

Update on Ohio's Medicaid Buy-In Program for Workers with Disabilities

Ohio's Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program began April 1, 2008 to eliminate a barrier to the employment of people with disabilities. Historically individuals with disabilities have had to choose between employment and receiving Medicaid because of eligibility standards that require very low income and resource levels.

People with disabilities in Ohio can now work, earn income, save money and have health coverage through Medicaid. No longer are people with disabilities in Ohio forced to choose between work and important health coverage.

As of October 2009, 18 months after MBIWD started, ODJFS reports that 3,555 people are enrolled. Here is what we know about them:

- the average age is 43, with a range of 16-65 years
- slightly more than half are males
- 75% are single
- 44% are paying premiums
- 1,950 people have left the program since it started
- People are enrolled in nearly all counties. Only two counties report no enrollment and another 23 have enrollments of fewer than 10 people.

To qualify for the program, individuals must:

- Be age 16-65
- Have a disability as determined by the Social Security Administration or Medicaid
- Be employed in paid work
- Have income below 250% FPL (federal poverty level), which in 2009 is \$27,084 yearly. If your income exceeds this amount disregards can be applied, which allow individuals to have substantial income and be eligible.
- Have resources below \$10,580. For example, the home you live in and a vehicle you use are not counted as resources.

Information about the MBIWD program, application forms and instructions can be found on the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services web site below. Please read all application instructions carefully to ensure that you provide all of the information requested.

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/mbiwd.stm>

To apply for the MBIWD program, contact your County Department of Job and Family Services. Existing Medicaid consumers interested in MBIWD should contact their caseworker or the Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 1-800-324-8680. No face-to-face interview is required for this program.

If you have any questions, contact:

Medicaid Consumer Hotline – 1-800-324-8680/V or 1-800-292-3572/TTY

Your local County Department of Job and Family Services

Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio – call 614-2280-8300, Columbus area, or outside
Columbus call toll free 1-800-796-8498 or send an email to
CPOhio@midohio.twcbc.com

Developed by the Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio under a grant awarded to
the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities award from the Centers for
Medicare and Medicaid Services

Funded by CMS Medicaid Infrastructure Grant 1QACMS030330 CFDA 93.768

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