

**Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities
2025 Annual Plan**

Individuals Served During 2024 (estimate)

Administrative Services	
Family Support Services	7
Educational Services	
Early Intervention Services	206
Employment Services	100
Community Integration Services	200
Service and Support Administration	
Active Individuals	231
Waiver Services	
IO Waiver	63
Level One Waiver	74
Self-Waiver	4
Local Funded Services	90
Waiting List	6

Administrative Services

Family Support Services: Family Support Services (FSS) is a program that provides support, services and assistance to eligible families for the purpose of:

- Enabling a family to care for their family member with developmental disabilities at home by assisting with specific expenses.
- Enhancing the quality of life for the family, including the individual with developmental disabilities.

The Family Support Liaison (FSL), with input from the FSS Committee (consisting of the FSL, and at least one representative from each department) administers the program. The program is evaluated on an ongoing basis by the administrative staff of the Board of Developmental Disabilities. This service is a collaborative effort with referrals often given by Service and Support, Early Intervention, the DD Educational Services Administrator, the Health Department, local school districts, Clinton County Family & Children First Council (CCFCFC) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

FSS is the payor of last resort. Funds are to be used for goods and services that include, but are not limited to: adaptive equipment, home modification, car repair/car payment, transportation (must utilize an agency provider), medical needs, therapies,

rent/utilities, and other goods and services specific to meeting the needs of an individual or family.

A family is eligible for FSS if their household includes a child or adult with a disability who has been determined eligible by the Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities and has a current IFSP, IEP, or ISP. The family's income is not considered in determining eligibility for the FSS program. Individuals living in residential facilities, group homes (semi-independent or independent), or in foster care, and those enrolled in a Medicaid waiver are not eligible for FSS funding.

Educational Services

Early Intervention Services: Early Intervention (EI) is Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal law that provides children's rights in special education including early identification and referral. Early Intervention services are offered in all 88 counties throughout the state of Ohio. Children birth through age two can receive services if they have a diagnosed physical or mental condition or a documented developmental delay. Early Intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist families/caregivers to enhance their child's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities. In addition, Early Intervention helps to build parents/caregivers competence and confidence and works to teach caregivers to be lifelong advocates for their child.

The Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities offers service coordination and the provision of specialized services (Developmental Specialists, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist) to families using an evidence-based model that supports the family in the child's natural environment using coaching interaction strategies. Other services provided to the team are Speech and Language Pathologist, vision and hearing specialists offered through the state and region, contracted services for mental health consultant (early childhood) and behavior specialist, and nursing services (resource for the EI team and for evaluations). The county board offers a Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) project consultant service for young children receiving EI services and preschoolers to age 5. The Early Intervention team coordinates with other community agencies to offer family activities both in the community and at the board (Special Olympics for Young Athletes (SOYA), and monthly play groups and events).

Transition Services: Employment First (EF) is a policy to ensure every person with a disability of working age has opportunities to seek employment if desired. A person-centered process supports each person assessing services to identify their desired employment goal and their place on the path to community employment. The Transition Coordinator (TC) strives to build and maintain relationships with

employers in the local community, local school districts, students, young adults and their families, and other supporting agencies. This is completed through work experiences and job readiness programs, and collaboration with agencies to support individuals in securing and maintaining employment. In addition, the TC works closely with the individuals on their path to employment.

Community Integration Services: Community Integration is a service that provides opportunities for interaction and inclusion in a variety of community settings. The coordinator facilitates activities and events for the individuals served by the agency that are community-based and integrated through group partnerships in the community. In addition, the Community Integration Coordinator (CIC) provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to learn how to become advocates for themselves through meetings, training opportunities, and local advocacy organizations created by the Board. Special Olympics, SOYA, and recreational events are also overseen by the CIC.

Service and Support Administration

The Service and Support Department has eight Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) with assigned caseloads, one Eligibility and Investigation Coordinator, one Provider Support Coordinator, one Employment Coordinator, a Service and Support Manager, a Service and Support Director, and a secretary.

The SSAs have an average caseload size of 28, with approximately 231 active individuals. There are 141 Individuals enrolled on a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, which is 61% of the individuals served. There are 90 individuals, or 39%, receiving services that are funded locally. Out of the 39% of individuals receiving locally funded services, 1 individual receives residential services in the home and 1 individual receives respite services on a monthly basis. The remaining 88 individuals receive service coordination and/or adult day services under local funding. At the end of 2024, we had 6 individuals on the waiting list for a Home and Community Based Services Waiver.

The SSAs serve as the single point of contact, to assist in coordinating all services for individuals served. The SSAs are responsible for: conducting person-centered assessments; conducting level of care assessments; developing individual service plans (ISP's) utilizing a person-centered approach; promoting employment first; assistance with selecting residential, employment, and day program providers; reviewing all funding options available; providing on going service coordination, linkage, and monitoring to ensure each individual receives quality services. The Service and Support Department also has an on-call system where someone can be reached 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, if/when there is an emergency or a major unusual incident (MUI). The OT, PT, Family Support Liaison, and the County Board

Nurse also works closely with the Service and Support Department by completing observations, assessments, and recommendations for individuals served.

The Board provides in-kind services to the non-profit housing board, the Residential Advisory Council Inc. (RACI), to ensure affordable, quality housing options are available to individuals served. The Service and Support Manager and the Director both serve on the housing board to assist in ensuring housing options are available to individuals. All of the homes operated by the housing board are integrated within the community. We evaluate the fair market rent amounts annually to determine if the monthly rent amounts are affordable. Housing is currently provided by the housing board to 21 individuals, or 9% of the individuals served. We maintain approximately three vacancies each month in the homes under the housing board.

2024 GOALS REVIEW

INTEGRATION

Summary:

In 2024, the Transition Coordinator participated in several county wide employment programs including a job fair for all county schools and community members, and a Transition Fair for all county juniors and seniors in high school. Employment outcomes are incorporated into the ISPs for individuals based upon their interests and preferences. When individuals express an interest in self-advocacy, supports and outcomes are composed to assist them. The teams continue to disseminate information and educate individuals and families about community employment options. As part of the ISP assessment process each individual is asked a minimum of one time yearly about his or her desire for employment.

We have several DD representatives that attend local committee meetings such as the Domestic Violence Council, Community Corrections Board, Family and Children First Council, Clinton County Work Force Collaborative, Clinton County Youth Collaborative, Clinton County Community Action Governing Board, Clinton County Literacy Committee to collaborate with other agencies on serving individuals.

The Community Integration Coordinator (CIC) facilitates activities that are community-based and integrated as much as possible. Some of these events have included: art nights, video game nights, movies, dances, canoe trips, and attending a play. We will continue to work in our community to ensure activities are integrated and community based.

Special Olympics for Young Athletes (SOYA) has been in operation since 2017 and is now an ongoing event throughout the year for families of children ages 2-7. We have participated in all local school preschool programs field days and attended special events with the schools to share SOYA activities with the students as well as a soccer camp at Denver Williams Park.

Our county's Special Olympics (coordinated by the CIC) offers competitive sports for individuals and also recreational teams.

We coordinated a track and field night under the lights with the support of all four local school districts. This event took place at Wilmington High School track and was a great success. Fayette County and Warren County's Track and Field teams joined us for the event. We have also continued with our bowling leagues in the early fall and have added Flag Football.

The CIC has built relationships with all 4 school districts. Laurel Oaks and the Southern Ohio Educational Services Center Alternative school is teaching self-advocacy topics to high school classes. In addition, the TC has also developed relationships with these Local Education Agencies by coordinating work experiences for interested high school classes which has also created positive relationships with local businesses. The Transition Coordinator has work with all local school districts to provide the Real Money, Real World program to middle and high school students.

Advocates from our local advocacy group have been meeting monthly developing an anti-bullying campaign which they have presented at the local high schools. They are asking students to make a pledge to stop bullying and sign a commitment card. They have also been participating in several other events supporting our community such as reading to Head Start students, making "birthday kits" for individuals in need, and volunteering at events.

An average of 25-30 individuals have been attending a monthly activity in the community called Just Hanging Out. Just Hanging Out is a once-a-month opportunity for socializing, while meeting on Zoom or at different restaurants to explore new locations within our communities.

In 2024, we added several new Non-Medical Transportation providers to assist individuals in accessing integrated community employment opportunities. The Provider Support Coordinator (PSC) and the Employment Coordinator (EC) also met with FRS about expanding their transportation services to Clinton County. The PSC and EC also contacted Southern Ohio Transport Services to see if the company would be willing to provide services to individuals served in Clinton.

EMPLOYMENT

Summary:

Outcomes are developed and based upon each individual's current path to employment to ensure individuals are progressing toward community employment if desired. If/when, an individual expresses an interest in pursuing an entrepreneurship, the SSAs will incorporate services and outcomes into the ISP as well to support this. We had thirty-four individuals employed at the end of 2024, compared to thirty at the end of 2023. SSA made twenty-eight referrals to the EC and/or OOD. The TC made nine referrals to OOD as well.

Our TC organized summer youth programs for high school students and young adults for the past seven years working collaboratively with OOD, local providers, and our community youth council. There was positive interaction with local businesses hosting student tours and information sharing sessions. Many participants discovered career paths they had not originally considered.

The TC has had regular communication with OOD counselors through bi-monthly meetings. She has arranged tours of local businesses for OOD counselors to welcome them into the community to help generate job ideas for interested individuals. The TC has also worked in coordination with the regional transition council to create a regional transition fair for high school juniors and seniors. Bi-monthly PAN meetings are held to share information and resources for OOD, Agencies as well as SSAs. Local employers, such as Amazon, and Clinton County transit have been invited to these meetings to share information about job opportunities and services.

The Service and Support Director and the Employment Coordinator met with OOD Representatives to learn more about becoming a certified OOD Vendor/Provider. We initiated the application process in 2024 and are planning to become certified in 2025 as an OOD Vendor /Provider, so individuals that are interested in community employment have other options to choose from in Clinton. We met with another County Board of Developmental Disabilities to learn more about their employment program and how to bill for services provided through OOD as well.

PROVIDER SERVICES AND RELATIONS

Summary:

In 2022, we hired a Provider Support Coordinator (PSC). The new position is dedicated to recruiting new providers and providing support to those serving in Clinton County. The PSC is also responsible for completing compliance reviews, on site trainings to DSPs, facilitating regular provider meetings, helping with certification and billing, and being the agency's main contact for supportive technology. The PSC

has started recognizing providers that go above and beyond on a regular basis via social media and through a quarterly newsletter. The PSC will survey the providers, to determine how the county board can better support them moving forward. We will utilize the feedback received from the surveys in developing future goals, trainings, etc. In 2025, we are planning to host a formal event to recognize all providers serving in Clinton County along with recognizing all employers.

We have transitioned fully to implementing the statewide Ohio ISP (OISP). The OISP assists providers and county boards when individuals transfer from one county to another for continuity of care. In 2024, we began the process of uploading the ISP's to the states system, which will allow providers immediate access to the authorized OISP for downloading, developing documentation sheets, etc. We will have all OISP's uploaded for each individual served by January of 2025. The PSC also started assisting the providers in 2024 through several trainings on how to access the OISP through DODD OISP application.

The Provider Support Coordinator schedules routine provider trainings to assist the providers in maintaining their certification and to promote quality services. Currently the PSC is certified to provide First Aid and CPR. The PSC become certified to provide Crisis Prevention Intervention training in 2023. The PSC began providing Crisis Prevention training in 2024 and it will continue to be offered to providers who feel they need additional training to support individuals with more intensive needs. We were unable to visit high schools and vocational schools on a routine basis to recruit additional providers, so in 2025 we will focus more on this area.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Summary:

Over the year we have provided virtual services, in-person services as well as a hybrid of both in Early Intervention. With the majority of families receiving in-person services as determined by the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) process.

Two of our Early Intervention Developmental Specialists have received their certification as PLAY consultants and provide PLAY therapy to children up to age 5 years.

Early Intervention play groups have happened once a month and in collaboration with story time at the local library.

Interagency agreements have been completed with all local school districts addressing transition from EI services to preschool eligibility. We continue to support our

districts with the Educational Services Administrator in attendance at many Transition Planning Conferences. We continue to work to ensure timeline are upheld for the families of early intervention children.

We supported 24 families in working with the local school districts at the preschool and school age level to ensure families understand the process of evaluation as well as resolving conflict due to misunderstandings or lack of information. Of the 24 families 4 were attending middle schools. During the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years 4 students on IEP who were identified as at-risk for graduation received mentoring services to support them on their path through school. We have also participated in resource fairs held at 3 local school districts.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Summary:

During calendar year 2024, the Family Support Liaison (FSL) held Family Support Series sessions that covered various topics. Topics covered were: Bumbling Through Benefits, Free Appropriate Public Education Make it or Take IT, Supported Decision Making in Guardianship, Transition from High School to Adulthood, Child's Right to a FAPE, and Understanding and Participating in Your Child's IEP. We will continue to offer educational sessions to support families in 2025.

Last year we implemented a process in which individuals and families are referred to the FSL when minimal supports are identified to connect them to community resources. At the end of 2024, the FSL was the primary contact for six individuals and families. The Educational Services Administrator continues to support students as well, and in 2024 the ESA served 24 students compared to 16 in 2023.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Summary:

In 2023, the Board explored options to decrease capital expenses to operate as efficiently as possible and decided to relocate our business operations into Wilmington. At the end of 2023, the Board initiated the process to sell the Nike Center and purchase our new properties at 180 E. Sugartree Street, Wilmington and 181 Owens Avenue, Wilmington. In 2024 we renovated the Sugartree Street property and moved operations to the new location in September 2024. In November 2024, we broke ground on building our storage facility on the Owens Avenue property and anticipate completion in early spring of 2025. Making this move saves our board approximately \$200K annually in capital expenses.

The Superintendent and Business Manager met in December 2024 to review and

update the records retention schedule. They identified areas that need updated and will continue working on the updates in 2025.

The Superintendent designated a secretary to coordinate and order all supplies. Access to the supply closet has been limited and the secretary will distribute and order supplies as needed.

TECHNOLOGY

Summary:

In 2024, the Provider Support Coordinator ensured that individuals, families, SSAs, and providers were kept abreast of emerging technologies through a technology first padlet and social media. In 2025 we intend to continue and expand this practice.

The Provider Support Coordinator arranged several trainings in 2024 with plans to continue this in 2025 as well. We have several individuals that now access various forms of supportive technology and along with remote supports. We will continue to provide information on the supportive technology options, so that individuals can become more independent in all aspects of their lives.

2025 GOALS

INTEGRATION

Goal: Expand community-based engagement efforts to safely integrate all people into our community

Action: Explore ways to provide transportation to events and activities to those without transportation alternatives

Action: Explore integration opportunities for Special Olympics and county board-sponsored recreational activities

Action: Work with providers to ensure that services are community-based, person-centered, and meaningful

EMPLOYMENT

Goal: Educate individuals on employment opportunities and support them on their path to employment

Action: Increase the number of adults employed in the community to 45

Action: Educate youth and families regarding employment opportunities

Action: Increase family and community perceived capabilities of individuals

Action: Work with state partners to determine the benefit of becoming a certified employment provider

PROVIDER SERVICES AND RELATIONS

Goal: Ensure availability of a pool of certified providers that offer choice and quality services

Action: Visit high schools and vocational schools to recruit and share information on becoming HPC and transportation providers

Action: Recruit additional HPC, SELF, and transportation providers

Action: Encourage and incentivize providers to offer respite opportunities

HOUSING

Goal: Explore and plan for future residential needs

Action: Explore possibility of partnering with an outside entity to assume responsibility for overseeing developmental disability housing options

Action: Determine process of transferring houses, including state-funded houses, to new oversight entity

Action: Develop strategy to maintain an arm's length relationship while remaining involved with new housing entity

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Goal: Work with educational entities to expand opportunities for individuals

Action: Support community understanding of Help Me Grow, Early Intervention, and Part B services under the new state-level cabinet

Action: Increase supports for pre-kindergarten to kindergarten transition for families and school staff

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Goal: Ensure that the public's interaction with staff is helpful and leads to positive experiences

Action: Present to a variety of community groups on a quarterly basis to improve community outreach, improve understanding of eligibility and services provided, and to develop new partnerships

Action: Explore possibility of developing a website separate from the county that is more engaging and promotes activities and events

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Goal: Ensure that business practices increase awareness, foster financial stability, and provide opportunities that help to fulfill our mission

Action: Update records retention schedule

Action: Engage staff in team-building activities that cross departments to improve morale and relationships

TECHNOLOGY

Goal: Educate individuals, families, guardians, staff, providers, and community partners on the importance and effectiveness of utilizing technology as a strategy to support individuals in all aspects of their lives

Action: Increase the number of individuals who access technology, as a component of their service delivery options and incorporated into their Individual Service Plans, to
25

2025 BUDGET

The Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities shall plan and set priorities based on available resources and in accordance with OAC 5123:04-01, ORC sections 5126.04 and 5126.054, and all other applicable requirements. The board develops an annual waiver plan and sets priorities through the annual budgeting and strategic planning processes. The board continues to maintain a strategic plan and a 5-year financial projection (Appendix A) based on current resources. These plans are reviewed annually by the board and its committees and may be subject to revisions based on changing circumstances.

In accordance with 5126.054 the board will maintain a waiting list of individuals who seek enrollment on a home and community-based waiver as needed. The board plans enrollment of new individuals in home and community-based services in accordance with DODD procedures, waiting list, local policies, and when sufficient resources are available to support services. Case management services are provided as referrals are received, at which point service needs are assessed and annual costs are projected. The board commits to paying the required non-federal share of Medicaid services under ORC 5126.059 and 5126.0510. This non-federal share is funded by utilizing state waiver allocation and local levy dollars. The non-federal share is incorporated into the annual and long-term budgets.