

## Modernize Eligibility Determination Systems

- Current eligibility processes for health and human services programs in Ohio are fragmented, overly complex and rely on outdated technology. A lack of standardization has led to work-around solutions developed on a county-by-county basis or by the state, and presents great challenges for automation.
- For example, Ohio uses more than 150 categories of eligibility just for Medicaid. Ohio's Enhanced Client Registry Information (CRIS-E) System, which supports eligibility determination for Medicaid and the other primary public assistance programs, is more than 30 years old.
- HB 153 gave the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) the authority to simplify Medicaid eligibility systems. The Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) legislation will clarify that the authority granted in HB 153 extends to eligibility systems for federal and state health and human services programs other than Medicaid.
- This change will allow Ohio to create a single eligibility solution and seek enhanced (90/10) federal funding to upgrade eligibility and enrollment functions for other federal entitlement programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Due to condensed federal timelines, OHT has already initiated a project to simplify eligibility based on income, streamline state and local responsibility for eligibility determination and modernize eligibility systems technology. The goal is to improve the consumer experience and significantly reduce taxpayer costs.
- OHT plans to ask the federal government to "waive" existing federal barriers to eligibility simplification. Based on stakeholder input, OHT will release a concept paper in March and then release a formal waiver request and post it for public comment in May 2012. Stakeholder comments will be considered for incorporation into a final waiver request, which OHT will submit to the federal government as an 1115 Waiver request in June 2012.
- Ohio's project will culminate in a request for proposals (RFP) to competitively procure and implement a new eligibility system prior to the federally-mandated Medicaid eligibility expansion in January 2014.