**Providers Needed to Participate in Insurance Enrollment Proj**ect

The Office of Medical Assistance in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is sponsoring a project to enroll individuals with developmental disabilities to the “Disabled Adult Child” (DAC) insurance program managed by the Social Security Administration. DAC is a social security benefit available to adults with disabilities who have a living retired parent (or a deceased parent) who qualify for social security benefits. The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center is managing the project for both departments.

Since the project started last year, 37 individuals have been enrolled onto DAC, significantly enhancing the consumer’s monthly income and saving the state of Ohio nearly a half million dollars. “The main advantage of the DAC program” says Deb Jenkins, program manager at the department, is that the individual’s monthly income is likely to increase as a result of the program since payments are based upon the parents social security work history.”

To qualify for DAC benefits the individual must: 1) have a disability that was established before the age of 22, 2) be single, and 3) have a parent who is currently receiving or received Social Security benefits. Although most individuals who qualify for DAC are automatically enrolled, about 15% of the eligible population is not enrolled.

 “We estimate that there are several hundred individuals in waiver programs and ICFs/IDDs that could be enrolled in DAC” says Senior Program manager Barry Jamieson. The average consumer monthly DAC benefit to date is $876, which is significantly higher than the typical SSI monthly payment without DAC. An added bonus to being on DAC is that two years after establishing DAC eligibility date, the consumer qualifies for Medicare.

Marilyn Weber of MKW consulting, the enrollment contractor on the DAC initiative, indicates that providers and county boards she has worked with have appreciated the additional benefits that go to the consumer as a result of the enhanced monthly resource. “For waiver consumers, a couple of hundred dollars a month in enhanced benefits can really make a difference in the quality of life of the individual.”

Over the past year 18 private providers and 9 county boards have participated in the DAC project. Providers and county boards who would like to participate in the project may contact Barry Jamieson at barry.jamieson@osumc.edu or Marilyn Weber at Marilyn@MKWPATHWAYS.com. Participation in the project is free until June 2014 when the initiative ends.