

Bob Taft
Governor



Barbara Riley
Director

30 East Broad Street - Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414
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November 1, 2006

Judith Norris
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Acquisition and Grant Management
Mail Stop C2-21-15
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 2124-1850

Dear Ms. Norris:

I am pleased to submit the Ohio's application for the federal Money Follows the Person grant which we have entitled "Rebalancing Ohio's System for Long Term Care." The total amount of funding associated with this five year proposal is \$248.7 million. The principle contact person for Ohio's MFP grant is Erika Robbins, Assistant Deputy Director for Long Term Care Services. She can be reached at 614-466-4443 or by e-mail at Robbie@odjfs.state.oh.us.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio's single state Medicaid agency, is the lead on this project in collaboration with the Ohio departments of Aging, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Health, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Office of the Governor, the Office of Budget and Management, and numerous stakeholders throughout Ohio's long term care service delivery system.

Throughout Governor Taft's administration, public policymakers, consumer advocates and members of the provider community have engaged in a spirited debate regarding both the growth and disposition of public funding for long term care services and supports. The Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision informed this debate and acted as a catalyst for the creation of the *Ohio Access* initiative, which articulated a long-term vision for Medicaid and other services to Ohio's elders and people with disabilities. Since 2001 *Ohio Access* has been the framework for increased consumer choice, including a major expansion of Ohio's Medicaid home and community-based waivers.

Although significant strides have been made toward the *Ohio Access* vision, much remains to be realized. The Money Follows the Person initiative is an opportunity for Ohio to build on achievements to date, and take additional steps to "rebalance" funding for the Medicaid program services for elders and people with disabilities.

Thank you for reviewing this proposal. I hope that you and your staff will support Ohio's plan for continued transformation in the Medicaid long term care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tracy J. Williams', is written in dark ink.

Tracy J. Williams
State Medicaid Director