

Behavioral Health Redesign Brief

For Providers: Enrollment into the Specialized Recovery Services Program

Beginning the week of May 2, consumers who have been identified as potentially eligible for the Specialized Recovery Services (SRS) program will be receiving notification from the Ohio Department of Medicaid about how to enroll in this new program. Notification will come via a [letter](#) that explains the program, its new benefits, and how to enroll.

The SRS program provides the following new services to individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, in addition to their current Medicaid health care coverage: recovery management care coordination, assistance in finding and keeping a job (Individual Placement and Support – Supported Employment), and support from others with similar life experiences (peer support). The program was designed to ensure continued access to Medicaid coverage for individuals who currently spend down their income to be eligible for benefits.

On June 30, 2016, Ohio Medicaid will eliminate the program that allows individuals to “spend down” a portion of their income to qualify for Medicaid as a result of the state’s initiative [to streamline the disability determination process](#) from two systems into one. It is important to note that although the change in disability determination will take place on July 1, 2016, an **individual on spenddown will not lose their Medicaid benefit on that date**. At the point of conversion, every individual who would have been eligible for Medicaid ABD under the current system, **including individuals who qualified by spending down to the income limit in any month during the previous year**, will be automatically enrolled in full Medicaid without spend down.

Ohio Medicaid requested a six-month waiver of ABD renewals to ensure that every current beneficiary who is potentially impacted has time to transition to other sources of Medicaid, including the SRS program or, if they are no longer eligible for Medicaid, to seek other sources of coverage. Medicaid eligibility renewals will resume on January 1, 2017 and, from that date forward, the new eligibility criteria will apply to individuals seeking Medicaid ABD renewals.

SRS Eligibility and Enrollment:

Eligibility for the SRS program is based on the following criteria:

- » Income below \$2,199 per month or \$26,388 per year.
- » 21 years of age or older.
- » Diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness.
- » Needs help with activities such as medical appointments, social interactions and living skills.
- » Not living in a nursing facility, hospital, or similar setting.
- » Determined disabled by the Social Security Administration.

To enroll, an individual must be connected with a recovery manager. One of these entities – CareStar, the Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio, or CareSource– will perform eligibility evaluations for the non-financial requirements of the SRS program and provide the recovery management services that support individuals receiving services.

A [map](#) is available to show the contact information for the recovery management agencies by region. The County Departments of Job and Family Services will continue to conduct the financial eligibility determinations. Contact information for a person's assigned recovery management provider is included in the letter that is being sent by Ohio Medicaid about eligibility for the SRS program.

Providers should be prepared to assist with this enrollment process by identifying individuals likely to be eligible for SRS and ensuring that they are connected to a recovery manager. These individuals will retain Medicaid until their next regularly scheduled eligibility renewal and, at the point of renewal, need to have enrolled in SRS to retain Medicaid coverage. If a provider believes an individual to be eligible for the SRS program, but that person has not received a letter, the provider should contact the Ohio Department of Medicaid via secure email at BHCP@medicaid.ohio.gov, with the subject line: *SRS Program Referrals*. The email should include a person's Medicaid ID (if on Medicaid), name, address, telephone number, and email address. Ohio Medicaid will then connect the person to an assigned recovery manager to begin program enrollment.

To help determine an individual's eligibility for the SRS program, providers can visit <https://benefits.ohio.gov/ddr.html>. This website contains a tool to help determine an individual's eligibility for the SRS program. This website also contains links to additional resources and other helpful information about the program.

Please stay tuned to <http://bh.medicaid.ohio.gov> for more information and for upcoming materials that providers may use to assist with enrollment and education of consumers in the SRS program. These materials will include a provider toolkit and an educational video. Also, please make sure you are signed up for our BH Redesign newsletter for all of the latest information: <http://bh.medicaid.ohio.gov/Newsletters>.