

July 24, 2025



## Governor DeWine Signs Budget

On July 1, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 96, the state's two-year budget for Fiscal Years 2026-2027. The budget ensures that essential support for people with developmental disabilities is available and continues the historic investments in direct support professionals (DSPs) from the last budget.

The budget will maintain Ohio's focus on job opportunities, innovative technology, and supporting youth with complex needs. Through this budget and ongoing work, DODD will partner to advance important initiatives that increase opportunities and access for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Over the next two years, Ohio will provide \$5.5 billion in fiscal year 2026 and \$5.75 billion in fiscal year 2027 to fund Ohio's developmental disabilities services. This mix of state, local, and federal funds shows Ohio's ongoing commitment to being a national leader in supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Ohio will continue to support developmental disabilities services by:

1. Enrolling eligible people in services and providing robust service options.
2. Being among the national leaders in wages of DSPs.
3. Being the national model in promoting innovative technology support

options for greater independence.

Read more about how the budget impacts Ohio's developmental disability community on DODD's budget [webpage](#).

View the budget Easy Read document [here](#).

## Resources



### **Eat This, Not That - Seconds with Sorg**

Planning a picnic? Join Dr. Laura Sorg for helpful tips on packing safe foods for a fun day outdoors!



### **Ohio Sales Tax Holiday**

Mark your calendars! Ohio's expanded sales tax holiday will be held August 1-14, 2025.

During this time, most items costing \$500 or less per item will be sales tax-free, with some exceptions.

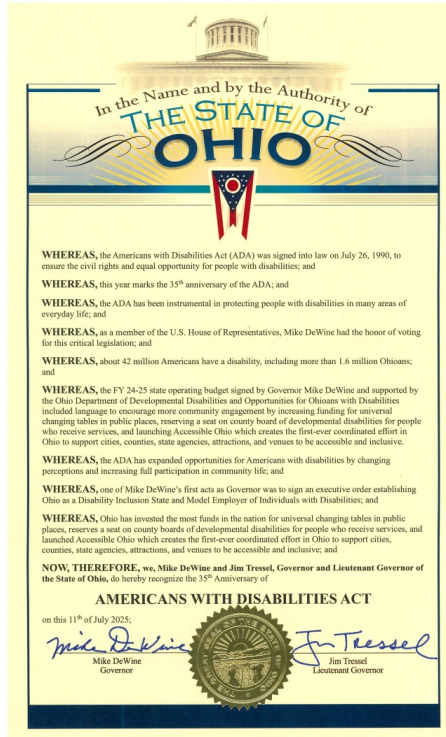
Click [here](#) for more details.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act 35th Anniversary**

During Disability Pride Month, DODD celebrates the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

This landmark legislation protects people with disabilities from discrimination in all areas of public life, including employment, education, transportation, and access to public and private spaces open to the general public. The ADA was enacted to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about the ADA!



## Medicaid Access Rule Plain Language Information

### Access Rules

There are new rules for our services. Medicaid calls them **Access Rules**.

- Government staff and providers are talking about the Access Rules. We believe self-advocates need to know what is happening.
- We made these slides to tell you about the Access Rules. This is not a plain language translation of the rules. This is a basic introduction.



Green Mountain Self-Advocates ~ <https://greenmountainselfadvocates.org/>

Check out this [resource](#) from Green Mountain Self-Advocates on the new Medicaid Access Rule. It enhances service quality for people living with disabilities receiving Medicaid waivers or Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Key areas include fair direct support

professional (DSP) pay, transparent costs, improved complaint systems, and personalized planning for safer, higher-quality, person-centered services.

## DODD Podcast

### Changing Spaces Ohio – A Conversation Around Inclusive Communities with Jennifer Corcoran and Kim Kirkwood



Join host Nate Turner as he chats with Jennifer Corcoran and Kim Kirkwood, the mothers and advocates behind Changing Spaces Ohio.

Their personal journeys with sons Matthew and Aiden have led to dynamic conversations around inclusive communities, resulting in new universal changing tables at rest stops and vital grant funding across

the state.



- Personal information and disability status will not be subject to public record.

These updates remove barriers, making it easier to save and invest. Signing up takes about 20 minutes online.

For more information, visit the Ohio Treasurer's newsroom [here](#).

## Dungeons and Dragons and Decisions Training



The Ohio Network for Innovation is offering a unique one-day training that uses the Dungeons and Dragons and Decisions game to teach self-determination and decision-making skills.

Participants will learn how to support others in making their own choices and receive a copy of the game. This training is approved for five Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units.

Ideal for service and support administrators, county board staff, family members, providers, teachers, transition coordinators, and people with disabilities.

Training dates and locations:

- **July 30 – Ashland County:** [Register here](#)
- **August 12 – Licking County:** [Register here](#)

Space is limited to just 20 participants per session—register soon to reserve your spot!

## Attend the Next Disability Connect Meeting on August 20

### Disability Connect

Department of  
Developmental  
Disabilities

**What**  
Disability Connect is a gathering for DODD leaders to hear directly from the people we support. It is also a chance to learn more about different projects and resources at DODD and across Ohio's government while making connections to help everyone live their good life.

**Who**  
People living with disabilities; ally or support person for people living with disabilities.

Scan the QR Code to register

Join DODD for the August Disability Connect meeting! These meetings are a time for people living with disabilities to share their experiences and engage in conversation with DODD leadership.

**When:** August 20, 2025

**Where:** Virtually on Zoom

**When:** 1 PM until 2:30 PM

**Topic:** Federal Access Rule Discussion

Need an accommodation? Email [ohiolifecoursenexus@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ohiolifecoursenexus@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Register Today for Synergy



The Synergy Conference is an incredible event designed to create an environment of collaboration, innovation, and growth among those who experience and support people with developmental disabilities. You don't want to miss out on this

valuable three-day conference!

Event Details:

**Where:** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio

**When:** October 1-3, 2025

[Register for the event here.](#) Registration closes at 11:59 PM on September 22, 2025.

Visit [www.synergyohio.org](http://www.synergyohio.org) for more details.

## Share with us!



**What does the ADA mean to you, or what are your favorite ways to celebrate disability pride?** Share your stories [here](#).

If you need to use the form differently, feel free to send attachments, pictures, or videos to [nathan.turner@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:nathan.turner@dodd.ohio.gov).

## A Note from Nate



I was delighted to see so many of you at our annual combined event for Disability Connect and the Family Connection Forum. Nearly seventy people attended in person! They heard updates from DODD team leads about joint efforts to support people living with disabilities and their families.

Assistant Director Nash also shared budget and priority updates.

Everyone then engaged in small group discussions.

I hope everyone enjoyed participating as much as we enjoyed planning these events. We are excited to hear from you in the months ahead, especially at the Synergy conference.

I am grateful for you, and hearing your feedback and experiences helps us support each of you in living well and accomplishing your goals. Until then, I hope everyone has a great summer.



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