



184 N. Lancaster Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

(740) 797-2523 1-800-762-3775

<http://jfs.athenscountygovernment.com>

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COMMISSIONERS: Lenny Eliason, Larry Payne, Mark Sullivan

DIRECTOR: Jack Frech

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### **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Nick Claussen, Community Relations Coordinator

(740) 797-2523

## **Ohio families encouraged to apply for Medicaid**

The state of Ohio is encouraging all eligible families to sign up for Medicaid and has made it easier for families to enroll in the health care program more quickly.

Children who are age 18 and younger are eligible to receive Medicaid coverage if their families are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The program also covers pregnant women (any age) in families with an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and certain children younger than age 21 who are aging out of the foster care system. Parents of dependent children who have an income at or below 90% of the federal poverty level are also eligible for coverage.

The recent changes to the Medicaid program include the following:

- When applications are made for children to enter the program, the children now can receive temporary coverage much more quickly and their applications can be processed while they receive temporary coverage for up to 60 days.
- Consumers now have their Medicaid cases reviewed every 12 months.
- The program has been changed so that it is easier to provide documentation for U.S. citizenship.
- All Job and Family Services offices in Ohio are able to work easily now with other government offices to receive information needed to determine eligibility.
- One new cost for clients receiving Medicaid is a new expense for prescriptions. Previously, clients did not have to make a co-payment on prescriptions, but now they are charged a \$2 co-payment for most trade-name prescriptions and a \$3 co-payment for drugs that require prior authorization. There is no co-payment for generic drugs that do not require prior authorization, and the co-payments are waived for clients who are under age 21, pregnant, living in a nursing home or an intermediate care facility, or receiving hospice care.

For more information, contact Athens County Job and Family Services at 797-2523.