



Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

State Plan for Developmental Disabilities

2022 – 2026

This is an Executive Summary written in clear language to describe the proposed grant projects for the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council State Plan for 2022 – 2026. The entire State Plan is found on Council's website at <http://ddc.ohio.gov>.

Table of Contents

Children and Health Projects	4
Come Together.....	5
Empowering Families	5
Inclusive Recreation	6
Community Living Projects	7
DSP White Paper in Action.....	8
Replicate and Expand Transportation Project.....	8
SOAR Ohio Project & Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council	9
Employment Projects	10
DB101 Videos.....	11
Dollars and Sense	11
Employer Engagement.....	12
Employment Resources	12
Leadership Development Projects	13
Emerging Advocates	14
Empowering People with Disabilities.....	14
ODDC and Advocacy	15
Outreach Projects	16
Detecting Specific Disorders for Amish and Non-Amish Communities Project	17
Empowering Reachout E-Diversity Newsletter.....	17
Human Trafficking and Vulnerable Populations	18
Ohio’s LGBTQ Community and People with Disabilities	18
Public Awareness/Communication Projects	19
Public Awareness Using Digital Media for People with Developmental Disabilities	20
Public Policy Projects	21

DD Awareness & Advocacy Day	22
Federal Legislative Advocacy Partnership (FLAP)	22
General Assembly Briefing Sessions	23
Public Policy Research Grants	23
Value of PWD (Vocational Apprenticeship/Legislature Utilizing Employment of People with Disabilities).....	23
Executive Committee	25
Capacity Building, Advocacy and Systems Change by Council Staff.....	26
Consumer Satisfaction Survey	26
Executive Committee Discretionary Fund	26
External Evaluation of Council's Projects & Processes	27
Systems Change and Advocacy by Members/Council Travel.....	27

Children and Health Projects



Come Together

Family advocacy programs provide critical services to individuals and families throughout Ohio. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will fund a project to organize and support family advocacy organizations throughout the state of Ohio. This project will:

- Promote family advocacy organizations to work together.
- Increase ways to ensure family needs are met by the community.
- Encourage families at the local level to advocate for improvements to their services and supports.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$40,000

Empowering Families

During IEP meetings, parents/families find it hard to be speak up because they are overwhelmed. This is due to the power differences between the parents/families and the school. With limited support for over 250,000 students with disabilities in Ohio, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will fund a project to increase and improve:

- The support parents/families have during the special education process.
- The knowledge parents/families have about the special education process.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$65,000

Inclusive Recreation

People with developmental disabilities experience significant barriers when attempting to access health and wellness activities. Many times, information and services that promote health and wellness are not designed to consider their preferences, needs and disabilities.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will support a project that will provide information and best practices on how individuals with developmental disabilities can increase their physical activity and improve their health through recreation.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$24,000

Community Living Projects



DSP White Paper in Action

In Ohio, people with developmental disabilities and their families are impacted by the Direct Support Professional (DSP) crisis. There are significant challenges in finding, keeping and training this workforce. The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities are working on a “White Paper” that will show DSP data and recommendations for improvement.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will fund a project to review the “White Paper” once it is completed and determine which recommendations would be most beneficial.

Grantee: To be determined



Grantee amount: \$40,000

Replicate and Expand Transportation Project

Ohioans with disabilities have difficulty obtaining safe, affordable, and appropriate transportation. In 2012, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council funded the Athens on Demand Transit (AODT) project. This project has been successful in offering a transportation option in a rural area of Ohio (Athens County).

To further these efforts, this project will:

- Conduct a pilot program, using technology when necessary, that allows AODT to provide rides outside of Athens County.
- Work with interested counties to replicate the project.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$80,000

SOAR Ohio Project & Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

The Social Security application process for SSI/SSDI is very complicated and difficult. This is often a barrier to people with disabilities who want to move out of an institution and into the community. The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio has adopted the SOAR* model to make the SSI/SSDI application process easier and more successful. To further these efforts, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will fund the Ohio SOAR project to provide training and technical assistance to 12 Ohio Centers for Independent Living, as well as other providers who support people with disabilities. The goal of the project is to train over 300 providers across the state to improve the SSI/SSDI application process success rate.

* SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery)

Grantee: The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Inc.

Grantee amount: \$75,000



Employment Projects



DB101 Videos

The Ohio's Disability Benefits 101 (OHDB 101) website helps people with disabilities make decisions about going to work. The website has Ohio-specific tools and information on employment and career planning; health coverage options; disability benefits; *asset building; education; housing; and community living. OHDB 101 can be used by job seekers with disabilities, service providers or anyone in the community. The website can be found at <https://oh.db101.org/>.

Funding from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will:

- Make the website more accessible and easier to use for everyone.
- Create video tutorials for OHDB 101. Topics may include: What is SSI; SSI and Work; Ohio's STABLE Account program; and Medicaid Waivers.

* Asset building = collecting something of value

Grantee: World Institute on Disabilities



Grant amount: \$39,000

Dollars and Sense

Financial knowledge lets people make financially responsible decisions. However, many people with disabilities have never managed a budget, opened a savings or checking account, used a Social Security Work Incentive or built assets. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council's Five-Year State Plan Public Survey showed that understanding benefits and money was a barrier for people to live the life they want to live.

The Council will fund a project that develops and uses a plan so people with disabilities have the financial knowledge and support they need to manage their finances.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$50,000

Employer Engagement

Employers do not know how to find, keep and advance employees with disabilities in their workplace. In addition, many service providers do not know how to work with employers to help them support employees with disabilities.

The Employer Engagement grant will help employees with disabilities in the workplace by:

- Educating employers, including federal contractors, on inclusion strategies and best practices.
- Connecting employers and disability providers.
- Mentoring college students with disabilities.

Grantee: Disability:IN Ohio



Grant amount: \$65,000

Employment Resources

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council's Five-Year State Plan Public Survey identified two of the biggest issues for people with disabilities to live the life they want to live. These issues were:

- Finding a job or getting a better job or more money.
- Understanding how to get employment services.

The Council will fund several projects to increase the knowledge of and access to employment related resources, technology, and programs for individuals with disabilities, family members and service providers.

Grantees: To be determined



Grant amount: \$50,000

Leadership Development Projects



Emerging Advocates

Youth with disabilities need advocacy skills to achieve their goals and independence. It is never too early to start teaching these skills. There are few advocacy education programs for youth with disabilities in Ohio.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will fund a project to increase and improve the:

- Support children and youth with DD receive from families, schools, direct service providers, and other entities to learn advocacy and leadership skills.
- Opportunities children and youth with DD have to use advocacy skills in educational planning and all decision-making.
- Advocacy and leadership skills of children and youth with DD for them to speak on their own behalf.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$85,000

Empowering People with Disabilities

The DD Act requires the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to work on these three areas:

- Support a state advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Support leaders with developmental disabilities to give leadership training to future leaders with developmental disabilities.
- Support and expand individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will fund several projects that meet the requirements of the DD Act, as well as to:

- Empower leaders and advocates.
- Provide leadership opportunities.

- Increase advocacy skills so people speak up.

Grantees: To be determined



Grant amount: \$70,000

ODDC and Advocacy

The Ohio DD Council will:

- Ensure Council's documents and materials are written in plain language.
- Support various advocacy organizations to assist with coordination and collaboration.
- Support others in the community.

(No grantee – this is an ODDC in-house activity)



Outreach Projects



Detecting Specific Disorders for Amish and Non-Amish Communities Project

This project is a collaboration of medical professionals, families, hospitals, and teachers in the Amish area of Northeast, Ohio. The primary focus of the project is to visit, diagnosis, test and treat genetic disorders in the Amish community. This project will:

- Support research comparing rare genetic disorders across multiple Amish communities.
- Develop up to 30 new diagnostic tests and provide expanded diagnostic testing to Ohio Amish communities at the lowest cost.
- Expand education and outreach services that includes genetic counseling and support services for Amish families and the medical professionals that care for them.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$50,000

Empowering Reachout E-Diversity Newsletter

The Reach Out e-Diversity Newsletter is a bi-monthly electronic publication of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The newsletter promotes culturally competent interagency collaboration and coordination to unserved and underserved populations in Ohio.

New features of the newsletter will include:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tool Kit.
- County Spotlight on outreach efforts.
- Articles that will challenge the reader to act on certain topics.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$30,000

Human Trafficking and Vulnerable Populations

Human trafficking is a horrific form of abuse that takes away a person's freedom and dignity. Individuals with developmental disabilities may be more likely to be used by traffickers.

This project will develop a "White Paper" to provide the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council with information on how people with disabilities, including people of color, are being used or abused by human traffickers and how Council can help stop this negative behavior against people with developmental disabilities.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$30,000

Ohio's LGBTQ Community and People with Disabilities

Research shows that people in the LGBTQ community face barriers finding employment, housing, healthcare and more. LGBTQ people with disabilities often report that it is challenging to have their identities fully recognized. This project will explore whether LGBTQ people with disabilities receive necessary services and supports.

The project will develop a "White Paper" to provide:

- Information about the challenges faced by people with disabilities, including people of color, in the LGBTQ community.
- Supporting data.
- Recommendations for future projects.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$30,000

Public Awareness/Communication Projects



Public Awareness Using Digital Media for People with Developmental Disabilities

This grant will provide information to all Ohioans about issues that people with developmental disabilities and their families experience. This grant will spread the word about the activities of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council's projects, other information about Council and other disability agencies.

The grant will use technology to communicate with people. This includes social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), Council's website, email, videos, podcasts and more. This will be used for campaigns about specific issues, outreach to people who are unserved and underserved in Ohio and to find people who would like to be a member of Council.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$80,000

Public Policy Projects



DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

People with disabilities and their family members are their own best advocates when it comes to educating members of the general public and policymakers. Advancements in public policy are due to advocacy by individuals with disabilities.

The DD Awareness and Advocacy Day grantee will plan and host a day at the Ohio Statehouse for people with disabilities and family members and others. The event will be on the Internet for those who cannot attend in person. Speakers will be invited to talk about different disability issues. Everyone who comes to the Statehouse and wants to talk with their legislator will have a meeting scheduled for them.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$35,000

Federal Legislative Advocacy Partnership (FLAP)

Members of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and additional representatives from Ohio will receive training and support to engage in advocacy with the federal government. They will participate in a one-day discussion on current federal policy issues.

The grant will schedule meetings and develop talking points for people with disabilities and family members to talk to members of congress.

The grant will plan for an event in the Fall of every year there is not a federal election.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$16,000

General Assembly Briefing Sessions

It is difficult to understand Ohio's system of services and supports. It is challenging for advocates with disabilities, family members and professionals to communicate issues and needs. This is often the case when engaging with policymakers and staff that are unfamiliar with the history and issues that people with developmental disabilities face.

This grant will have four trainings each year to help legislators and their staff understand how people with disabilities receive services and how programs work. A person with a disability or a family member will tell their story at each training.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$35,000

Public Policy Research Grants

The Public Policy Research grants will study disability issues and write a report of what is learned about each issue. The topic for each study will be decided by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The research will promote change to improve services and supports for people with disabilities and their families. This grant will not happen every year.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$100,000

Value of PWD (Vocational Apprenticeship/Legislature Utilizing Employment of People with Disabilities)

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities' Apprenticeship Program finds employment and internships for people with disabilities with the executive branch of government. The focus of the program has been limited to placement into cabinet agencies.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council wants to expand the program to include employment and internship opportunities in the Ohio Legislature.

The grant will find people with disabilities who have skills or can receive skills training that would allow them to work in the legislature. The grant will also work with the legislature and legislative agencies to find out where people with disabilities might be able to work.

Grantee: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Grant amount: \$50,000



Executive Committee



Capacity Building, Advocacy and Systems Change by Council Staff

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council staff advocates and participates in systems change activities that promote improvement to the services and supports received by people with developmental disabilities.

(No grantee – this is a Council in-house activity)



Consumer Satisfaction Survey

The Nisonger Center will complete a consumer satisfaction survey to identify and report on progress achieved by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council through systemic change activities.

The grantee will:

- Work with Council staff to decide which projects will be participating in the Consumer Satisfaction Survey.
- Determine steps in gathering consumer satisfaction from participants.
- Have the consumer satisfaction format available in a wide range of formats.
- Provide final results to Council at the end of the year.

Grantee: Nisonger Center or other Center of Excellence in DD

Grant amount: \$25,000



Executive Committee Discretionary Fund

The Executive Committee Discretionary Fund provides mini grants that support one-time projects related to developmental disabilities. These mini grants, which are not included in the State Plan, will increase public awareness, advocacy and systems change efforts in Ohio. Several mini grants will be funded every year.

Grantees: To be determined



Grant amount: \$60,000*

*Total annual amount to be distributed in several smaller amounts.

External Evaluation of Council's Projects & Processes

The External Evaluation process will examine the progress of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council funded projects.

Key activities of the grant:

- Determine if goals were achieved and strategies used.
- Obstacles to achieving the goals.
- Explain how they did it and why.
- Define the procedures Council used to monitor progress.
- Discuss Council activities that measure and address Council's progress.

Grantee: To be determined



Grant amount: \$20,000

Systems Change and Advocacy by Members/Council Travel

This section of the State Plan is for reporting the cost of Council members' participation in Council meetings, conferences, and related events, all geared toward advocacy and systems change brought by Council members from outside groups.

(No grantee – this is an ODDC in-house activity)

