

# Home Again Program Overview



## What is the Home Again Program?

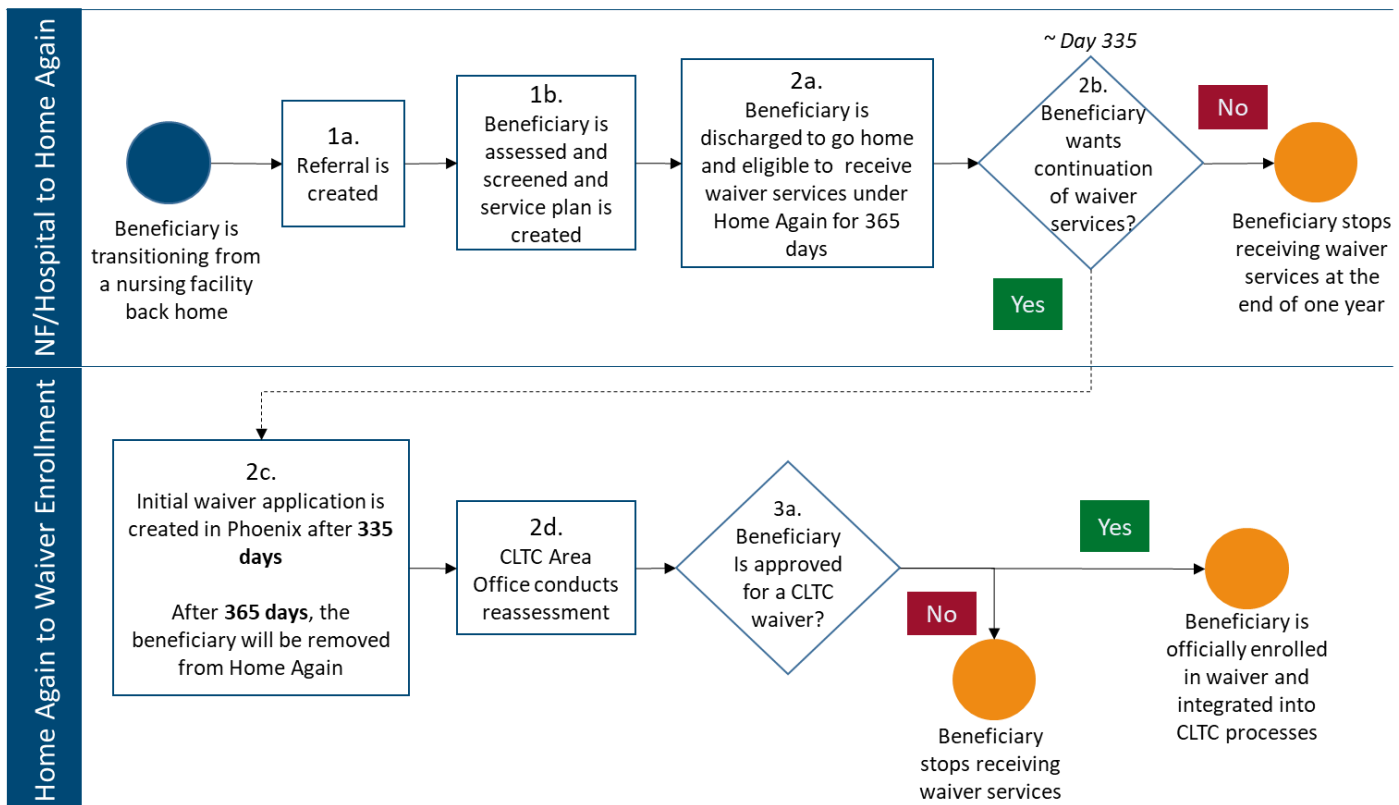
The Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration, established by Congress through the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, provides states the opportunity to help Medicaid beneficiaries who live in long-term care institutions transition back into the community. South Carolina’s Money Follows the Person Demonstration is called the “Home Again” Program. For beneficiaries transitioning from a qualified institution (skilled nursing facility or hospital) back home, Home Again can offer assistance to reduce issues and risks that they may otherwise face while awaiting approval for a waiver. Such assistance includes Transition Coordination (e.g., transition planning and transition coordinator monitoring) and Expanded Goods and Services (e.g., appliances, furniture, initial groceries, security deposits, utility deposits, and household items).

## Who is Eligible for the Program?

To be eligible for the program, a person must currently reside in a qualified institution, have been in the institution for at least 60 consecutive days excluding Medicare reimbursed short-term rehabilitation days, be on South Carolina Medicaid payment for at least one day before transitioning, and meet skilled or intermediate Level of Care.

## What is the Home Again Process for Eligible Beneficiaries?

Eligible beneficiaries can receive Home Again services for a year. Towards the end of the year, the beneficiary will be evaluated for one of the available waivers (Community Choices, HIV/AIDs, Mechanical Ventilator Dependent). A high level graphical representation of the process is below.



Further details on the steps are provided below.

## Phase 1: Pre-Planning

When a beneficiary is considering transitioning from a qualified institution back home, a referral for Home Again is created by the nursing facility using the Referral Form at [https://phoenix.scdhhs.gov/cltc\\_referrals/new](https://phoenix.scdhhs.gov/cltc_referrals/new). Home Again staff will contact the institution to get more information and send an Eligibility Package. The beneficiary's eligibility is assessed and screened for Home Again program. For eligible beneficiaries, Home Again transition plan and waiver service plan are created.

## Phase 2: Transition

- a. The beneficiary is discharged to return home from the institution. He/she can receive eligible waiver services paid by Home Again for 365 days.
- b. After 335 days receiving Home Again benefits have passed, the transition to discontinue Home Again benefits begins. The beneficiary can choose to transition to a waiver program.
- c. If the beneficiary chooses to transition to a waiver program on Day 335 in order to continue receiving waiver services, the beneficiary's waiver application is created in Phoenix by Home Again staff. The beneficiary will be removed from all Home Again benefits after 365 days.
- d. The Community Long Term Care (CLTC) area office will reassess the beneficiary's waiver eligibility.

## Phase 3: Waiver Enrollment

- a. If the beneficiary is deemed still eligible for waiver services, the beneficiary will become officially enrolled in the applicable waiver program and integrated into CLTC processes.

## How Are MMPs Impacted During this Process?

MMPs may encounter the Home Again program in two ways: (1) a beneficiary receiving Home Again benefits may be enrolled into an MMP or (2) an MMP member may enter an institution and qualify for Home Again while transitioning back into the community. A member's transition from Home Again to CLTC waiver enrollment is an intricate process. During this process, the Care Coordinator only needs to remain informed on the member's transition and provide additional assistance to Home Again staff if requested (e.g., ordering Durable Medical Equipment). If the member is transitioned to a waiver, the MMP will begin the standard waiver responsibilities (e.g., reevaluations).

## Housing Search Resources

Securing housing for transitioning members is an important component of Home Again. Helpful resources commonly used by Home Again during this process include the [SC Housing Search](#), [USDA – Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Rentals](#), [HUD – Low Rent Apartment Search](#), and [Affordable Housing Online](#).

## For More Information

To learn more information about Home Again or how Care Coordinators fit into the transition process, please email [HomeAgain@scdhhs.gov](mailto:HomeAgain@scdhhs.gov). To make a referral, please call the Centralized Intake line at 1-888-971-1637.