



**The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health  
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## **GOVERNOR'S MEDICAID EXPANSION PROPOSAL SUPPORTS ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

COLUMBUS – Governor Kasich's announcement that Medicaid expansion will be included in the executive budget recommendation for SFY 14-15 is fiscally responsible and will strengthen Ohio's economy. This investment will benefit thousands of families and support healthy communities by allowing people who need mental health and addiction services to receive them.

Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to improve access to mental health and addiction services in Ohio. Hubert Wirtz, Chief Executive Officer, applauded Governor Kasich for his decision on Medicaid expansion stating, "Access to mental health and addiction services is essential to keeping Ohioans healthy, supporting job growth, improving school success for our children, supporting families, and our overall economic development in Ohio."

We as a society recognize we need to improve access to mental health and addiction services so our children, families, and communities can thrive. We know that treatment works and people recover to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Medicaid expansion provides an opportunity for 500,000 Ohioans to access services and is a fundamental building block for our continued economic recovery.

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*The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers is a statewide advocacy and trade association that represents over 150 non-profit community mental health, addiction treatment, and family service organizations that serve over 600,000 Ohioans annually*