

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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February 4, 2013

Governor Kasich Announces Budget

DODD Budget Priorities Support Community Residential Rebalancing and Employment First Rebalancing

Ohio is successfully emerging from one of the most pivotal economic periods in its history, a time during which it closed an historic \$7.7 billion budget imbalance without raising taxes. We cut taxes by \$800 million in 2011 and brought needed new reforms to Medicaid, education and other important efforts. Ohio has risen from 48th in the nation to one of the top job creators in the country and 1st in the Midwest. Yet, too many Ohioans are still out of work and too many changes to state government are still needed. Building on the momentum begun by the last state budget is essential to put Ohio's fiscal house back in order and continue our progress.

The proposed DODD Budget continues momentum generated by Governor Kasich's *Jobs Budget* and prioritizes rebalancing toward more resources for community-based residential settings and more opportunities in community employment. To achieve rebalancing, the budget includes approximately \$5.4 million dollars to adjust reimbursements and provides incentives for ICF/IDD* downsizing and conversion to community-based settings. It also adds \$2 million dollars for the newly-created Employment First line item over the course of the biennium.

Provisions for Community Residential Rebalancing include:

- A flat rate for residents of ICF/IIDs who are in the 'typical adaptive needs' and 'non-significant behavior' category (Level 4), allowing funds to flow to those most in need and encourages facilities to actively consider the opportunity for those individuals with less profound needs to receive home and community based services instead;
- With the approval of the DODD Director, a continuing rate increase of \$2.08 per hour for HCBS waiver providers if the individual served was previously a resident of a public hospital, developmental center, or converted ICF/IID;
- ICF/IIDs that are downsized or converted facilities will be able to submit a 90-day cost report, to report accurate costs remaining after facility changes, and eliminate undue lag-time in necessary rate adjustments; and,
- Continues current pace of downsizing state-operated developmental centers.

DODD is hopeful that these rebalancing changes will redirect resource needs significantly enough so that we can consider a modest provider rate increase as early as Fiscal Year 2015.

Provisions for Employment First Rebalancing

We also continue our efforts to ensure that community employment is the preferred outcome for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities. The proposed budget continues Governor Kasich's efforts to eliminate employment barriers. Policy changes will improve data collection, make permanent the Governor's Employment First Taskforce, create a presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can work unless determined otherwise, ask local County Boards to create their own Employment First policies, and creates a new Employment First line item with a \$2 million fund to support these efforts.

And through all of these efforts, the budget continues to promote further downsizing of large ICF/IIDs, the conversion of ICF/IID-funded beds to home and community-based waiver settings, and the expansion of community employment. Together, we can continue Ohio's DD system transformation and create service structures that provide individuals more opportunities to live and work where and how they choose.

**ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.*

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Share questions or comments with us: feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the DODD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the DODD website, at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/>.*

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