

## Ohio bucks trend, shifts Medicaid funds to home- based care



Written by

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While budget shortfalls have forced many states to move away from home-based care, Ohio is shifting toward it.

However, all providers, regardless of their setting, saw a decrease in Medi-caid reimbursement rates this month.

Gov. John Kasich's first two-year budget, which began July 1, decreases Medicaid reimbursements for nursing homes and increases funding for home-based care.

Since his election, Kasich has said he wanted to give the elderly more freedom to stay at home. He did this by increasing funding to the PASSPORT program, which provides funding for in-home and community based care settings, including adult day care for seniors. The program will get an additional \$55.6 million in state funds, according to budget documents, a 30 percent increase.

However, all home- and community-based care providers got a 3 percent decrease in their Medicaid reimbursement rate starting July 1. This will not affect adult day care for adults with disabilities, which is administered under a separate program.

### Overall, for long-term care:

» In fiscal year 2011, the state was expected to spend \$3.5 billion in facility-based care and \$2 billion in home and community-based care for a total of \$5.6 billion.

» In fiscal year 2012, the state budgeted \$3.3 billion in facility-based care and \$2.2 billion in home and community-based care. That's a combined decrease of \$100 million from the previous fiscal year.

» In fiscal year 2013, the state budgeted \$3.3 billion in facility-based care and \$2.4 billion in home and community-based care. That's a combined increase of \$100 million from fiscal year 2011.

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On July 1, nursing homes lost \$10 per day, per patient in Medicaid reimbursements. The state's average daily reimbursement rate dropped to \$167.25 from \$177.53, according to Kasich's office.

Next year the state will establish quality standards for the homes. Once in place, homes meeting them will get \$168.84 per patient per day in reimbursements. Homes that don't will get \$152.40 per resident.

Lastly, the state is attempting to crack down on those who do not need to be in nursing homes. Homes will be reimbursed only \$130 for those with few ailments, according to the state.

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