

Veterans on Medicaid Program

Transitioning Ohio Veterans to VA Long-Term Care

Agency Briefing
October 27, 2021

Veteran Trivia

Approximately how many
veterans live in Ohio?

500,000

700,000

900,000

1,000,000

Agenda

Overview

Statutory Authority: Senate Bill 10 – 131st Ohio General Assembly

Program Partners

Strategy

How Does it Work?

Survey Results and Success Stories

Lessons Learned

Contact Us

Overview

Pilot project launched in 2013
(Cuyahoga, Stark, and Summit Counties)



Purpose

Ensuring that eligible veterans on Medicaid became aware they could receive VA benefits



Target population

Veterans in nursing facilities on Medicaid with service-connected disabilities from their military service



Overview



The initial success led to expansion to all 88 counties

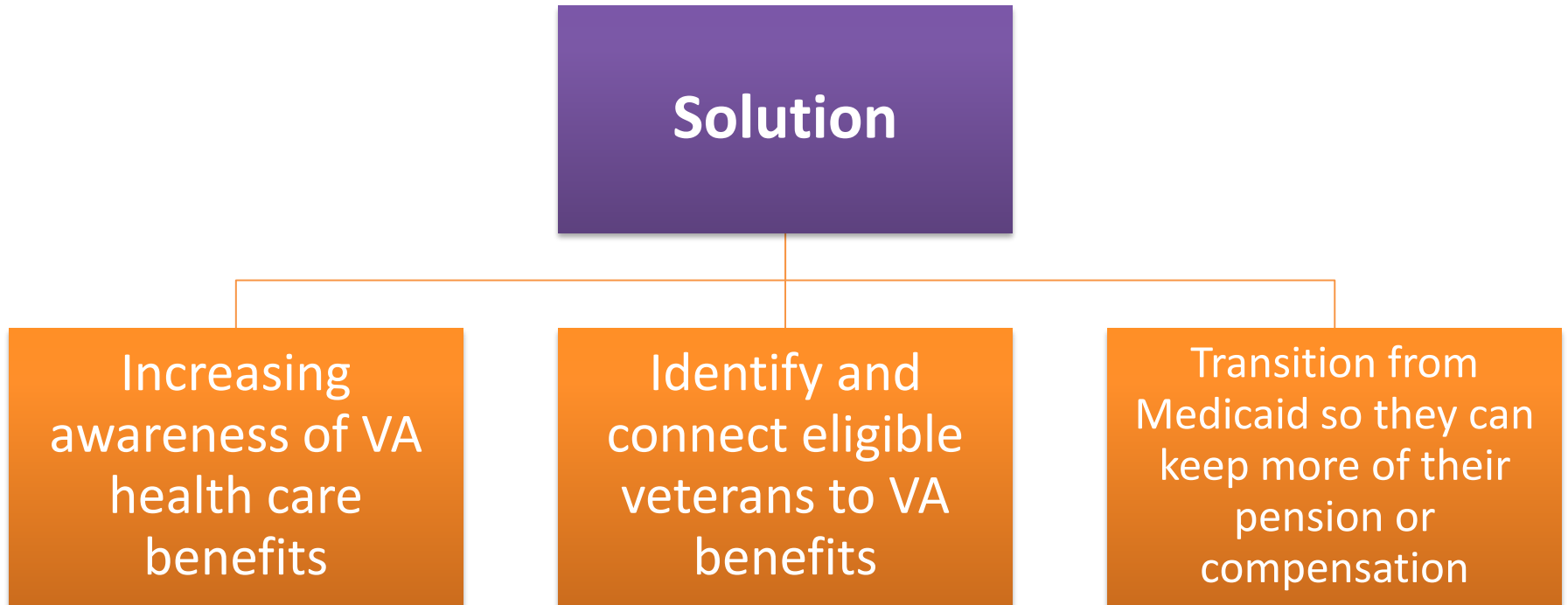
In 2016, the Ohio legislature enacted Senate Bill 10 to make this program state law

The Issue



Veterans may be unaware of their VA benefits

To keep their Medicaid benefits, veterans are sometimes forced to establish a Miller Trust or contribute more towards their care.



Veteran Trivia

Approximately how many
female veterans live in Ohio?

10,000

26,000

67,000

80,000

Senate Bill 10 – 131st Ohio General Assembly

- Enacts sections 5160.471 and 5902.21 of the Revised Code to establish a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits.
- ODM shall review the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to determine whether a Medicaid recipient may be eligible for federal military-related health care benefits.
- ODM shall notify the individual of the potential eligibility and encourage the individual to contact the local county veterans service commission for assistance in applying for the benefits
- ODM shall provide the appropriate contact information to the individual
- The director of veterans services shall develop, institute, and monitor a program under which ODVS assists individuals who are Medicaid recipients, to obtain federal military-related health care benefits
- Effective March 23, 2016





Strategy

Design a robust
identification
methodology from data

Develop best practices –
outreach, care transition
and care coordination
protocol

Assess veteran experience
and cost-effectiveness of
the project for potential
scalability

Eligibility



Currently residing in a nursing facility

Have a service-connected disability, including presumptive conditions recognized by the VA for compensation

Currently receiving Medicaid benefits

Presumptive Conditions

We continue to identify and outreach to veterans on Medicaid who have presumptive conditions identified by the VA, including:

15 cancers and other conditions associated with Agent Orange and other herbicide exposure (VA announced Summer 2014)

Eight Conditions related to Camp Lejeune contaminated water supply (VA announced 2012 and 2017)

Conditions included in the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (PL 116-23, effective January 2020)

Veteran Trivia

How many active-duty military installations are in Ohio?

One

Two

Three

Four

How Does this Program Work?

1. Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)

Identifies eligible veterans each quarter from the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS).

Once a veteran is potentially eligible, ODM, through the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) field coordinator, will notify the individual and act as an advocate for the veteran.

How Does this Program Work?

2. Field Coordinator

Coordinates with the local county veteran service officer and the VA

Initiates face-to-face contact with the veteran and/or family member/POA

Explains options, choices and advantages of transitioning to VA care

How Does this Program Work?

3. Veteran or authorized person

- Decides what option best meets their needs

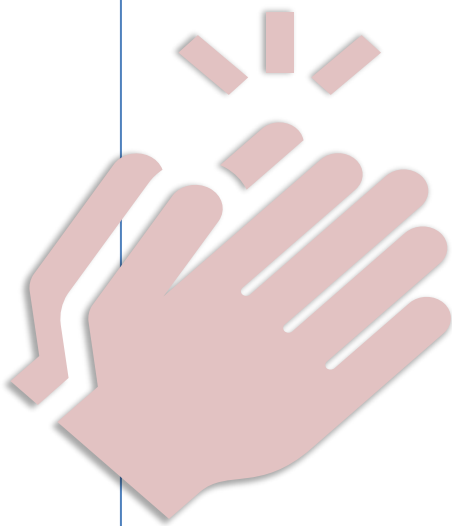
4. Field Coordinator

- Reviews options and assists the veteran with selecting the most suitable VA facility, VA-contracted home, etc. if he chooses to transition
- Coordinates with the VA and helps the veteran transition to a new home
- Follows up with the veteran after the move to determine his satisfaction

What Types of VA Facilities are Available?

- The State of Ohio has five VA medical facilities located in Cleveland, Columbus, Chillicothe, Cincinnati, and Dayton
- They have contractual agreements with more than 80 nursing facilities in and around Ohio to meet veterans' long-term health care needs
- When approved for VA long-term care, the veteran can transition to a VA care facility or VA-contracted nursing facility of their choice

Achievements

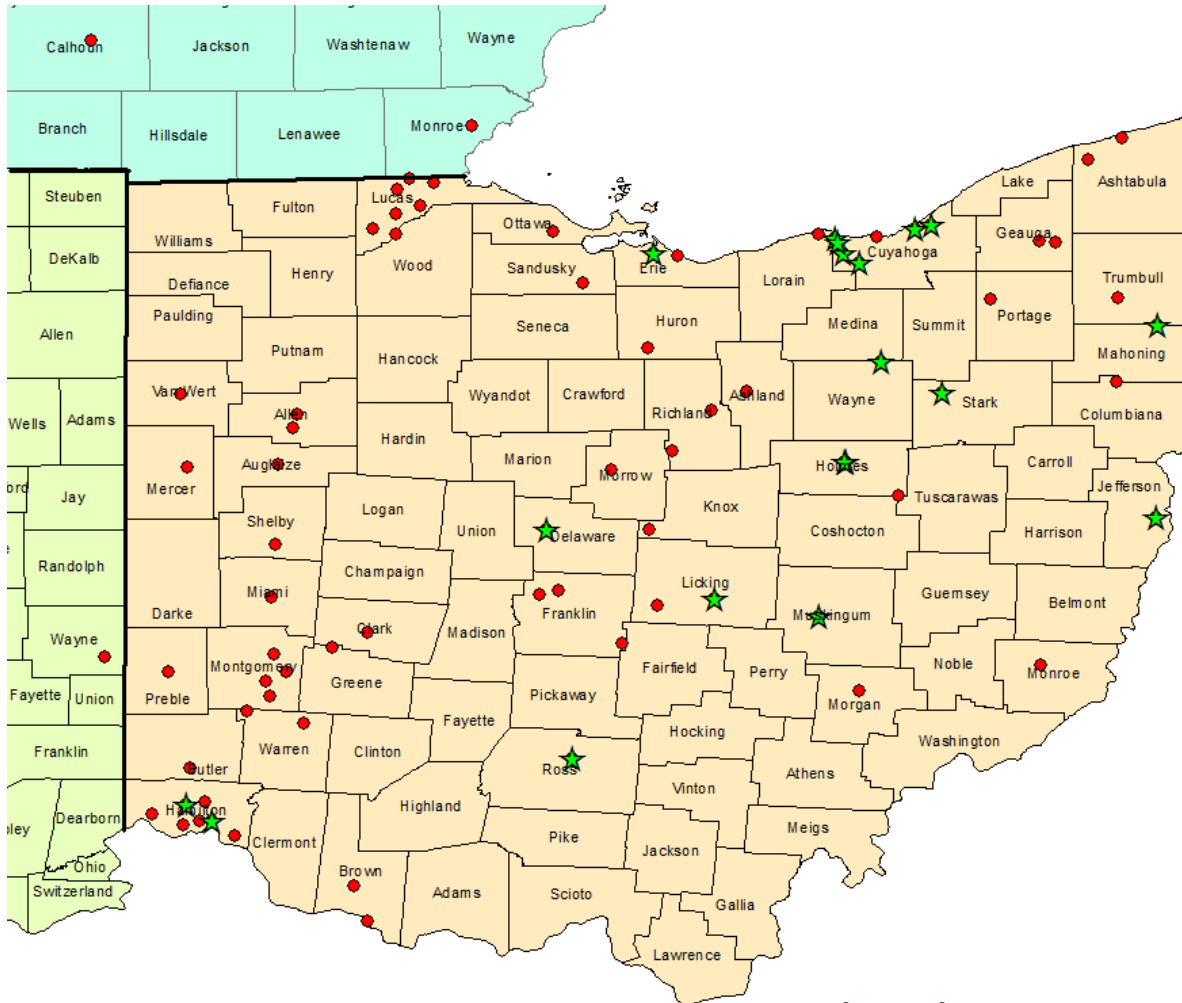


Since 2013, forty-four Ohio veterans have successfully transitioned to:

- VA long-term care facilities and VA-contracted nursing facilities
- The Ohio Veterans Homes in Sandusky in Erie County and in Georgetown in Brown County
- Group home settings

Veterans and their families choose the option that best meets their needs

VA Contracted Nursing Facilities with Transition Locations



Legend

- ★ Transitioned Veterans Locations
- VA Contracted Nursing Facilities

April 2019

Veteran Trivia

Approximately what percent of the U.S. adult population has served in the military?

Five

Seven

Twelve

Fifteen

Feedback from veterans

- Pleased they can keep more of their VA compensation after transitioning
- More health care professionals and social workers have been available to them
- Veterans noted an improvement in the VA facilities and quality of care
- They enjoy being with other veterans and sharing military experiences

Success Story: Mr. Honor

48-year-old Army veteran stationed in Saudi Arabia and Israel

- Family dealt with nursing facility selection and expenses
- Mr. Honor rated the quality and staff of the residence as a 4, calling it a “happy, good place to live.” Mr. Honor mentioned that the staff cares about his needs
- The ability to keep a significant portion of his VA compensation check has allowed Mr. Honor to increase savings toward an apartment in the future
- The facility invests in recognition of veterans and their service, with plaques and mementos throughout the facility

Success Story: Mr. Loyalist

66-year-old Army and Vietnam Veteran

- Mr. Loyalist left most issues up to his brother who admitted him to a nursing facility and arranged payment first through Medicaid, then through the VA with this program
- Veteran rated staff and quality of care as a 5. He rated his last care facility as a 2
- Mr. Loyalist is seen more often by a professional care team, improving his quality of care
- Very happy about being able to keep his compensation check

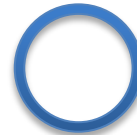
Success Story: Mr. Sentinel

67-year-old Army and Vietnam veteran with Agent Orange exposure

- Chronic homelessness and self-neglect resulted in amputation and nursing facility admission
- Enjoyed being with other veterans and sharing military experiences
- Local County Veteran Service Office resubmitted Mr. Sentinel's disabilities to the VA for non-service-connected evaluation
- The VA approved Mr. Sentinel's non-service-connected disability which doubled his VA monthly award
- Mr. Sentinel recently transitioned to the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, where he receives compassionate care and support of fellow veterans

Work Relations with the County Veteran Service Officers

Our focus is to educate the veteran and their family about the benefit options and to assist them throughout the process



We have met and worked with several CVSOs throughout Ohio, and have received tremendous collaboration, teamwork, and support for this program.



We seek assistance in reevaluating near eligible veterans to the 70% disability level

CVSO Experience – Stark County

Worked for several months with Field Coordinator

Helped transition a Vietnam veteran to the Sandusky Veterans Home in March 2018

Held a special ceremony to honor the veteran and present him his service medals and high school diploma

<https://youtu.be/sYsWsZWLRiY>

Lessons learned

The veterans and their family members/guardians were unaware of their eligibility for VA long-term care benefits.

Previous military service was not included during the application process for long-term care or Medicaid.

Most long-term care facilities have limited knowledge of the full range of veteran benefits.

The veteran's access to an earned disability award greatly influenced the decision to move. This resource is no longer used to supplement Medicaid payment and is available for the veteran's use.

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

Contact from a military veteran was valuable in developing rapport and sharing common values and experience

Working as a team with experts from the ODM, ODVS, and Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman in partnership with the VA was critical to answer eligibility questions and compare benefits

Veterans and families recognize the quality of health care available from the VA medical centers and VA contracted nursing homes

Honoring ODM Service Members – We Want to Hear From You



**"For what avail the plough or sail, or
land or life, if freedom fail?"**

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ohio Medicaid will recognize our service member colleagues as part of the agency's Veterans Day celebrations.

Please complete and submit the survey going out today so we can give a shout out to all who have served.

And, if you have photos you'd like to submit, send them to communications@medicaid.ohio.gov.