

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because it is a good time to thank and show gratitude to the people in your lives. Thank you for the very important work you do for Ohio's children and their families. You make such a positive difference in improving their lives and in the communities we all live, learn, and play.

Also, I am grateful to our team at Aetna Better Health of Ohio who has been working to implement a new and innovative approach to serving Ohio's children and families. In the last month, I have been busy selecting and onboarding my OhioRISE leadership team, including some of our key administrative, medical, and operational leaders. I will share more details and background on these individuals in early 2022.

My team and I are excited to see applications from organizations that want to participate as OhioRISE Care Management Entities (CME). For those of you who aren't familiar with the CMEs, these are the entities contracted with the OhioRISE Plan to provide behavioral health care coordination to OhioRISE Plan enrolled members. We issued a Request for Application (RFA) in late October. The RFA and background documents are located at: <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/cmeapplication>.

There are excellent resources on OhioRISE and the CMEs on the site, but I wanted to remind you of a few items:

- **CME application responses are due to the Plan by 5:00 PM EST on Wednesday, Dec 8, 2021.** Please submit applications to [CMEapplication@AETNA.com](mailto:CMEapplication@AETNA.com).
- You may apply for more than one catchment area, **please use a separate email for each catchment area application.**
- **CME applicants should include any start-up costs in their budget.** The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and Aetna Better Health of Ohio know that this program is about transitioning the way we do business and that organizations might need new to develop new resources to prepare for and manage the change. We anticipate and expect to see start-up costs included in the application budgets, which will help inform the grant making process. See the grant announcement here: [https://managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/15bf2657-d09c-41a8-8c2d-934ce94bf51e/OhioRISE+Transtion+Grants+Announcement\\_One-Pager\\_10142021\\_vFinal.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nOZ9B5u](https://managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/15bf2657-d09c-41a8-8c2d-934ce94bf51e/OhioRISE+Transtion+Grants+Announcement_One-Pager_10142021_vFinal.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nOZ9B5u)

Aetna Better Health of Ohio is committed to supplying all of the selected CME's with dedicated resources to support implementation and the work of OhioRISE, including a single, dedicated CME Relationship Specialist for each CME; provider relations specialists and a digital IT coordinator to answer any operational or technical questions; and access to free online (in-person when possible) training to support the work with OhioRISE enrollees, their families, and to boost CME professional development needs.

I will continue to provide you with updates and information to support this collaborative effort. Aetna Better Health of Ohio and ODM are excited to serve children and families and work with you to implement the OhioRISE Program.

Again, thank you for always looking for new and creative ways of strengthening the work with Ohio's children and their families. I hope you enjoy the time off with your friends and family and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Tracey Izzard

CEO, OhioRISE