



RENEW. REFORM. REVIVE.

BUDGET OF THE STATE OF OHIO • FISCAL YEARS 2012-2013

A NEW MODEL FOR IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

OHIO CAN DO MORE TO HELP THE CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP THE MOST: Currently, Ohio's Medicaid program provides care to 38,000 disabled children who are served through Ohio's fee-for-service Medicaid program. These children often have complicated and long-term medical conditions but they and their families receive little assistance in accessing and coordinating their health care. Without some form of care coordination, these children and their families will continue to experience difficulties and have less than desirable health outcomes.

THE BUDGET GIVES CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACCESS TO BETTER CARE: The budget encourages children's hospitals and networks of physicians to team up to create pediatric Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), which will be expected to provide additional attention and care to the unique needs of disabled children. Pediatric ACOs will hold the hospital and participating physicians responsible for the quality of care delivered to patients and provide a financial incentive back to the providers for delivering high-quality, efficient care.

The budget establishes a phased approach for potential ACO sites to partner with health plans to develop their programs and then gradually assume the full financial risk for children in their care. Until the pediatric ACOs can be fully developed, Ohio's managed-care program will provide access to specialized care-management services.

PARTNERS FOR KIDS IS A MODEL THAT WORKS: Nationwide Children's Hospital's Partners for Kids (PFK) network is the nation's largest pediatric ACO. PFK manages 290,000 (75,000 rural Appalachia and 215,000 urban) at-risk children across a 37-county coverage area. PFK has increased access to care for rural and urban children, improved quality and safety, implemented a wellness program to ensure that children with special health needs reach their full potential, and reduced preterm births and decreased the length of stay in neonatal intensive care units (NICU). Through its participation in Ohio Better Births Outcomes (OBBO), PFK has expanded prenatal home visiting programs and high-risk prenatal visits. OBBO has achieved a 50 percent reduction in preterm births for women involved in its Nurse Family Partnership program and a 35 percent reduction in late preterm births without medical indications. Through the combined impact of its programs, OBBO is on track to reduce at least 9,000 NICU days in central Ohio by the end of the year.

THE OUTCOME: The budget's creation of pediatric ACOs, like Nationwide Children's Hospital's PFK, will create better health outcomes for disabled children through improved care coordination. Successful ACOs will also lead to cost savings for the Medicaid program and taxpayers. Some of these savings will be passed on to physicians, which will provide additional incentives for more high-quality physicians to participate in the Medicaid program.

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