



## Get the Latest HOME Choice Information Online!

Providers should regularly check [Medicaid.Ohio.gov](http://Medicaid.Ohio.gov) for important information on the HOME Choice program. Several recent updates have been made to the HOME Choice section of the website, including a brief slide deck that will help navigate you through the revamped information.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the HOME Choice web page, as it is your primary resource for important news and information.

## BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: HOME Choice Adds Communication Aids Service Option

One of the central charges of HOME Choice is to identify and close gaps in community services. Communication and language barriers have been a recurring area of need among infants who have been transitioned through HOME Choice.

During the pre-transition period, families are able to access interpreting services in institutional settings to better communicate with health care providers. However, once in the community, that service is reduced and becomes a barrier to ensuring the health and safety of the child.

In recognizing this, Ohio Medicaid's HOME Choice staff have worked extensively to create new options to address this issue. Recently, we were able to find affordable e-tablets with translation capabilities that will help families to communicate with their healthcare professionals.

This, like all policies within the HOME Choice program, is person-centered and aims to foster the best possible health outcomes for the individuals we serve.

## SPOTLIGHT Region 5 Long-Term Care Ombudsman

The Region 5 Long-Term Care Ombudsman program serves a rural region of Ohio that covers the following nine counties: Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot. The program has been transitioning individuals back to the community since 2008 and, despite having only one transition coordinator for the entire region, successfully completed thirteen transitions in 2015. We would like to recognize the Region 5 Long-Term Care Ombudsman program for supporting the Home Choice mission and for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the lives of participants of the program!



### HOME Choice Statistics

Current Enrollees as of 2/4/2016:		1,443
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder	600 (41.6%)	
Physical Disabilities	449 (31.1%)	
Elderly (Age 60 & Over)	253 (17.5%)	
Developmental Disabilities	141 (9.8%)	

**Total  
Transitions**  
**7,546**

## Welcome New Providers!

- Access Computers, Inc.**  
Communication Aids
- Brent Simonds**  
Social Work Counseling
- Carmen Simmons**  
Community Support Coach
- Achana Brown**  
Community Support Coach
- David Canada**  
Community Support Coach
- Desiree Bullock**  
Community Support Coach, Social Work Counseling, and In-Home Respite
- Easter Seals Technology Resource Center**  
Communication Aids
- Easter Seals Tri-State**  
Community Support Coach, and Independent Living Skills Training
- First Choice Medical Staffing**  
Nursing, and In-Home Respite
- Got-Autism LLC**  
Communication Aids
- Keyonna Ellis**  
Community Support Coach, and In-Home Respite
- Tanisha Benson**  
Nursing, and Community Support Coach
- William Woodward**  
Community Support Coach

## Call for Providers!

HOME Choice continues to actively pursue new providers to help ensure that participants of the program have high-quality care and as much choice as possible in their services.

Currently, we are focused on finding providers in rural counties who offer the following services:

- » community support coaching;
- » independent living skills training specialists;
- » nutritional consultation;
- » social work/counseling; and
- » in-home, out-of-home respite.