

Medicaid Controlling Board Request

- On September 26, 2013, the Ohio Medicaid director submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal government seeking to extend Medicaid coverage. On October 10, 2013, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio's SPA. As a result, federal funds are available to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014.
- Ohio law authorizes a state agency to spend federal funds pursuant to an appropriation of the general assembly or authorization by the Controlling Board (R.C. 131.35).
- The Controlling Board is a legislative mechanism that allows the state to adjust spending appropriations for the current biennium. It is comprised of seven voting members, including one member appointed by the Office of Budget and Management, three representatives of the Ohio House and three members of the Ohio Senate. The House Speaker and Senate President each must appoint two members from the majority and one member from the minority of their respective chambers (R.C. 127.12). A simple majority of four votes is required to approve Controlling Board actions (R.C. 127.13).
- On October 11, 2013, the Ohio Medicaid director submitted a Controlling Board request seeking authorization to spend federal-only funds to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014. Specifically, the request is to increase appropriation authority in federal fund 3F00 by \$562 million in state fiscal year 2014 and \$2.0 billion in state fiscal year 2015.
- **The only action required to extend Medicaid coverage is Controlling Board approval on October 21, 2013.**