMH) Transition Program?

Answer: If you or a family member currently live in a long-term care facility such as a nursing home and would like to talk about options for living in the community, you can contact the Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) by calling (886) 981-2372. ADRN staff will help you identify and understand all community-based service options available to you, including the Take Me Home (TMH) Transition Program.

The ADRN will send a referral to the TMH Transition Program if you:

- 1) Reside in a qualifying institution such as a nursing home, and
- 2) Have lived in the qualifying institution for at least 90 consecutive days, and
- 3) Have, or wish to transition to, a home or apartment in the community, and
- 4) Are currently eligible, or likely eligible, for either the Aged and Disabled Waiver (ADW) or Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBIW) program.

It is also important to note that if you are eligible to participate in the transition program, Take Me Home can support your transition to the community only if a plan can be developed to meet your long-term care needs and there is a reasonable expectation of a safe and successful transition to the community.

Question #2: What is a “qualified residence”?

Answer: A “qualified residence” is:

- 1) A person’s own home;
- 2) A person’s family home or;
- 3) A person’s own apartment

In order to approve a transition to community living, the TMH program must evaluate the home or apartment you wish to move to when you transition from the facility to the community to ensure it meets your accessibility needs and does not pose any known risk to your health or safety. The Transition Coordinator will review the residence for accessibility and safety and make recommendations to improve the possibility of a safe and successful transition. If a modification or adaptation cannot be reasonably met, the TMH program may not be able to assist in a transition to the chosen residence.

Question #3: Who will help me transition home?

Answer: The transition process belongs to and must always be driven by you. That said, many individuals can contribute to a safe and successful transition. If you qualify to participate in the program, a Take Me Home Transition Coordinator will be available to help support you every step of the way. The Transition Coordinator will:

- 1) Explain the program and answer any question you may have;
- 2) Help you assess what you need to make a successful and safe transition from living in a facility to living in the community in your own home or apartment;
- 3) Work with you and your transition team to develop a written transition plan which includes services and supports you will need to successfully transition to the community;
- 4) Arrange for the delivery of needed services and support;
- 5) Help you “settle in” transition day.

You will work with your Transition Coordinator to form a transition team made up of individuals who will contribute to your success in returning to the community.

The transition team will include you, your TMH Transition Coordinator, the facility social worker, the service providers that will help you once you return to the community, and anyone else you choose. The transition team will meet regularly throughout the transition process.

Question #4: In addition to the help of a Transition Coordinator, what other benefits does Take Me Home offer?

Answer: The Take Me Home Transition Program may cover many of the “one time startup” expenses you will need to return home. For example, the program may be able to help you with:

- 1) Home furnishings and essential household items
- 2) Moving expenses
- 3) Rental security and utility deposits
- 4) Home accessibility modifications such as grab bars or a ramp
- 5) Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- 6) Equipment and specialized medical supplies necessary to enhance safety and independence
- 7) Aids such as handheld showers and shower curtains

There are other services the Take Me Home Transition Program can provide during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency including stocking your pantry to help ensure a safe transition home.

Question #5: What services and supports can I receive after transitioning?

Answer: In addition to the Take Me Home services listed previously, you will have access to all Medicaid home and community-based services when you return to the community for which you qualify. These may include:

- 1) Aged and Disabled Waiver services (Case Management and Personal Assistance);
- 2) Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Services (Case Management and Personal Attendant);
- 3) State Plan Personal Care services, (direct-care support);
- 4) Home Health, and;
- 5) Behavioral Health services.

Question #6: Who will provide my services and supports once I return home?

Answer: You will have the opportunity to choose from a list of Medicaid home and community-based services agencies to provide services. Since it is important to have all your services in place your first day in the community, you will know who these agencies are before you ever leave the facility. If you enroll in either the Aged & Disabled Waiver or Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Program, you will also have the opportunity to direct your own services by choosing the Self-Direction Model. This option allows you to select, hire, and manage your own employees to meet your direct care needs rather than using one of the provider agencies.

Question #7: I do not have a home to return to. Where will I live?

Answer: If you do not already have a home or apartment in the community to return to, you will be responsible for finding one. Your Transition Coordinator and the Take Me Home Housing Coordinator can help you find a qualified residence if you need assistance in finding a place to live. They will work with you to determine if the apartment or house you have chosen meets your accessibility needs or, if needed, can be modified to meet your needs.

Question #8: How long will it take to transition home?

Answer: The amount of time it takes to transition differs with every person and every situation. If you have a home or apartment to return to and strong family support, your transition may happen more quickly than someone who first has to find a new apartment or needs extensive modification to their apartment or home to make it physically accessible. Locating accessible and affordable housing can sometimes be difficult and, depending on your preference for the location, may take several months.

Question #9: Who can I talk to if I feel my wishes are not being heard?

Answer: One of the primary responsibilities of the Transition Coordinator is to ensure that your wishes, desires, goals, and preferences are heard throughout the transition process. If you have a concern about not being heard, bring this to the attention of your Transition Coordinator. In addition, the Take Me Home Transition Program partners with the West Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to facilitate communication and troubleshoot issues and concerns of Take Me Home participants. You can talk with the Regional Ombudsman any time you have a concern or a complaint. You can contact your ombudsman at 1-800-834-0598.

Question #10: What if I have a legal guardian or other representative?

Answer: You can participate in Take Me Home with the assistance and support of your legal representative. Transition services and supports, along with needed home and community-based

services and supports, will vary from individual to individual and will be developed to ensure a successful and safe transition home.