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John B. McCarthy, Director

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Ohio Medicaid Achieves 5000th Transition through Statewide HOME Choice Initiative

Program has become national leader in moving people back into community settings

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Medicaid today announced that it recently transitioned its 5000th individual back into the community through its highly successful *HOME Choice* program, marking a major milestone for the six year-old program.

HOME Choice – Ohio’s version of the federal *Money Follows the Person* (MFP) program – allows individuals residing in long-term care facilities to return to home and community-based settings. Under the program, individuals with the desire to leave institutional settings are assessed by Ohio Medicaid and offered housing and support services to transition back into the community.

Initially launched in 2008 with the goal of achieving 2,000 successful transitions, *HOME Choice* has helped in fostering a renewed path to independence for older Ohioans and individuals living with disabilities.

“The State of Ohio remains committed to providing more choice to residents living in nursing facilities and institutional settings,” said State Medicaid Director John McCarthy. “*HOME Choice* has enhanced independence and provided a second chance to thousands of Ohioans – all at costs lower than those incurred in institutional settings.”

HOME Choice has experienced exponential growth over the past three years as the number of people taking advantage of the new independence it offers climbed from 968 prior to 2011 to more than 5,000 today. Additionally, the *HOME Choice* program has experienced successful transitions in all of Ohio’s 88 counties.

In 2013, Ohio’s *HOME Choice* program garnered national recognition as a leader in transitioning individuals with the desire and ability to re-enter the community. Ohio ranked first among MFP states in transitioning individuals with mental illness from long-term facilities into alternative settings and second overall in the total number of residents moved from institutions into home and community-based settings. (The report by Mathematica Policy research can be read [here](#)).

“While Ohio Medicaid joins various stakeholder and advocate groups in celebrating this milestone, we are taking this as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to create more opportunity for people across Ohio,” said McCarthy. “We look forward to continuing to collaborate with public and private partners to identify new, effective ways to allow our friends and neighbors to move out of facilities and back into the community.”

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