

December 23, 2021

Governor DeWine Signs Bill Including Investments for Developmental Disabilities Supports

Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 169 that, among other investments, provides significant resources to those involved in the developmental disability (DD) community. The administration partnered with the legislature on the development of this bill to further provide relief for Ohioans impacted by the pandemic. Funding will be directed toward DD system providers, educational supports, and other frontline professions. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is appreciative of the collaboration between the administration and state agencies, our system partners, and the legislature to make these investments possible.

Passage of Provider Relief Payments

HB 169 allocates funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other federal relief packages. The bill invests \$529 million of ARPA home and community-based services (HCBS) for provider relief across multiple systems including \$210 million specifically for providers in the developmental disability system. These payments reflect the intent of [Ohio's updated APRA HCBS plan](#) submitted to CMS. The administration will continue to work with the Ohio General Assembly to further appropriate the remaining ARPA HCBS funds.

The bill also invests \$60 million for Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) provider relief payments to support front line staff. Allocated funds will be available to support workforce capacity through staff retention and recruitment incentives, overtime payments and shift differential incentives. essential work performed and for relief from the negative economic impacts experienced during the pandemic and will work to distribute the funds quickly.

The administration recognizes the essential work performed during this pandemic by our providers and their front line staff. We will be working urgently to obtain CMS approval for the use of funds in order to issue relief payments for HCBS and ICF providers as soon as possible.

Support for Early Intervention, Students, and Youth with Disabilities

Working with Governor DeWine, the General Assembly, and members of

the Controlling Board, a total of \$18.8 million in supports were appropriated for programs directed to early intervention, students with disabilities, and transition-age youth with disabilities from the Education and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) portion of ARPA. Funds will be used in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Educational Support for Students and Youth with Disabilities

- \$8 million to the Learning Aid Ohio to ensure its operation at least through the summer of 2024. Learning Aid Ohio provides in-person, supplemental learning support for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 Plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and remote learning. The program connects tutors, aids, and in-home learning providers who can offer supplemental learning support for students with disabilities and their families.
- \$3.8 million will be invested in Ohio's Early Intervention (EI) program. This funding will be provided to county Family and Children First Councils to enhance local EI systems' implementation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), support continued application of evidenced-based EI practices, and promote the use of technology. The remainder of the funding will be used for training contracts on evidence-based practices and the use of an implementation science framework that focuses on improving each local EI program's ability to provide adequate oversight of their local EI program.
- \$7 million to improve supports for students and transition-age youth with disabilities as they enter adulthood. Investments will provide professional development, multi-agency transition teams, multi-system youth respite options, industry-recognized credentialing, and other projects.



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