

Healthier Buckeye Initiative

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The Healthier Buckeye concept had its origin in a bipartisan House/Senate work group during the budget making process in 2013. The initiative stems from realization that there are barriers interfering with many in our communities who desire to move up and off of needing public assistance, including Medicaid. These conversations have brought our focus to engaging state leaders in efforts to help our local communities address these barriers.

This is a call for participation in this early stage initiative. Already this initiative has produced several legislative actions that have varying degrees of connectivity with ongoing actions in the administrative branches of our state and local governments.

This set of documents pulls together the direct legislative components relating to the Healthier Buckeye initiative in order to assist those interested in participating.

Objective: To assist more of our constituents to move themselves up and off of needing public assistance, including Medicaid.

Key potential features:

- Individuals will seek admission to the Healthier Buckeye program.
- It is a non-entitlement, voluntary program that is designed, owned and operated at the community level.
- “Health” is meant to be inclusive of all aspects of life.
- Individuals will receive coaching from a peer mentor who had successes in overcoming similar challenges and who has passion for helping others.
- Set up and pursue “independent life plan coordination” — with mentoring assessment assistance — that focuses on the main aspects needed to thrive. Each plan becomes an aspirational road map charting an action pathway toward increased well-being, unique to the participant. This plan will assist the participant and the mentor in accessing such things as available private or public physical health, behavioral health, social, spiritual, employment, education, housing, job readiness and transportation services.

Four initial legislative components have been enacted:

1. Option to establish a Healthier Buckeye Council in each county.

Status: Signed by Governor Kasich December 19, 2013 and became effective in March.
(See Attachment 1)

2. Creation of a Healthier Buckeye Council at the state level.

Status: Signed by Governor Kasich June 16, 2014 in HB 483, a bill in the mid-biennial

budget review package (See Attachment 2)

3. Creation of the Office of Human Services Innovation.

Status: Signed by Governor Kasich June 16, 2014 in HB 483, a bill in the mid-biennial budget

review package (See Attachment 3)

4. Creation of Ohio Healthier Buckeye grant program.

Status: Established in temporary law in HB 483 without an appropriation of funds. (See Attachment 4)

In all of our communities there are many who desperately want to move up to a higher quality of life, but are facing obstacles. The Healthier Buckeye Program is an early stage concept aimed at strengthening what our communities across Ohio already do toward helping more individuals and families achieve greater self sufficiency and well being.

You are invited to engage in helping to further develop and implement these concepts in your district, through action of the General Assembly and by joining in efforts throughout our state.