

## Choices Medicaid Waiver Program

### What is the Choices Medicaid Waiver Program?

- This Medicaid waiver program provides services in home and community settings to delay or prevent nursing facility placement.
- Services help preserve the independence of the individual, as well as maintain ties to family and friends.
- The program enables participants to be employers and hire service providers (including friends, neighbors and some relatives) to provide community-based care.

### Who is eligible for the Choices Medicaid Waiver Program?

Eligible participants must:

- Live in one of the regions of northwest, central or southern Ohio served by the Area Agency on Aging in Toledo, Columbus, Marietta or Rio Grande;
- Be age 60 or older;
- Need hands-on assistance with dressing, bathing, toileting, grooming, eating or mobility;
- Receive services for which the cost does not exceed 60 percent of the cost of nursing home care; and
- Meet the financial criteria for Medicaid eligibility (see below);

In addition, participants must:

- Currently be enrolled in the PASSPORT Medicaid Waiver Program.
- Have their physicians agree to a service plan; and
- Be willing and capable of directing provider activities as demonstrated through a consumer certification process.

### What are the financial eligibility criteria for Choices?

- County Departments of Job and Family Services determine financial eligibility of interested participants.
- Individuals may not have countable assets valued at more than \$1,500.
- Monthly income must not exceed 300 percent of the Social Security Insurance benefit.
- Depending on income, participants may be required to pay a *patient liability* each month toward the cost of services.

50 W. Broad St./9th Fl.  
Columbus, OH 43215-3363

[www.aging.ohio.gov](http://www.aging.ohio.gov)  
1-800-266-4346

Stephanie M. Loucka, Director  
John Kasich, Governor

**Continued...**

### **What services are provided through Choices?**

- Participants may receive the following services: adult day care, home care attendant service, home medical equipment and supplies, emergency response systems, minor home modifications, meals and pest control.
- A case manager will assist each participant in developing a care plan. The case manager will then monitor and adjust the plan according to the needs of the participant.

### **What responsibilities do Choices participants have?**

- Participants receive extensive training on serving as “employer of record” for the care providers they choose.
- Participants are responsible for all necessary tax forms and payroll duties under the Internal Revenue Code. All taxes, including worker’s compensation, must be paid. A fiscal employer agent will assist participants with the financial aspects of the program.
- A specialized case manager will assist the participant in other program requirements.

### **How do I apply for the Choices Medicaid Waiver Program?**

- Contact the appropriate PASSPORT Administrative Agency to request the Choices program:
  - **Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.** (Toledo)  
**1-800 472-7277**
  - **Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging** (Columbus)  
**1-800-589-7277**
  - **Area Agency on Aging, District 7** (Rio Grande)  
**1-800-582-7277**
  - **Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging, PSA 8** (Marietta)  
**1-800-833-0830**
- Interested individuals must complete an application, telephone screen and in-person assessment.
- After meeting all eligibility criteria, you will be enrolled (pending slot availability).

### **Where can I learn more about the Choices Medicaid Waiver Program?**

- Visit the following Ohio Department of Aging Web page for more information about the Choices Medicaid Waiver Program.  
**[www.aging.ohio.gov/services/choices/](http://www.aging.ohio.gov/services/choices/)**

**Last Updated:** August 2016