

Ohio's Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Transition Plan

- In March 2014, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented [new regulations](#) for Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS) waiver programs.¹ The intent is to ensure that individuals receiving services and supports through Medicaid HCBS waiver programs are assured full access to community living and are able to receive services in the most integrated settings.
- The new federal regulations require all states to submit a transition plan describing the actions that will be taken to ensure compliance with the regulations. Ohio Medicaid submitted the [first version](#) of its transition plan to CMS in March 2015, revised the draft several times based on [input from stakeholders](#) and CMS, and submitted a [final HCBS transition plan](#) on June 1, 2016.
- On June 2, 2016, CMS granted [initial approval](#) of Ohio's HCBS transition plan (Ohio was one of the first three states approved). Ohio's final approval will follow the completion of several activities required in the plan, including an assessment of all HCBS settings, a remediation strategy to resolve any site-specific issues identified in the assessment, and ongoing monitoring and quality assurance.
- Recently Ohio received national attention for its success in creating home and community based alternatives to institutional care. Ohio has completed 8,000 institution-to-community transitions through the HOME Choice program, increased opportunities for people with disabilities to live and work in the community, and reduced excess capacity in state-run developmental centers. These and other efforts to prioritize home and community based services are summarized [here](#).

¹ Ohio administers nine Medicaid HCBS waiver programs that are impacted by the new regulations: Assisted Living, Individual Options, Level One, MyCare Ohio, Ohio Home Care, PASSPORT, Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF), Transition Carve-Out, and Transitions Developmental Disabilities.