



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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An Opportunity for Survivors of Brain Injury to Live in the Community; Medicaid Accepting Applications through July 1.

Survivors of brain injury, currently living in a nursing home or rehabilitation facility, will have an opportunity to apply for community living over the next few weeks. Medicaid is accepting applications for residential and non-residential programs through July 1. Survivors of brain injury, including traumatic brain injury, can apply. Causes of brain injury include car crashes and falls as well as strokes and brain tumors.

Eligible applicants will have a chance to transition to a variety of community living arrangements, including their own apartment, a group home, the home of a friend or family member, or adult foster care. Support services include case management, individual skills training, adult companionship, homemaker services, respite, transitional supports and home modifications.

“Living in the community has a remarkable impact on the quality of a survivor’s life,” says Arlene Korab, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts who, along with five named plaintiffs, filed a class action suit against the state in 2007. The Center for Public Representation settled the case in 2008, and survivors started moving into the community last fall.

“We hear stories of dramatic physical and cognitive improvement, and about how these survivors are living happier and more independent lives,” says Korab. Thus far, 77 survivors have been found eligible for the ABI-Waiver, and 29 have moved into the community. For more information or to get an application, call 1-866-281-5602 or visit www.biama.org.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA), a private, non-profit organization, provides support to brain injury survivors and their families, offers programs to prevent brain injuries, educates the public on the risks and consequences of brain injury, and advocates for the needs of survivors and their families.

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