

Hello, everyone,

The **University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UC UCEDD)** is a federally funded center that addresses the needs of individuals who have developmental disabilities, their family members/caregivers and the professionals they serve. Our UC UCEDD was founded in 1973. Our UC UCEDD consists of an energetic interdisciplinary team of staff, faculty, clinicians, and trainees (including self-advocates and family members) who work on improving the health and quality of life of people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan and their families.

UC UCEDD's vision is that all people, including children and adults living with disabilities, and their families, fully participate in society and live healthy, safe, self-determined and productive lives.

UC UCEDD's mission is to be a leader in working with and for children and adults with disabilities and their families so they can lead the lives they want. We do this through our four core functions of 1) education/training, 2) research/policy, 3) sharing information and 4) collaborating with community agencies and others to provide community services.

The UC UCEDD is federally funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Every 5 years, UCEDDs across the country have to re-apply for funding. We have to develop a five year plan that we share with our funding agency AIDD to show them what we will be working on over the next five years. **The plan is developed with input from you**, the UC UCEDD Community Advisory Committee (CAC), UC UCEDD staff, and our Developmental Disabilities Network Partners in Ohio (Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council – ODDC; Disability Rights Ohio – DRO; and Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University (Nisonger). We also use Ohio data about people with disabilities that we receive through different surveys that are conducted about and with people who have disabilities and their family members.

We need **YOUR help in finding out what the most pressing needs are of Ohioans who have developmental disabilities**, their family members or caregivers, and professionals who work with or on behalf of people with disabilities. Thank you!

This is how you can help:

Complete the Online Survey

We have an **online survey that you can complete** on your own behalf (if you are a self-advocate), on behalf of a family member/caregiver who has a disability (if you are a parent, grandparent, foster parent or guardian) or on behalf of people with disabilities with whom you work or advocate (if you are a service provider, educator, health professional, ally, etc.). It will take some time to go through this survey but we really appreciate hearing from you. If you have more than one child/adult who has disabilities or serve multiple people who have disabilities, please choose one person on whom's behalf you complete the survey.

You don't have to answer all sections or questions. For example, if you know very little about needs of young children with disabilities and their families, you can skip the whole section on Early Childhood. If there is a question you don't know or can't answer, just skip this question.

The **survey is anonymous**. This means that we won't know who completed the survey. We take the information we receive and put it all together to see what people's concerns are and what needs there are in our communities.

Based on all of the information we receive from you and others, we will come up with some goals and activities that we want to do in the next five years to improve the health and lives of people with disabilities, family members/caregivers and people who work with or on behalf of people with disabilities.

The survey has six sections:

- 1.) Early Childhood and Early Intervention
- 2.) School-Age and School-Based Services
- 3.) Transition to Adult Life in the Community
- 4.) Family Support
- 5.) Community Living and Employment
- 6.) Health Care and Health Promotion

Each of those sections has multiple questions. Some questions ask you to rank order (e.g. met, partially met, not met but needed, not met and not needed). Other questions ask you to fill in/write an answer. Again, you can skip sections or questions if you can't answer them.

If you skip whole sections (which is fine), please make sure you **scroll all the way through the survey to the questions in the end**. They provide us with your **overall thoughts and demographic information**. It is very important for us to have the information. Thank you!

Here is the **link to the online survey**:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07edcfxwntiue9nwye/start>

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We are looking forward to receiving your input!

Also, we encourage you to share this information with others and ask them to complete the survey. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ilka Riddle
UC UCEDD Director

Kara Ayers
UC UCEDD Associate Director

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