

Specialized Recovery Services

Upcoming changes to Ohio's Medicaid program will simplify coverage for thousands of Ohioans who deal with the hassle and anxiety of having to spend down every month to stay covered. Now – individuals are simply covered.

Individuals diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness may be eligible for the new Specialized Recovery Services (SRS) program, including those who previously needed to spend down. New services available through the SRS program include recovery management, individualized placement and support, and peer support.

Changes begin August 1, 2016.

What is the Specialized Recovery Services program?

Beginning in August 2016, a new Specialized Recovery Services (SRS) program will be available through Medicaid. Individuals eligible for the SRS program will have three new services available through their Medicaid health care coverage, in addition to their current coverage. These services are:

- » Recovery Management - assistance developing a plan of care specific to your needs
- » Individualized Placement and Support - Supported Employment - help finding and keeping a job
- » Peer Recovery Support - support from others with similar life experiences

Why are things changing?

Ohio is finding new ways to support the health and wellness of its citizens. Individuals eligible for Medicaid under the Spenddown program will have a new, simplified pathway to health care coverage beginning August 1, 2016. If you are eligible for the SRS program, you will be able to keep your Medicaid health care coverage and receive the additional services without the hassle of spending down each month.

Who is eligible for the SRS program?

The SRS program is for individuals diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness who spend down each month to be eligible for Medicaid coverage.

They may be eligible for the program if:

- » They have income less than \$2,199 per month or \$26,388 per year
- » They are 21 years of age or older
- » They need help with activities such as medical appointments, social interactions and living skills
- » They do not live in a nursing facility, hospital, or similar setting
- » They are determined disabled by the Social Security Administration

What is the process for individuals interested in the SRS program to sign up?

Individuals identified as being potentially eligible for the program will be contacted by a recovery manager. The recovery manager will ask about past health care treatment and help the individual complete an assessment of needs and strengths as part of the process to determine eligibility. Individuals can also reach out to their community mental health provider directly to request information about the SRS program.

Will individuals enrolled in the SRS program keep their Medicaid coverage?

Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for the SRS program will keep their Medicaid coverage. In addition to full Medicaid health care coverage, they may also receive the three new services offered under the SRS program: recovery management, individualized placement and support, and peer support.

Will individuals enrolled in the SRS program keep their current health care provider?

Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for the SRS program will keep their Medicaid coverage and may continue seeing any current Medicaid providers they have seen in the past. Under the SRS program, an individual will also meet with a recovery manager to develop a personalized plan of care.

Will new benefits will be offered through the SRS program?

The three new services available through the SRS program are explained below:

Recovery Management

Recovery managers will work with individuals to develop a comprehensive plan of care. The recovery managers will meet with individuals regularly to monitor their plan and the receipt of their services.

Individualized Placement and Support - Supported Employment (IPS-SE)

Supported employment services can help individuals find a job if they are interested in working. A supported employment worker will evaluate and consider an individual's interests, skills, experience, and goals as it relates

to employment goals. IPS programs also provide on-going support to help individuals successfully maintain employment. A job can serve as more than an income. It can also help individuals feel a sense of accomplishment and help them manage their mental illness.

Peer Recovery Support

Peer recovery supporters use their own experiences with mental health and substance use disorders to help individuals reach their recovery goals. Goals are included in a care plan designed by the individual based on his or her preferences and availability of community and natural supports. The peer relationship can help individuals focus on strategies and progress towards self-determination, self-advocacy, well-being and independence.

Are there any costs associated with the SRS program?

There is no cost to apply for the SRS program. Individuals who are eligible for the SRS program will also have full Medicaid coverage. There are no co-payment requirements for individuals in the SRS program.

Who can help individuals with questions about the SRS program?

Individuals identified as being potentially eligible for the program will be contacted by a recovery manager with information about the program. Any individuals with questions about the program can contact their County Department of Job and Family Services or call the Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8660. They can also reach out to their community mental health provider directly to request information about the SRS program.

Definitions

The **Ohio Disability Determination Redesign** is part of a comprehensive strategy to modernize the administration of Ohio's Medicaid program. As a result of the disability determination redesign, Ohio will join the majority of states in having a single process for the application and determination of disability benefits.

The Ohio Medicaid **Spenddown program** allowed individuals with income over the Medicaid income limit to qualify for Medicaid coverage by spending the excess income on medical expenses. The Spenddown program will end on July 31, 2016. Individuals who spend down to qualify for Medicaid will have a simplified pathway to health care coverage without meeting a monthly spend down.

Questions? Contact the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline: 1-800-324-8680

For more information, go online: [Medicaid.Ohio.gov/DDR](https://www.Medicaid.Ohio.gov/DDR) or <https://benefits.ohio.gov/ddr.html>