



BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW OHIO

GOV. JOHN R. KASICH'S FISCAL YEARS 2016-2017 BUDGET

Health Transformation Budget Priorities

House Finance Committee Testimony
February 11, 2015

www.HealthTransformation.Ohio.gov

Simplify Disability Determination

Background

- 50,000 Ohioans with a disability newly qualify for Medicaid
- Some reside in an institution but most live in the community
- Some have income but “spend down” to qualify for Medicaid
- They can keep a house and car but no other assets above \$1,500
- They have to prove they are disabled twice – via county JFS offices for Medicaid, and separately via Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- There is no waiting list for OOD services – first time since 1991
- Most states (33) have already eliminated this duplication and automatically enroll SSI individuals in Medicaid



Governor's Office of
Health Transformation

Source: Office of Health Transformation, [Simplify Eligibility Determination](#) (February 2015).

Simplify Disability Determination

Blueprint for a New Ohio

- Replace Ohio's two disability determination systems with one
 - Raise the income standard for Medicaid from 64 to 75 percent of poverty
 - Raise the asset test for Medicaid from \$1500 to \$2000
- Eliminate Spend Down
 - Federal law requires states with separate disability determination (209(b)) to allow enrollees to "spend down" income until eligible for Medicaid
 - Spend down is not required if Medicaid eligibility is the same as SSI (1634)
- Establish Miller Trusts
 - Functions like a health savings account for Medicaid residents of institutions and HCBS waiver recipients
 - Any income above the Medicaid eligibility level goes into the trust and is used to pay providers; Medicaid only pays what is not covered by the trust



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Source: Office of Health Transformation, [Simplify Eligibility Determination](#) (February 2015).

Simplify Disability Determination

- No change in enrollment for most current beneficiaries
 - 403,000 disabled Ohioans in institutions or on HCBS waivers will continue to receive Medicaid (Medicaid and SSI use the same definition of disability)
 - Some in this group at higher income levels will need to put their income in a Miller Trust to qualify for Medicaid (instead of spending down every month)
- Some "woodwork" will now enroll in Medicaid
 - 9,500 to 14,500 Ohioans on SSI but not yet enrolled in Medicaid will be automatically enrolled – most are eligible now just not enrolled
 - The only newly eligible enrollees will be individuals whose assets are between the current Medicaid limit (\$1,500) and the SSI limit (\$2,000)
- Some will leave Medicaid to go to the exchange
 - Up to 22,000 disabled Ohioans not in institutions or on HCBS waivers will no longer qualify for Medicaid (without spend down, their income is too high)
 - An estimated 4,000 to 6,000 of this group will be covered by a new HCBS program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness