

Ohio Achieves Home and Community Based Services Targets One Year Ahead of Schedule

- In June 2013, [Ohio was awarded \\$169 million](#) in additional federal Medicaid matching funds as a result of the state's commitment to direct half of all Medicaid long-term care funding to home and community based services – instead of higher cost nursing homes and other institutions – by September 30, 2015.
- The federal award was made under the [Balancing Incentive Program](#), which also requires states to make structural improvements in long-term care, such as a single-point-of-entry system for beneficiaries, conflict-free case management services, and a standardized assessment tool for determining a person's level of care need.
- **On September 10, 2014, the Ohio Department of Medicaid announced it [surpassed the 50-percent spending target](#) for home and community based services – one full year ahead of the federal deadline – and all other structural improvements are on track for implementation.**
- When Governor Kasich took office in 2011, Ohio was spending more of its Medicaid budget (64 percent) on high-cost nursing homes and other institutions than all but five states, and Ohio taxpayers were spending 47 percent more for Medicaid long-term services and supports than taxpayers in other states.
- From his first days in office, Governor Kasich instructed the Office of Health Transformation to “rebalance” long-term care spending toward less expensive home and community based alternatives to institutions. For example:
 - [Governor Kasich's first budget](#) increased home and community based services spending, enabling an additional 7,600 Ohioans to receive long-term care in their own home or community setting.
 - The Governor's second budget [prioritized home and community services, enhanced community developmental disabilities services](#), and started the process to [rebuild community behavioral health system capacity](#).
 - [Ohio's Home Choice program is ranked first nationally](#) transitioning people with mental illness from long-term care facilities, and second overall in the number of residents moved from institutions into community settings.
- The ultimate goal is for Ohio seniors and people with disabilities to live with dignity in the setting they prefer, especially their own home, instead of a higher cost setting like a nursing home.