

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Current eligibility processes for health and human services programs in Ohio are fragmented, overly complex and rely on outdated technology.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 and HB 487 extended that authority to include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and other health and human services programs. This change will allow Ohio to create a single eligibility solution, seek enhanced (90/10) federal funding to upgrade eligibility systems, and share services across multiple state and federal programs.
- OHT released a concept paper in March 2012 that outlined the State's priorities for eligibility modernization, including a request that the federal government "waive" existing federal barriers to eligibility simplification. Based on stakeholder input, OHT prepared a formal waiver request and on June 6 posted it for public comment. Interested parties have until July 6 to submit comments on the waiver proposal, which OHT will consider for incorporation into a final Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver request and submit to the federal government in July 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.

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