



## Ohio to seek approval for consolidated waiver

o4a is participating in the state's new effort to improve care and cut the cost of services provided to people who are Medicaid eligible and need a nursing home level of care. The plan will coordinate supports and services by consolidating five of Ohio's Medicaid waivers into one waiver. The single waiver, expected to be implemented in 2012, would combine three waivers administered by the Ohio Department of Aging and two waivers administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The Medicaid program is the largest single payer of nursing home costs in the nation. For those who do not have the resources to pay for their own care and need a nursing home level of care, they are entitled to receive that care in a nursing home and to have taxpayer dollars pay for it.

The Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive Medicaid provisions for states seeking flexibility to deliver long-term care services in community settings instead of costly institutions.

Ohio proposes consolidating the following five waivers into one:

Waiver Name	Date Issued
<a href="#">OH Transitions II Aging Carve Out (0440.R01.00)</a>	01/01/2006
<a href="#">OH Home Care (0337.R03.00)</a>	07/01/1999
<a href="#">OH Choices (4196.R02.00)</a>	07/01/2001
<a href="#">OH Assisted Living (0446.R01.00)</a>	03/22/2006
<a href="#">OH Passport (0198.R04.00)</a>	07/01/1990

During the next nine months, members of Ohio's Unified Long Term Care System (ULTCS) workgroup will oversee the development and implementation of the consolidated waiver. Since 2008, o4a representatives have served as members alongside representatives from state agencies, local boards, administrative entities, associations, and providers. They have studied Ohio's methods of service delivery to people eligible for Medicaid, made recommendations to improve and rebalance the services, and shepherded many changes through three budget cycles.

Because Medicaid is funded through a mix of federal and state dollars, any changes Ohio makes must be approved at the federal level by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services will submit a white paper to CMS in December 2011 and apply for the single waiver in March 2012. Ohio expects to implement a single waiver in July 2012.

### **About the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging | o4a**

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), a nonprofit organization, is a statewide network of agencies that provide services for older adults, their families and caregivers, as well as advocate on their behalf. The Association addresses issues that have an impact on the aging network, provides services to members, and serves as a collective voice for Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider. For more information visit, [www.ohioaging.org](http://www.ohioaging.org).