

# *A Powerful Partner for Ohioans with Disabilities*



Annual Report  
2019 – 2020



Ohio Developmental  
Disabilities Council  
[www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov)

# Our Mission

The mission of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (Ohio DD Council) is to create change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life. The Ohio DD Council is one of a [national network of state councils](#), committed to self-determination and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. The Ohio DD Council:

- Advocates for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Initiates programs that enrich their lives.
- Demonstrates a consistent commitment to our mission.
- Educates about disability rights and the importance of self-determination.
- Encourages diversity and inclusion through our membership and activities.



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*This annual report covers Fiscal Years  
October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019  
October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020*

# Ohio DD Network

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is a part of the Ohio DD Network. The Network works together to improve outcomes for people with DD and their families to access needed services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion in all areas of community life. A representative from each of the Network partner organizations serves as a voting member on DD Council.

Under the general provisions of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), the DD Councils, the protection and advocacy (P&A) agencies and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) coordinate and collaborate on projects, initiatives and activities they undertake to fulfill the purpose of the DD Act.\*

The Network consists of the following programs authorized under the DD Act and administered by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:

- DD Council program: [Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
- Protection & Advocacy program (P&A): [Disability Rights Ohio](#)
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) program: [Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University](#)
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) program: [Cincinnati Children's Medical Center at the University of Cincinnati](#)

*\*The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) intends to "assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life."*



## Members of the Ohio DD Network

 **Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council**

 **Disability Rights OHIO**

 **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
NISONGER CENTER

 Cincinnati Children's  
changing the outcome together

 University of CINCINNATI

# Letter from Leadership



**Jo Spargo**  
Chairperson

*The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has increased and dedicated its focus to support Ohio to become a more fully inclusive and integrated state for people with developmental disabilities.*

*We work to create change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life through innovative advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities.*

*The Council and the community work together to achieve these goals. By providing grants driven by the goals in the Council's Five-Year State Plan, Ohio DD Council is able to empower agencies, organizations, individuals with disabilities, family members and the community-at-large to make systemic changes and sustainable impact for Ohioans with disabilities.*

*This annual report highlights over 20 projects across Ohio from advocacy, education, employment, transportation, community living and more that have moved the needle to a more integrated and inclusive Ohio.*

*We hope you enjoy reading this report, and recognize the work of the diligent and collaborative community and statewide partners the Council is fortunate to work with to build sustainable initiatives on behalf of Ohioans with disabilities and their families.*

“  
*We work to create change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.*  
”



**Carolyn Knight**  
Executive Director



**Ohio Developmental  
Disabilities Council**  
[www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov)

# Five-Year State Plan

The work and mission of the Ohio DD Council is driven by its Five-Year State Plan. The plan is developed by input from people with disabilities, family members and interested stakeholders from around the state.

The Council currently funds over 20 grants covering a wide range of areas related to issues experienced by people with developmental disabilities. The areas include:

- **Children and Health**
- **Community Living**
- **Communication**
- **Employment**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Outreach**
- **Public Policy**
- **Technology**

All projects adhere to DD Council's philosophy that people with developmental disabilities have the right to be productive, interdependent members of their communities and of society at large.



## Ohio Council Impact

- **Children and Health** ..... 6
- **Communication**..... 7
- **Community Living**..... 8
- **Employment** ..... 10
- **Leadership Development**..... 12
- **Outreach** ..... 13
- **Public Policy** ..... 14
- **Technology** ..... 15

## Children & Health

### MISSION

**Health:** To promote a healthy life for people with developmental disabilities.

**Children and Families:** To support and empower families of children and youth, aged birth to 21 years, with developmental disabilities to live the life they want to live.

### PROJECTS

**Better Child Care for the Student with Developmental Disabilities:**

Support young students with developmental disabilities to receive quality childcare through demonstrated best practices and procedures. (Grantee: University of Toledo)

**Family Support in Early Intervention:** Assist state and local early intervention leaders with the development of a comprehensive system of family support as part of Evidence Based Early Intervention services. (Grantee: Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities)

**Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities:** Identify and support participation in inclusive activities that promote healthy habits for people with disabilities of all ages. (Grantee: Cincinnati Children's Hospital)



### HIGHLIGHT

**Council supports Disability Rights Ohio's effort to ensure equality of care for people with disabilities**

**April 2020:** The Ohio DD Council signed onto a letter to Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton asking the state to provide guidance to healthcare providers to not make decisions about the availability of care or equipment that is based on a person's disability. The letter identified other states that have rules in place that allow ventilators and other care to be redirected away from people with disabilities to provide care for those without disabilities. The letter stated, "These protocols fail to recognize the humanity and dignity of people with disabilities by devaluing their lives. They also violate, among other laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ("Section 504"), and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act ("ACA)." The letter was drafted by Disability

Rights Ohio (DRO) and signed by DRO, DD Council, Cincinnati Children's Hospital UCEDD, OSILC, National MS Society, and Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging.





A Digital Series about the Impact of Technology on Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities



A Digital Series about the Impact of Limited Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food on Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities



BROUGHT TO YOU BY Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

A PODCAST BY THE OHIO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



OHIO DD COUNCIL  
Digest

Ohio Developmental  
Disabilities Council

## Communication

### PROJECTS

**Communication to Increase Public Awareness for People with Disabilities:** To ensure statewide public awareness of Ohio DD Council's contributions through creation and dissemination of products and programs relating to developmental disabilities issues. This will influence continual Council membership and outreach to individuals that represent the un/underserved populations of Ohio. (Grantee: O'Neill Communications)

### Examples of Public Awareness Projects:

- **The State of Tech** Info Brief series - July 2019 - [The State of Tech](#)
- **Food Desert** series - November 2019 - [Ohio's Food Desert Crisis](#)
- **Ohio DD Talks** podcasts - [launched June 2020](#)
- **DD Council Digest** blog - [launched March 2020](#)

### Most Requested Publications:

- **Guardianship in Ohio**  
The most frequently requested publication written by Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC and funded by the Ohio DD Council.
- **Estate Planning**  
Another joint project from Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC and the Ohio DD Council.
- **Alphabet Soup**  
A guide to disability-related acronyms.
- **Person First Language**  
A guide to help put the person first when speaking and writing about people with disabilities.

### NEWSLETTERS

- **DD Council Connection**
- **ReachOut e-Diversity News**
- **This Week in Public Policy**



Logan K. Philipps, Principal & William K. Root, Principal

Guardianship  
in Ohio



Ohio Developmental  
Disabilities Council



Planning for  
Bright Tomorrows

Estate and Future Planning for Ohioans  
with Disabilities and Those Who Love Them



Ohio Developmental  
Disabilities Council

Logan K. Philipps, Esq. & William K. Root, Esq.  
Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC, Dublin, OH



## Community Living

**MISSION** To identify and promote strategies, approaches, and resources that support adults with developmental disabilities as they choose where and with whom they wish to live and children with developmental disabilities in safe and nurturing family settings.

**PROJECTS** **Hashtag Support for Aging Caregivers:** Aging caregivers who support people with disabilities will have increased access to information that will assist them to find services and supports that provide relief. (Grantee: Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services)

**HIGHLIGHT** **“The Future is Now” sessions for Aging Caregivers**  
In 2020, the grantee held “The Future is Now” sessions that focused on aging caregivers. It was a multi-part series designed to help older caregivers and their family members make plans for the future. Throughout the series, families created a letter of intent, which is a non-legal document that captures family desires and goals for the future.



*Pictured L to R: Katherine Foley, SIL Executive Director; Karen Kerr, Council Member; Fatica Ayers, Council Staff; and Jim Pietrzycki, SIL Board Chair*

**HIGHLIGHT** **Services for Independent Living Presents Inclusion Award to Ohio DD Council**

**May 2019:** The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council was awarded the Inclusion Award from the Services for Independent Living (SIL). This award is given to an individual, group or agency that actively promotes community inclusion for persons with disabilities.

According to SIL’s Executive Director Katherine Foley, “This is the third such award our agency has given out in the past six years and one that is not given lightly! The Ohio DD Council is often thought of as a funding source, however they are so much more. The Council and its members are the agents of change, encouraging innovation and creativity to address barriers faced by

persons with disabilities and their families. They are active participants at systems-change tables. They are cheerleaders, bringing like-minded people together to brainstorm possibilities. They are active partners with their grantees. And they are an agency with a huge heart and absolutely deserving of this award.”



## Community Living

### PROJECTS

**Maximizing Resources and Changing Public Policy for Housing for Adults with Disabilities:** Develop best practices that will increase knowledge and awareness of critical housing policy to be resolved among housing stakeholders and empowered people with disabilities and their families to obtain affordable, safe, decent and accessible housing. (Grantee: Wild River Consulting)

**Partnership for Housing for People with Disabilities:** Council will partner and leverage dollars with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to work collaboratively with 100 other stakeholders so that people with disabilities and their families will have increased access to affordable and accessible housing in Ohio.

**Strengthening the Voices of Direct Support Professionals:** Over 1,000 direct support professionals who support people with disabilities and their families will be provided information to improve support by encouraging a better trained, more respected, and more involved workforce. (Grantee: Ohio Alliance for Direct Support Professionals)

**Sustaining & Expanding Accessible and Affordable Transportation for People with Disabilities Anytime:** There will be accessible and affordable transportation services for more than 300 people with disabilities in a portion of the Appalachian region of the state whenever needed/wanted, regardless of time of day, and if accessible and affordable transportation isn't available it will be created or expanded. (Grantee: Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action)



### HIGHLIGHT

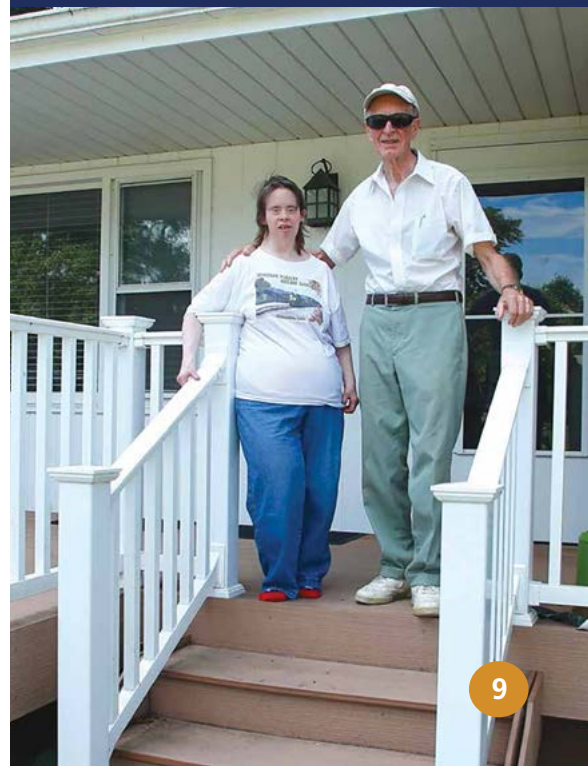
#### Transportation Equity: Working Together to Address Barriers

**October 2018:** An Ohio Transportation Equity Forum was held in Columbus, Ohio to address barriers to transportation as a community issue. The Ohio DD Council supported this event through a grant to Services for Independent Living. The Ohio Disability Transportation Coalition was the planning committee for this event.

*(Highlight continued on page 10)*



**People with disabilities and their families need access to affordable and accessible housing in Ohio.**



## Community Living

HIGHLIGHT

The Forum brought together public and private transportation providers; riders with disabilities and their family members; agencies serving the aging and disability populations; state government representatives; college students; legislators; systems change/policy advocates; and others to discuss promising programs, policy and strategies which will make the issue of transportation move forward in a positive direction in Ohio. Speakers included Matthew Horwitz, Deputy Civil Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio who discussed transportation accessibility and barriers from the perspective of the U.S. Department of Justice.

HIGHLIGHT

### The Ohio Aging & Disability Transportation Coalition

In 2020, Ohio's Centers for Independent Living, Ohio DD Council, Ohio Department of Transportation and Mobility Managers came together to launch the Ohio Aging & Disability Transportation Coalition.

The coalition launched #LetsGoOhio, a campaign to bring attention to transportation resources and information to recognize the need for better access to transit options. The campaign included a video series, press coverage and a social media campaign to increase awareness of transportation needs.



**OADTC - Educating, informing and advocating for better transportation systems across Ohio for people who are aging and with disabilities.**

Additionally, OADTC hosted the Transportation Equity Forum Webinar Series covering unmet needs, impact of access to transportation and leveraging new opportunities to expand access.

Through advocacy, it aims to educate and inform Ohioans who are aging and with disabilities, their family members, county boards of developmental disabilities, lawmakers and community organizations about the importance of transportation to live a meaningful life in the community.



*Rep. Doug Green; Ryan McManus, SHARE; Alyssa Chenault, Smart Columbus; Olivia Hook, ODOT speak during a panel session at the 2018 forum.*



*Kicking off the 2018 forum was Matthew Horwitz, Deputy Civil Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio*



**Addressing barriers to transportation is a community issue.**



## Employment

### PROJECTS MISSION

To improve and expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community to the best of their ability.

**Change Makes Sense:** A program was developed to increase financial literacy and independence for students with developmental disabilities in Ohio for improved economic success. (Grantee: Abilities in Action)

**Employer Engagement:** Aims to train and educate Ohio employers on disability inclusion strategies that help impact their bottom line and increase the number of employers hiring people with developmental disabilities. (Grantee: Disability:IN Ohio)

**Employment Demonstrations/Jobcom:** Two best practices will increase (1) awareness and capacity building and (2) the number of employers hiring people with developmental disabilities. (Grantee: Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley)

**Money Matters:** Financial literacy will improve the economic stability and advancement of individuals with disabilities and family members. (Grantee: Lucas County Board of DD)

### HIGHLIGHT

In 2020, many grantees had to adjust their project activities due to Ohio's restrictions on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But that didn't stop the important work being done for our grants! For example, two of our employment grants, Change Makes Sense and Employer Engagement, successfully adapted their activities and ended up reaching a larger audience.

**Change Makes Sense:** *"When we learned that schools were being closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic we quickly reached out to the Special Education Coordinator to discuss how to continue the project. We got to work on making the lessons into a digital format that could be shared with the students. We were also able to develop another version for printing and distribution if students did not have access to the technology,"* explained Kara Ault, assistant operations director of Abilities in Action. In addition, they created lessons using an online platform and have partnered with the Clearwater Council of Governments to reach adult day service programs in seven counties. (Grantee: Abilities in Action)

**Employer Engagement:** The night before a large conference was set to begin, Ohio's governor announced the state-at-home orders in March 2020. Sixty people had already signed up to attend. Within 12 hours, the grantee changed the entire conference to an online platform, presenting it as a webinar that included all the scheduled panelists. This focus has continued as they are shifting all their work online.

*"We believe employers want to be inclusive on all levels. The goal of our grant is to help that belief come to fruition by providing educational opportunities to employers to help them accomplish inclusivity,"* said Chris Moranda, Executive Director of Disability:IN Ohio. *"Often, people with disabilities work from home. Now all the workforce is working from home,"* added TyKiah Wright, Owner of Wright Choice Consulting as she shared why this pandemic could open employers' eyes to a huge segment of future employees. (Grantee: Disability:INOhio)

“ Council grantees continue important work despite pandemic restrictions. ”

# Leadership Development

**PROJECTS MISSION**

To educate and provide opportunities to empower people with developmental disabilities to be leaders.

**Empowering Self-Advocates:** Multi-grant project with the objective to increase the number of self-advocate leaders with developmental disabilities by empowering them through skill development and opportunities to be effective leaders. (Grantees: Best Buddies International, Inc., Ohio Self-Determination Association, Services for Independent Living)



Sharla and Alex from Columbus, Ohio met five years ago at a Best Buddies Ohio

## GRANTEE PHOTOS

Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail from Euclid, Ohio joined others in honoring the graduates for their hard work in completing the Leadership Academy. From Left to Right: Cynthia Young, Laura Gold, Margaret Biehl, Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, and Emma Barkin.



Project STIR - Leadership Training by and for people with disabilities from the Ohio Self-Determination Program



Members of Project STIR training team - Tony Meza, Jeremy Jackson and Bill Peters



# Outreach

## MISSION

To conduct outreach activities to identify individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who otherwise might not come to the attention of the Council and assist individuals and families to obtain services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance including access to special adaptation of generic community or specialized services.

## PROJECTS

**Expanding the Amish Community Project:** Amish families will have increased access to a potential diagnosis and culturally competent follow-up care and support. (Grantee: DDC Clinic for Children with Special Needs)

**“Reach Out” e-Diversity Newsletter:** Bi-monthly newsletter with the purpose to educate and inform people with disabilities, their families and stakeholders about the benefits of culturally competent interagency collaboration. (Grantee: Outcome Management Group)

**Sustaining the Triple Jeopardy Statewide Network:** Identify and reach out to African American women with disabilities in Ohio to participate in network activities to collectively inform policy, identify barriers to supports and services and demand action. (Grantee: Cassandra Archie)

## OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The screenshot shows the Ohio.gov website with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council logo and navigation menu. The main heading is "Outreach - Reaching the Unserved and Underserved". Below this, there is a paragraph describing the council's outreach activities. A "Learn more:" section lists several resources, including "The Importance of Outreach" and "Unserved and Underserved Defined". A photo of a group of people is also visible. On the right side of the page, there is a "Questions? Contact us!" section with contact information for Ken Latham, including a phone number and email address.



**NACDD’s Sheryl Mattney Attends Council Meeting to Discuss the Importance of Diversity through Outreach**  
[\(link to video\)](#)

**[Website landing page with Outreach resources](#)**

# Public Policy

## PROJECTS

**DD Awareness & Advocacy Day:** People with developmental disabilities, their family members and friends and others will be active in systems advocacy through a single coordinated awareness and advocacy day. (Grantee: Ohio Provider Resource Association)

DD Awareness and Advocacy Day is hosted during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which is celebrated every March. It is funded and organized by the Ohio DD Council through a grant with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Self Determination Association.

The program offers a chance for advocates to bring public awareness about issues like transportation, employment, access to direct support providers, and health care. The event is also an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to meet with legislators and staff to share their story and to advocate for public policy change.



2019



2019



Casper Shahan, Dara Walburn, Gov. Mike DeWine, and Matt Harrison celebrate 2019 DD Advocacy & Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse.

## HIGHLIGHT

### Supports Matter at this year's DD Awareness and Advocacy Day (2019)

*"I encourage you to talk to us. Send us letters and give us ideas," said Governor DeWine. "There are still people with disabilities who want to do more, work more and participate more, but there are barriers. While change cannot happen overnight, I want*

*you all to work with us over the next four years to have more and more people with disabilities to reach and live up to their potential."*

Joining the list of speakers was also Ohio DD Council member and chair of the Council's public policy committee Dara Walburn. *"Advocacy is important because, with all of us, we can be the difference that spreads hope like wildfire,"* said Walburn, who has advocated for herself since the age of four.



**400+**  
Number of people who packed the Statehouse Atrium in 2020



2020

# Technology

Advancements in mainstream technology have made off-the-shelf tech devices more accessible to people with disabilities, in addition to traditional assistive technology devices. The Ohio DD Council supported this new wave of technology by funding several grants and supporting initiatives of other agencies and organizations. Council chose a step-by-step approach to addressing the ever-changing world of technology.

## 1 STEP 1: Assessing Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities Grant

**April 2018:** The purpose of the project was to find best practices and solutions when providing support for assistive technology within Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities system. The intent was to identify barriers and find ways to improve the identification, assessment, funding and ongoing training processes of the county board system when providing assistive technology supports to people with developmental disabilities. Read the final report here: [Assessing Assistive Technology Service Delivery in the Ohio County Board of Developmental Disabilities System](#) (Grantee: OCALI)

## 2 STEP 2: Surveying Ohio's Assistive Technology Lending Programs Grant

**May 2018:** The purpose of the project was to gather information and develop a comprehensive list of assistive technology lending programs/libraries, including details about the services each provides. Read the final report here: [Identification of Assistive Technology Lending Programs in Ohio](#) (Grantee: OCALI)

## 3 STEP 3: Ohio Becomes Technology First State

In **May 2018**, Ohio was named a Technology First State per executive order signed by the Governor. Ohio was the first state in the US to do this. Shortly after the order was signed, an Ohio Technology First Council met for six months to make recommendations to develop state policy. DD Council's Executive Director Carolyn Knight was a part of the Tech First Council. The reports from the two grants listed above were considered by the Tech First Council.

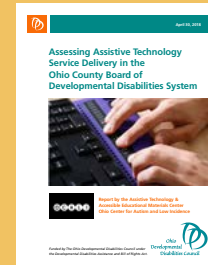
## 4 STEP 4: Remote Support Mini-Grants

**January 2019:** The Ohio DD Council awarded a \$100,000 grant to The Ohio State University Nisonger Center to increase the number of recipients of Nisonger's 2018 Remote Support Grant. With Council's funding, five additional Ohio county boards of developmental disabilities and Councils of Governments

# TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP

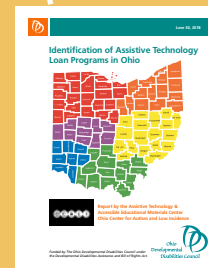
1

**April 2018**  
**Assessing Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities**



2

**May 2018**  
**Surveying Ohio's Assistive Technology Lending Programs**



**3** **May 2018**  
**Ohio Becomes Technology First State**

4

**January 2019**  
**Remote Support Mini-Grants expanded**

**50%**

44 of Ohio's 88 counties will use this funding to improve and expand the use of remote support for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

# Technology

(COGs) were awarded \$20,000 each to expand the use of remote support in their counties. With the addition of Council's funding, 44 of Ohio's 88 counties will use this funding to improve and expand the use of remote support for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. (Grantee: Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University)

## 5 STEP 5: Telehealth Services in Assistive Technology Grant

**Completed 2019:** To identify, support and pursue a sustainable technology service delivery program for adults with developmental disabilities using a hybrid telehealth service delivery program (in-person and communicating remotely via technology) via Medicaid reimbursement so that more adults with developmental disabilities have access to obtaining assistive technology. (Grantee: Assistive Technology Center at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center)

## 6 STEP 6: Building Capacity for Assistive Technology Service Delivery in Ohio Grant

**Began January 2020:** Focuses on building the knowledge of Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) to improve the provision of assistive technology supports and services within Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities. This will increase the number of people with developmental disabilities in each of Ohio's 88 counties to learn about and get assistive technology to enable them to lead more independent and self-determined lives. (Grantee: OCALI)



5 Completed 2019  
Telehealth Services  
in Assistive Technology



6 Began  
January 2020  
Building Capacity  
for Assistive  
Technology  
Service Delivery  
in Ohio



### The cost of internet access

fluctuates drastically throughout Ohio, with people in rural areas paying much more than those living in urban areas.



*The ability to use a laptop or tablet to communicate allows people with disabilities to use the same technology as people without disabilities.*



Approximately  
**2.4 MILLION**  
Ohio households are without adequate access to broadband, especially in rural settings.



Americans with disabilities who are more likely to say they never go online vs. those without a disability

Fast Facts about  
Technology from our  
State of Tech Series





## Ohio DD Council Members

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) consists of at least 30 members appointed by the governor. Members are people with developmental disabilities, parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities, representatives from concerned state agencies, and nonprofit organizations and local agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities.

More specifically, the federal DD Act requires that the membership must comply with the following categories:

- Individual with a developmental disability.
- Parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability.
- An immediate relative or guardian of an adult with a developmental disability who cannot advocate for his/herself.
- An immediate relative or guardian or an institutionalized or previously institutionalized individual with a developmental disability or an individual with a developmental disability who resides or previously resided in an institution.
- A representative of a local and non-governmental agency concerned with services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- A representative of a private non-profit group concerned with services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Ohio DD Council strives to have representation from all counties of Ohio. As of 2020, our current and past members represent 45% of Ohio's 88 counties.



As of 2020,  
our current  
and past  
members  
represent:



# Ohio DD Council Members as of September 30, 2020

Map of DD Council Member Representation - 2020

## Individuals with a developmental disability

- **Brenda Brandon**, Oak Harbor, Ohio
- **Michael Denlinger**, Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Morgan Gattermeyer**, Hamilton, Ohio
- **Matt Harrison**, Greenville, Ohio
- **James Plasencia**, Bucyrus, Ohio
- **Rachel Rice**, Franklin, Ohio
- **Michael Richards**, Greenfield, Ohio
- **Marcella Straughter**, Columbus, Ohio
- **Dara Walburn**, Athens, Ohio
- **Brandon White**, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

## Family members or guardians of children with a developmental disability

- **Rochelle Hall-Rollins**, Holland, Ohio
- **Karen Kerr**, Swanton, Ohio
- **Benjamin Pesich**, Dublin, Ohio
- **Jill Radler**, Delphos, Ohio
- **Rhonda Rich**, Troy, Ohio
- **Joanna Spargo**, Uniontown, Ohio
- **Victor Wilson**, New Albany, Ohio

## Immediate relatives or guardians of adults with developmental disabilities who cannot advocate for his/herself

- **Lori Kershner**, Springboro, Ohio

## Parent or guardian of a person with a developmental disability who resides in or who has resided in an institution, OR an individual with a developmental disability who resides in or who have resided in an institution

- **Jean Jakovlic**, Columbus, Ohio

## Private non-profit organization which serves persons with a developmental disability (education, research, and service)

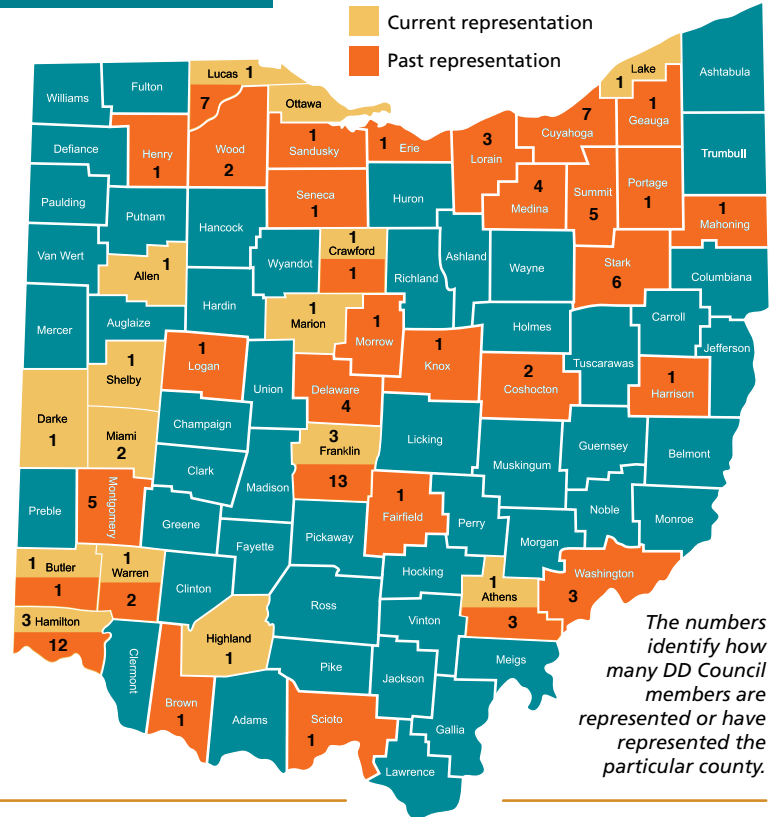
- **Pamela Green**, Cincinnati, Ohio

## Private agency which serves persons with a developmental disability (education, research, and service)

- Vacant

## Protection & Advocacy Agency (P&A)

- Disability Rights Ohio: **Kerstin Sjoberg**



## University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)

- The Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University: **Paula Rabidoux**
- University of Cincinnati UCEDD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center: **Ilka Riddle**

## Representatives of State Government

- Ohio Department of Aging: **Emilia R. Jackson**
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities: **Vicki Jenkins**
- Ohio Department of Education: **Mark Smith**
- Ohio Department of Health: **Bobbi Krabill**
- Ohio Department of Medicaid: **Jacquelyn 'Jackie' George**
- Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services: **Ellie Jazi**
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities: **Shannon Komisarek**

## County Board Representative (Non-voting representative)

- Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities: **Kellie Brown**

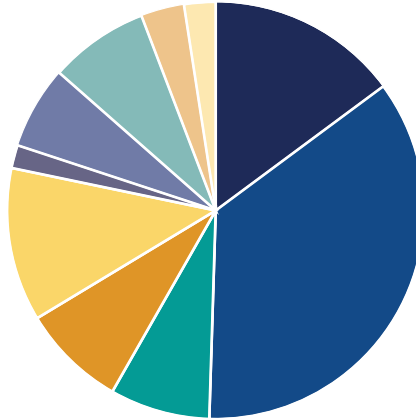
# ≈ \$3 MILLION

Amount per year the DD Council spends to support people with developmental disabilities in Ohio

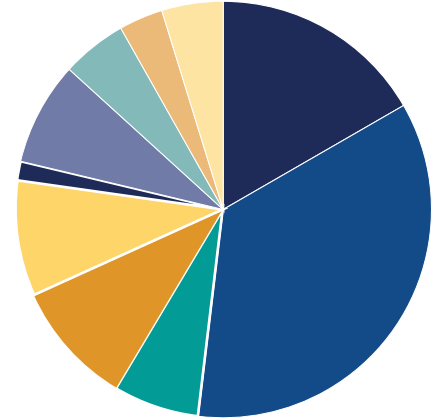
EXPENDITURES	2019	2020
Administrative	\$441,889	\$488,126
Programs	\$1,060,668	\$1,030,975
<b>Grant Projects</b>		
Assistive Technology / Communication	\$231,000	\$195,000
Children & Health	\$241,212	\$282,938
Community Living	\$354,384	\$263,794
Executive	\$53,187	\$43,427
Employment	\$191,364	\$235,000
Leadership Development	\$229,472	\$148,324
Outreach	\$100,000	\$100,000
Public Policy	\$72,628	\$139,400
	<b>\$2,975,804</b>	<b>\$2,926,984</b>

## Financials

Expenditures by Category 2019



Expenditures by Category 2020



Fiscal Years Covered:

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

HIGHLIGHT



### Ohio DD Council Members Go to Washington!

**September 2019:** Ohio DD Council Member Michael Denlinger was one of almost a dozen Council Members who traveled to Washington DC to participate in federal briefings on disability policy and to meet with members of Congress. Denlinger, serving as a DD Council Member from Hamilton County, was able to meet with his Congressman Steve Chabot and with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown.

The trip, planned by the Ohio DD Council, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, provided members of all three organizations an opportunity to learn, network and advocate. The program included a day where members learned about Medicaid block-grants, the Disability Integration Act, and efforts to eliminate healthcare discrimination against people with disabilities.

Denlinger has been a vocal advocate with his federal policymakers for years, but he said this was the first time he was able to meet face-to-face with his Congressman. Jo Spargo, Chairperson of the DD Council, said this trip was the best one she's participated in as a member of the Council.

"Our meetings with legislators went very well, and having folks representing county boards and independent living centers in each meeting made the conversation with each of the policymakers flow very smoothly," said Spargo. "I know this was a lot of work to plan, but it was definitely worth it in the end."

## Ohio DD Council Staff



- **Carolyn Knight**, Executive Director
- **Fatica Ayers**, Policy Analyst  
Community Living Committee
- **Rebecca Bates**, Policy Analyst  
Children & Health Committee
- **Leslie Connelly**, Policy Analyst  
Employment Committee  
Leadership Development  
Committee
- **Carla Cox**, Program  
Administrator  
Executive Committee
- **Gilbrina Dillon**, Program  
Administrator
- **Gary Groom**, Financial Program  
Manager
- **Paul Jarvis**, Policy Analyst  
Public Policy Committee
- **Ken Latham**, Policy Analyst  
Outreach Committee
- **Robin Shipp**, Senior Financial  
Analyst
- **Kim Shoaf**, Electronic Design  
Specialist

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