

PREFERRED OPTION OVERVIEW

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), under approval of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS, formerly the Health Care Financing Administration or HCFA) operates Preferred Option programs in Butler, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, and Montgomery Counties.

Preferred Option counties are served by one managed care plan that has met additional provider panel criteria and has demonstrated strong administrative and fiscal capacities. Currently all five counties are served by CareSource Health Plan.

Eligible consumers in Preferred Option counties have the option of receiving health care services through regular Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) or the participating MCP. After receiving a notification from the ODJFS, consumers must make their selection by contacting the Enrollment Services Center through the Consumer Hotline, in person, or by mail. Eligible consumers who do not contact the Enrollment Services Center will be enrolled in the participating managed care plan. Consumers in Preferred Option counties who choose to enroll or are enrolled in the MCP may request to disenroll at any time from the MCP and return to FFS. Unlike mandatory or voluntary enrollment counties, there are no enrollment change restrictions in Preferred Option counties.