Title: Measuring Geographic Variation in Utilization of Long-term Services and Supports among Supplemental Security Income Recipients

Investigators: Tim Layton, Nicole Maestas, Mark Shepard, Boris Vabson, Daniel Prinz

Proposal: Little is known about the extent of the use of long-term services and supports (LTSS) among SSI beneficiaries or about the variation in any use of LTSS or type of LTSS among SSI beneficiaries across or within states. These services have significant impacts on the lives of SSI beneficiaries and account for a large portion of Medicaid spending. They may also be important factors for determining whether SSI beneficiaries continue in the program or enter the workforce. In this project, we propose to assemble a novel dataset describing LTSS utilization for the universe of SSI beneficiaries. We will combine the newly released Medicaid T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF) with the Minimum Dataset (MDS, universe of institutional long-term care records) and OASIS (universe of home health records) datasets. Unlike previous Medicaid datasets, the TAF data allows for direct observation of SSI beneficiaries. Further, the OASIS and MDS files provide not only information on use of long-term care but also assessment data, including indicators of functional status and health. With this newly assembled dataset, we will describe geographic variation in the health of SSI beneficiaries, the use of LTSS services, the type of LTSS services, and the functional status of SSI beneficiaries using LTSS services. Our results will provide a new and complete understanding of LTSS and SSI.

Budget: We do not need to request any coverage of investigator time. All funds will be devoted to the purchase of data files which will be housed at NBER and available to all RDRC researchers for future research projects. We propose to purchase two years of new T-MSIS Medicaid data, at a cost of $39,300 for 2016 and $53,300 for 2017 or a total of $92,600. These data files will be linked to Medicaid and Medicare files (as well as MDS and OASIS files) already housed at NBER.