



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NISONGER CENTER

Productivity & impact

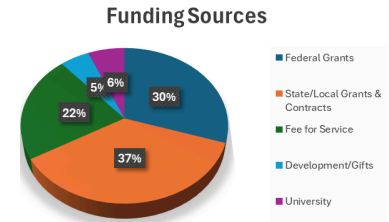


OSU Nisonger Center's Mission

- Established in 1966: Among the first federally funded University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- Mission: Empower and support all people with developmental disabilities and their families through interdisciplinary teaching/training, clinic and community-based services, and research.

Stewardship & Leveraging of Federal ACL Grant Dollars

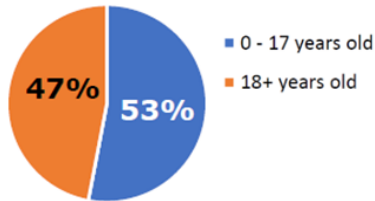
- With UCEDD funding from ACL, we multiplied our FY26 operating **budget 22X**
- We leveraged our ACL grant for an additional \$13.4 million in funding from private, industry, state, federal dollars
- Nearly 70% of funding awarded from competitive grants and contracts. External funding leveraged is used to provide services, supports, and training with minimal to no cost to patients/participants and families



Support for vulnerable populations

Over 35,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, students, and professionals, from across all 88 counties, received services, training, and/or participated in research

Chronological age of individuals served



Individuals served

Ohioans Served	Count
Central Ohio	27,961
Northeast Ohio	2,174
Northwest Ohio	1,239
Cincinnati / Southwest Ohio	3,626

Nisonger Center Website



OSU Nisonger Center's Mission

120 Faculty and Staff



13 Professional Disciplines



6 Ohio State University Colleges

Medicine
Public Health
Dentistry
Nursing
Arts & Sciences
Education and Human Ecology

57 Funded projects

100+ Publications

100+ Scientific/ Professional Presentations

Early Learning Program: *“Nisonger provided childcare for all three of my children. When my son was diagnosed with global developmental delay around 1 year old, I was told by another childcare serving only typical kids that my child would no longer be able to attend there. As a working mom relying fully on childcare as well as understanding that childcare waitlists are long, I was grateful for when Nisonger took my child in almost right away, preventing me from having any gaps in care. From there, they helped us navigate every step of the way providing direct services and helping us out with Help Me Grow services and his ISFP and IEP. My two younger girls were born after my son was attending there; though they were typically developing, they learned lifelong lessons of empathy and celebrating the differences among us. Having Nisonger be a part of our kids’ lives at such an early age made a lasting impact. We are just one example of a family who was hugely impacted by Nisonger’s services*



- Mother of children who received services at The Nisonger Center.

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND): *“I truly don’t know where our family would be without Nisonger. Our daughter has complex needs, including Level 4 cerebral palsy and epilepsy. Before we were referred to Nisonger, we struggled to find a daycare center that could support her appropriately. Everything changed when we came to Nisonger. It opened up our daughter’s world, giving her the opportunity to learn and grow by exploring her surroundings in a supportive, inclusive environment. As parents, we also grew. We learned how to advocate for her, what questions to ask medical providers, and what to expect as she transitioned into public school. We were also fortunate to work with professionals who used evidence-based practices and truly understood her needs. The Early Learning Program, along with our daughter’s incredible physical therapist, inspired me to apply for the LEND program. I participated in 2020 as a family advocate, and it opened my eyes to the complex systems families like ours are expected to navigate. It empowered me to advocate for my daughter—not just within the medical system, but also in terms of her educational rights, such as access to FAPE and placement in the least restrictive environment. Nisonger didn’t just change our daughter’s life—it changed mine. Their support and inspiration led me to shift my career, and I now work in the developmental disabilities community, fueled by the passion they helped me discover.”*



- Alum of the LEND program.

Impact Story: From Institutionalization to Community Stability

After spending more than two decades in highly restrictive settings—including incarceration and long-term institutional care—one individual was given the opportunity to transition to supported community living.

Historically, efforts to move him into the community had been unsuccessful due to concerns about past behaviors and perceived risks. In 2025, a coordinated effort between Nisonger Clinical Behavior Services, service coordination, and a committed guardian made a new approach possible.

The results have been transformative:

- He is now living successfully in the community in a less restrictive setting;
- He reports feeling safe and happy in his home;
- He is building positive relationships, including with his roommate;
- He is actively using skills that were previously thought to be absent;
- His presence has even had a positive impact on others in the home.



This story demonstrates what is possible with individualized, coordinated behavioral health supports. With the right planning and expertise, individuals with complex histories can safely transition to the community—reducing reliance on costly institutional care while improving quality of life and promoting independence.