

# HCBS Waiver Waiting List - 2014

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Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers were created in 1981 to provide people with disabilities an alternative to living in an institutional setting such as a developmental center, Intermediate Care Facility for Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (ICF/IDD), or nursing facility.

Since their creation, nearly every state in the nation has struggled to keep up with demand for these waivers. As a result, many states have placed people on a waiting list for a HCBS waiver.

As of June, 2013, there were 41,260 people with developmental disabilities in Ohio waiting for a HCBS waiver. The state of Ohio does not maintain a statewide waiting list. Each county board of developmental disabilities is responsible for maintaining a waiting list in its county.

A study completed by the Government Resource Center on behalf of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council reports the median waiting time for an individual seeking an HCBS waiver is 6.4 years. For individuals living in an institution, the median wait time is 13.7 years.

This study surveyed people currently on the waiting list and asked them to identify current and future needs. Findings of the study include:

Forty-six percent (46%) of individuals said they had no current area of need. Fifteen percent (15%) of individuals said they had no future area of need.

People who cited a current unmet need said they needed something to do during the day (22.5%) or help with daily activities (22%). Transportation (17.3%) was also a leading area of need that is currently not being met.

When asked about future needs, people reported they would need something to do during the day (58.1%) or help with daily activities (56.6%), an increase of more than twice the current need. Future need for transportation increased more than three times the current need (59.6%).

Medicaid reforms recently passed by the General Assembly encourage the use of Home and Community-Based Services. However, the evidence suggests the current HCBS system cannot meet existing demand without additional help from the state of Ohio.

There is not a current plan in place to reduce the waiting list for HCBS waivers in the state of Ohio.

The study also found that more than 1,000 individuals will lose the support of their primary caregiver each year due to age.

An investment of \$32.9 million in state funding over the biennium would serve a minimum of 2,200 individuals through the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver.

# Person First Talking Points:

Over the past several years, the number of people on a waiting list for a waiver has grown. The most recent number reported for people with developmental disabilities waiting for a Medicaid waiver is 41,260. Of those on the waiting list, 22,280 said they needed services today. A new study by the Government Resource Center also shows that more than 1,000 people will lose the support of their main caregiver each and every year. The study also shows the average time spent waiting for a waiver is more than 6 years.

Listed below are examples of what you can say to your legislator about this issue:

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I live in \_\_\_\_\_.

Did you know in my county, there are \_\_\_\_\_ people who are on a waiting list for a Medicaid waiver? (use chart below)

**Ohio does not have a plan to reduce the waiting list for people with disabilities.**

**Waivers help people with disabilities live in the community and can keep people with disabilities from having to move into an institution.**

**If you tried to get 10% of people off the waiting list in the next budget, it would cost \$33 million to get 2,200 SELF waivers.**

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number	County	Number	County	Number	County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Adams	52	Clark	1,195	Fairfield	537	Harrison	33	Licking	940	Monroe	23	Portage	408	Trumbull	764
Allen	429	Clermont	722	Fayette	72	Henry	110	Logan	87	Montgomery	1,160	Preble	194	Tuscarawas	186
Ashland	109	Clinton	110	Franklin	7,995	Highland	97	Lorain	643	Morgan	53	Putnam	110	Union	151
Ashtabula	209	Columbiana	224	Fulton	103	Hocking	194	Lucas	2,379	Morrow	125	Richland	469	Wyandot	68
Athens	300	Coshocton	103	Gallia	96	Holmes	52	Madison	133	Muskingum	130	Ross	200	Van Wert	118
Auglaize	151	Crawford	137	Geauga	309	Huron	221	Mahoning	781	Noble	31	Sandusky	318	Vinton	77
Belmont	247	Cuyahoga	2,144	Greene	245	Jackson	76	Marion	59	Ottawa	176	Scioto	215	Warren	702
Brown	147	Darke	296	Guernsey	133	Jefferson	106	Medina	486	Paulding	51	Seneca	242	Washington	348
Butler	1,213	Defiance	38	Hamilton	2,031	Knox	274	Meigs	34	Perry	244	Shelby	127	Wayne	275
Carroll	26	Delaware	882	Hancock	362	Lake	1,139	Mercer	162	Pickaway	136	Stark	1,315	Williams	153
Champaign	198	Erie	330	Hardin	20	Lawrence	193	Miami	520	Pike	176	Summit	1,772	Wood	551
														Unknown	308