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**Mentally ill benefit in Kasich budget**

By Catherine Candisky

After struggling through years of cuts, mental-health advocates say that Gov. John Kasich's budget would expand treatment, housing and other services for the mentally ill and addicted.

Much of the help is tied to an expansion of the tax-funded Medicaid program, to give health coverage to more poor and disabled Ohioans. Many of the uninsured who now receive locally funded services would become eligible for Medicaid, freeing an estimated \$70 million a year that county officials could re-direct to housing, employment and other help.

In addition, the governor's proposal would remove up to 1,200 mentally ill residents from nursing homes, providing them instead with community-based services.

"Some mentally ill people, not just those who are severely mentally ill, will get help and beat this disease," said Terry Russell, executive director of the National Association on Mental Illness Ohio. He called the Medicaid expansion "the most-significant development in years for the people I represent."

Kasich's proposed 2014-15 budget also calls for increasing the rate paid to adult-care facilities for the mentally ill, now \$16 to \$28 per day, and consolidating mental-health and drug-addiction services to save \$1.5 million annually and streamline services.

*To read the rest of the article please click [here](#).*

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