

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

### 1. *How soon is too soon to conduct the QoL survey (baseline)?*

Although we strongly encourage you to complete the baseline no more than one month before transition, it is better to collect this data earlier than after transition. Responses are qualitatively different when the baseline interview is done after the respondent moves to the community. In addition, many transitioning participants have difficulties with recall. We understand that the transition date can change several times for a variety of reasons (e.g., housing accommodations aren't ready yet) and that some potential MFP participants may not end up transitioning. Therefore, please find ways that work with your transition processes to conduct the baseline interview before participants transition to the community—even if that means conducting the interview a month or more before transition. If, despite all your best efforts, a participant transitions before you can complete the baseline interview, however, try to complete within two weeks of the person's move to the community. In this instance, some data are better than no data.

### 2. *If the participant was interviewed at baseline but did not transition do we conduct a follow-up?*

No. Follow-up interviews should only be conducted for those people who completed the baseline interview and transitioned to community living through the MFP program.

### 3. *If the participant was interviewed at baseline, transitioned, but at any point was hospitalized, do we still conduct the follow-up interview?*

Yes, but if the participant is in the hospital around the 11th month and will be discharged in less than 6 weeks, we recommend you wait to conduct the follow-up interview until that person is back in the community. If the hospitalization will be much longer than 6 weeks, then conduct the follow-up interview in the hospital when the person is stabilized.

### 4. *If a respondent doesn't know an answer or is not sure do we leave it blank or choose "don't know?"*

Choose "don't know."

### 5. *If a participant can't communicate a response or a proxy doesn't know well enough how to respond should we leave it blank or choose "don't know?"*

Choose "don't know."

### 6. *Participants in my program live all over the state- sometimes it takes hours of travel to obtain one follow-up interview. Do we have to conduct follow-up interviews in person?*

Please attempt to conduct all Quality of Life interviews in person. With this population there can be a lot of difficulties with phone interviews. Some participants will share a phone with others or feel uncomfortable talking on the phone. However, we recognize that it might be impossible in certain states (e.g., driving 20 hours to conduct one interview). As there is slightly more leeway in the timing of the follow-up interview, some states are trying to schedule several interviews at the same time within a given region to make their survey resources (interviewer time and travel costs) more manageable and cost effective. If this strategy means that some follow-up interviews are delayed several weeks or a month (or are done early), then a delayed (or early) interview is better than a telephone interview. If after your best efforts you cannot complete a follow-up interview in person, conduct it by telephone. In this instance, "some data are better than no data."