

Ohio's Medicaid Savings Solution



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

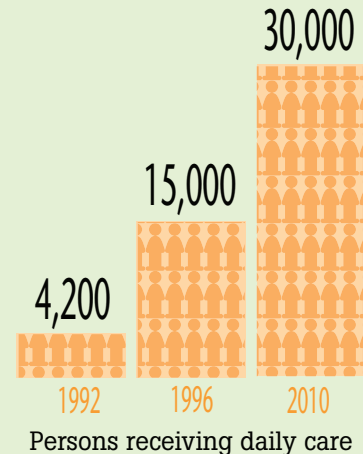
New study confirms success of Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging

More older Ohioans are being served at home and in the community than a decade ago, but the state is spending less money for their care, thanks to programs managed by Ohio's network of Area Agencies on Aging.

A Scripps Gerontology Center study released in June 2011 validates legislators' policy decisions to shift investment away from nursing home care to home and community services. Over the past 12 years, the use of Medicaid-funded nursing homes by Ohioans age 60 and older dropped by 14.5%, despite a 15% increase in the aging population.

The shift to home and community services has lowered Ohio's long-term care Medicaid spending on older adults (when adjusted for inflation) while increasing the average number of persons served each day by nearly 10,000.

Despite these gains, Scripps researchers caution that Ohio still exceeds the national average in nursing home admissions and has yet to feel the full effects of the Baby Boomer generation.



PASSPORT has become the third-largest Medicaid waiver program for older adults in the United States.

\$4,281/mo.



\$1,067/mo.

PASSPORT

Aging in place reduces Medicaid costs.

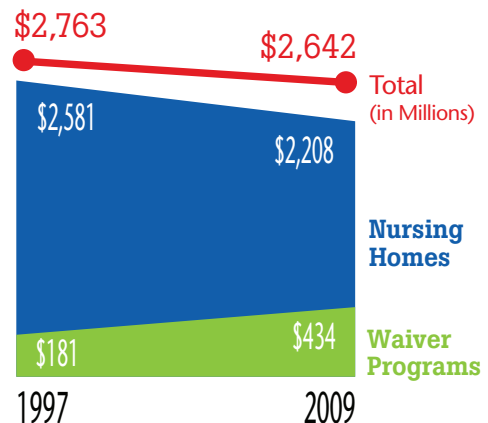
Ohio's PASSPORT to savings

Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging operate the nation's third-largest aging and disability Medicaid waiver program, behind Washington and Texas. Since 1992, the state's PASSPORT home-care program has grown from serving 4,200 individuals to 30,000 daily in 2010.

How has it been possible to expand PASSPORT 700% without increasing Medicaid long-term care costs? Ohio is serving more people in a more cost-effective way. In 1993, nine out of 10 older adults supported by Medicaid long-term care were in nursing homes. Since 1997, the number of older adults using nursing homes has plummeted by almost 7,000. Fewer people in nursing homes means Ohio can stretch its Medicaid dollars to serve more people as the population ages.

Rebalancing efforts are working

Today 13 out of every 1,000 Ohioans age 60 and older enroll annually in PASSPORT. Increasing enrollment is not driven by aging Baby Boomers, according to Scripps. Rather, PASSPORT's increasing popularity is evidence of the program's high quality and effectiveness in meeting consumer needs. Of PASSPORT's service dollars, 86% go for services such as help with bathing and meals. Combined with skilled care management, these basic supports mean even very frail older adults no longer have to leave their homes to get the care they need.



Ohio is spending less in real dollars on long-term care than in 1997.

Where people are served



Area Agencies on Aging help Ohio improve the long-term care delivery system and reduce costs.

At home and at peace

Area Agencies on Aging have succeeded in helping even those with critical illnesses stay in their homes or with their families for longer periods of time. Research showed that in 2010 less than one-third of older adults left PASSPORT for a nursing home, and nearly 50% of participants lived out their days at home.

To further reduce the nursing home population, Area Agencies on Aging are implementing a range of innovative approaches to divert individuals from nursing home admission and to return long-term nursing home residents to the community. Preliminary research by Scripps shows great promise from these efforts: After six months, about two-thirds of individuals identified for diversion from nursing homes remained in the community, and 53% of nursing home residents returned home or to assisted living.

Implications for the future

Through its Area Agencies on Aging, Ohio is transforming the long-term care system. AAAs are mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations that for 30 years have provided cost-effective care management for Ohio's seniors and their families. This network of local agencies has successfully taken on new responsibilities, adjusted to change and overcome obstacles. Area Agencies on Aging do more than successfully manage Medicaid waiver programs; they also provide a wide range of services that prevent or delay a person from entering the Medicaid system, resulting in significant cost savings.

But bigger challenges are ahead. Scripps reports that between now and 2020, Ohio's 60-plus population will increase by 25%, and by 2040 the aging population will almost double. Within the next two years, as mandated by the new state budget, PASSPORT and Assisted Living programs will need to serve an additional 4,800.

Scripps research shows that legislators' faith in Area Agencies on Aging is well placed. As one of the nation's strongest networks of its kind, Area Agencies on Aging will meet the challenges of tomorrow with innovative solutions and compassionate care.



4 Million



2.5 Million



2 Million

The number of Ohioans age 60-plus will double by 2040.



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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).

Link to full report at: <http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/content/coming-age-tracking-progress-and-challenges-delivering-long-term-services-and-supports-ohio>