



Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions *Ohio's "Money Follows the Person" Demonstration Project*

What is HOME Choice?

HOME Choice is a "Money Follows the Person" demonstration project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to help the state of Ohio transition approximately 2200 people from long-term care facilities to home settings.

HOME Choice is also charged with *initiating a movement to balance* Ohio's long-term service and support structure.

Who is eligible for HOME Choice?

Candidates for the HOME Choice project can be of any age, but must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have lived in a facility setting for at least six months
- Be eligible for Medicaid
- Have care needs that would otherwise be met only by a long-term care facility
- Agree (or a parent or guardian agrees) to requirements of program.

The HOME Choice project will relocate approximately 2,200 older adults and people with disabilities from institutions to home and community-based settings.

How does HOME Choice work?

Once persons are determined to be eligible for HOME Choice, a **transition coordinator** will work with them to develop comprehensive transition plan before they move.

Transitions plans include locating suitable housing, benefits coordination, and linking to community resources.

To ensure continued care after the person has transitioned into a home setting and HOME Choice ends, HOME Choice recipients will also be enrolled on existing waiver programs or state plan Medicaid services.



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What kind of services will HOME Choice provide?

In addition to transition services, HOME Choice services may include independent living skills, community support coach, nutritional consultation, nursing, and social work/counseling. One-time services may include communications aids or service animals.

When will the HOME Choice project begin?

The state expects to begin enrolling people into the project in spring 2008. It will continue to enroll people until the maximum number of people funded in the project (approximately 2200) has been enrolled or until the project ends, which is December 2012.

Where will the project operate?

HOME Choice will be available in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

Why is HOME Choice needed?

HOME Choice supports the vision of people being able to choose where they live and receive services, transitioning people who want to live in the community, and implementing a system that ensures person-centered and quality services in a home setting.

HOME Choice, and another initiative called the Unified Long-Term Care Budget, will serve as the foundation for a movement to balance Ohio's long-term care system in state fiscal year 2008 – 2009.

Who administers HOME Choice?

HOME Choice is administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Ohio Health Plans.



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Who can I contact for more information?

HOME Choice Central Referral Unit
Bureau of Home and Community Services
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
POB 182709
Columbus OH 43218 2709
(614) 466 6742
(614) 466-6945

Or, you can contact a County Board of MR/DD, Area Agency on Aging, Center for Independent Living or by calling the ODJFS HOME Choice Intake and Care Coordination Unit at 1-888-221-1560.

I have completed an application for HOME Choice, what happens next?

You will receive a letter from ODJFS verifying that your application has been received. In addition, you will receive a Consumer Handbook that contains detailed information about the HOME Choice program. You will also be contacted about scheduling an assessment to determine your eligibility for the program.

If I don't qualify for HOME Choice are there other resources that can help me move?

Yes, there are resources such as the Success Project and Centers for Independent Living that still may be able to help you move. We can give you detailed information about potential resources available to you in your area.

What is Transition Coordination?

Transition Coordination is a service that will help you plan for your move into the community. You will work with a transition coordinator who will help you find benefits, secure housing, link with community services and make detailed plans for the services you need to move and stay in the community. If you have questions or need assistance with HOME Choice during the transition coordination period you should contact your transition coordinator.



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What happens after I move into the community?

You will be enrolled in the Home and Community Based Service program (either waiver or state plan) that was identified to best meet your needs. In addition to the typical services you can receive from these programs you can also receive the HOME Choice Demonstration and Supplemental Services for the first year that you are living in the community.

What if I have a problem or need assistance once I am living in the community?

Your waiver case manager can provide support and assistance to you once you have moved. If you are not enrolled on a waiver and receiving only State Plan services you can contact the case manager who has been assigned to you from the ODJFS Intake and Care Coordination Unit.

What if I have a complaint about a provider or about the HOME Choice program in general?

Let your waiver case manager know if you have a concern. If you are receiving only State Plan services tell the case manager who has been assigned to you from the ODJFS Intake and Care Coordination Unit.

What if I have a complaint about a failure of a backup system?

For HOME Choice participants enrolled on HCBS waivers, complaints about failures of backup systems should be directed to the case management agency serving the HCBS waiver on which the participant is enrolled.

For Home Choice participants not enrolled on HCBS waiver but who are receiving State Plan Services complaints about failures of backup systems should be directed to the HOME Choice Intake and Care Coordination Unit via the 1-800 number.