

## HCBS Waivers Waiting List 2015 Fact Sheet

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.

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

House Bill 64 (Budget Bill) is the first effort in many years to address the waiting list by funding the creation of 3,000 new waivers (2,000 Individual Options Waivers and 1,000 SELF Waivers).