

Section One: Purpose and History of the Allocation Structure

A. Purpose

An alternative methodology for the allocation of resources through the Title XIX Home and Community-Based Services program for Persons with Mental Retardation or Related Conditions (MR/RC waiver) was approved by the 1995 Legislature for implementation July 1, 1995. The allocation structure was developed to meet the following objectives:

enhance access to appropriate services for eligible persons by increasing the correlation between the needs of persons to be served and the distribution of resources;

- continue ICF/MR downsizing initiatives through an ability to serve a greater percentage of recipients with significant needs;
- place decision making authority at the local level closest to the individual; and
- streamline administrative procedures and reduce layers of governmental management.

Allocating resources differently is not an end in itself but an initial step of a three part process that includes technical assistance and formative evaluation. This three part process is directed toward broader goals, specifically: the further development of an infrastructure capable of supporting innovation, efficient service delivery that is responsive to persons in need of support, and system flexibility to self-evaluate and correct during a period of reform.

Technical assistance will:

- provide tools and management strategies to local agencies in the allocation and management of resources;
- promote prudent purchasing and provision of appropriate, creative and innovative services;
- * offer incentives for county and collaborative county long-term planning, creative service development and resource management; and
- establish a framework that will shape and respond to system redesign.

A formative evaluation of the structure will:

answer questions raised during the process of developing the structure;

evaluate effectiveness of the allocation structure and the initial technical assistance provided;

- offer recommendations for enhancements; and,
- provide additional information on the relationship between service costs and assessed recipient need to assist in system redesign efforts which increase system efficiency and flexibility.