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Ohio Medicaid awarded Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grant

ODM joins Nationwide Children's Hospital in designing Integrated Care for Kids program

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) was awarded a seven-year, \$16 million Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Ohio is one of seven states selected by CMS to design and test early intervention models aimed at improving child health, reducing avoidable in-patient and out-of-home placements, and creating a sustainable financial model for coordinated physical and behavior health care. ODM is joined by Nationwide Children's Hospital, and the local Partnership Council of Licking and Muskingum counties in this initiative.

"It has been a top priority in this administration to give children the opportunities they deserve to reach their full potential," Ohio Governor Mike DeWine said. "Enhancing care coordination for our most vulnerable children puts them on a path for good health and a bright future."

"The CMS InCK award validates the strength of Ohio Medicaid's collaborative approach to better serve children with complex needs who may be involved with multiple state and local systems," said ODM Director Maureen Corcoran. "We are honored to partner with Nationwide Children's and community experts in exploring scalable, evidence-based programs that advance childhood health and well-being."

The InCK grant allows ODM to partner with Nationwide Children's to support the integrated delivery of child services while reducing cost and improving quality of care. The Ohio team will test this model in Licking and Muskingum counties, where a local Partnership Council is being created to assist ODM and Nationwide Children's with developing and integrating a care model among local service agencies and clinical partners.

"We are gratified that CMS chose the state of Ohio as one of only seven sites around the country to pilot an InCK model. It's a testament to the foundation ODM and Nationwide Children's have developed over the last two decades to deliver care to underserved children and families," said Deena Chisolm, PhD, vice president, Health Services Research and director, Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice at Nationwide Children's. "We look forward to partnering with ODM and Muskingum and Licking County leaders and families to continue improving integrated care coordination and community-based services for our most vulnerable children."

All children with Medicaid in these two counties will be served by the program. Priority attention will be given to children who are currently in or at risk for out-of-home placement (foster care, residential treatment, detention) and those with high levels of behavioral health needs. The grant also tasks ODM and Nationwide Children's with creating a sustainable alternative payment model (APM) that ensures provider accountability for cost and quality outcomes by incentivizing coordination of care.

The InCK model period begins January 1, 2020. The first two years of the award period involve intensive pre-implementation work, coordinating with the CMS Innovation Center, and the six other state Medicaid programs to develop the APM and additional infrastructure necessary to achieve the grant goals. Implementation and monitoring of the model will follow in grant years three and beyond.

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More information about the CMS Integrated Care for Kids grant program can be found [on the CMS website](#).

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