



## Promoting wellness and recovery

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To: Interested Behavioral Health Stakeholders

From: Tracy J. Plouck, Director

Date: August 27, 2014

RE: Residential State Supplement (RSS) and Adult Care Facility/Adult Foster Home Incentive Updates

In fall 2013, the Department conducted a time-limited collaborative review of the Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program in an effort to make recommendations to improve the program and quality of life for individuals who receive RSS. Enrolled residents utilize the benefit to assist with accommodations, supervision, and personal care services, which help them reside in the community in the least restrictive environment. Since OhioMHAS began administering RSS in FY 2012, the program's annual budget has been \$7.5 million. Through last fall's program review, the Department recognized the need to direct additional resources to RSS; the Mid-Biennial Review ultimately included additional appropriations of \$7.5 million for this purpose in FY 15. These funds shall be used to fund expansion of the RSS Program and help support home operators in making necessary changes to improve the quality of living arrangements for residents, while also facilitating community integration. For further information about the review recommendations for the RSS Program, please visit <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=569>.

OhioMHAS will be moving forward with a multi-pronged approach to implement the recommended changes to RSS. Beginning October 1, 2014, RSS program enrollment will be available to current residents of Adult Care Facilities (including Adult Family and Group Homes) and Adult Foster Homes in order to prevent premature or unnecessary institutionalization of individuals who would otherwise meet present RSS eligibility criteria. Those applicants not currently residing in a nursing facility will participate in a Level of Care assessment in order to determine whether they meet the Protective Level of Care criteria in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5160-3-06. Procedures are being developed for distribution in September 2014 and will be posted on the Department's website. Other changes to the RSS program include:

- Opening future RSS enrollment to individuals living in residences with no more than 16 licensed beds in order to facilitate integration in community settings. Individuals currently living in Residential Care Facilities (RCF's) or Assisted Living licensed for 17 beds or more would not be impacted by this change and could choose to remain in those settings. Individuals who are already living in RCF's will continue to receive RSS while remaining in those settings.
- Providing quality payments directly to operators of adult care facilities, adult foster homes, and residential care facilities that house residents receiving RSS in order to

enhance the quality of care of the living environment for all residents. Although the payment amount is based upon the number of RSS individuals residing within the facilities, expenditure of RSS Quality Payment funds may benefit all residents, including those who are currently not receiving RSS.

- Additionally, since one of the biggest challenges for individuals remains the ability to secure quality housing, please note the following:
  - The Adult Care Facility/Adult Foster Home (ACF/AFoH) Incentive Program will be continued for SFY 2015. This cash supplement is available to OhioMHAS-licensed ACF and AFoH operators who facilitate the linkage of the homes' residents with local mental health and/or alcohol and other drug (AOD) providers according to their service needs. Additional information will be forthcoming.
  - Local boards are encouraged to continue supporting housing at levels not less than their FY 2013 - 2014 commitments in order for more individuals to be able to live in their communities in the least restrictive setting.

For further information regarding the RSS Program and RSS Quality Payment, please visit the webpage at <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=201> or email [RSS@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:RSS@mha.ohio.gov). For further information regarding the ACF/AFoH Incentive Program, please visit the webpage at <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=572> or email [ACF-AFoHIncentive@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:ACF-AFoHIncentive@mha.ohio.gov). Thank you.