

**Agency Name:** Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

**Point of Contact:** Carolyn Knight, Executive Director

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**Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is one of a national network of state councils, committed to self-determination and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. The Developmental Disabilities Councils have been in existence since the early 1970's. P.L. 106-402, The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, currently authorizes State Councils, including the Ohio DD Council.

The DD Council receives federal funding for innovative advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities. These activities are designed to contribute to a coordinated system of services, supports and other assistance that is centered around and driven by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

To carry out its mission, the Council develops a state plan, conducts advocacy and systems change activities, and funds projects.

Ohio's State Plan addresses most of the federal areas of emphasis:

Education and Early Intervention

Quality Assurance

Child Care

Health

Employment

Housing

Transportation

Recreation

Other services available or offered to individuals in a community

Council is currently in the fourth year of our 5 Year State Plan. Funding began on October 1 - the start of the federal fiscal year. The FFY 2015 State Plan has 23 separate projects, each with its own objective, some sharing goals, but all working towards the federal areas of emphasis detailed above. A few initiatives have multiple grantees (e.g. Executive Committee Discretionary Fund), most have only one, and some initiatives are implemented by staff and Council members.

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**Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:**

The Ohio DD Council is required to develop a State Plan, issue grants pursuant to that Plan, monitor those grants, and report annually on the outcomes achieved by the grants and the operation of Council as a whole. The State Plan and all projects are reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Council meets six times per year, two days each in the months of March, May, July, September, November (grant review panels) and December. Each meeting, Council has an average of 7 issue committee meetings and a business meeting.

The Council has 11 full time employees. The 11 full time employees include:

- Executive Director
- Program Administrator 4
- Program Administrator 2
- Grant Administrator
- Grant Coordinator
- Electronic Design Specialist
- Five Program Personnel - staffing issues committees of Council (Assistive Technology & Communications, Children's & Health, Community Living, Employment, Leadership Development, Outreach, and Public Policy) and conducting program activities.

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**Agency’s past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:**

| FFY  | Federal Award | GRF Cash  | ODODD<br>Indirect Match | Grantee Match    |
|------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 2010 | \$2,870,875   | \$109,920 | \$100,000               | \$2,132,508      |
| 2011 | \$2,865,133   | \$107,342 | \$100,000               | \$1,604,995      |
| 2012 | \$2,858,499   | \$99,618  | \$100,000               | \$1,289,570      |
| 2013 | \$2,695,852   | \$90,104  | \$100,000               | \$804,675*       |
| 2014 | \$2,701,094   | \$98,098  | \$100,000               | \$196,998*       |
| 2015 | \$2,810,012   | \$98,660  | Not Available**         | Not Available*** |

\* Grantee Match figure is incomplete due to 3-year reporting cycle  
 \*\* Indirect Match Figure has not been calculated by the Designate State Agency  
 \*\*\* Grantee Match is calculated on a 3-year reporting cycle, 1<sup>st</sup> year match figure due December 2015

Councils are dependent upon federal funding and are considered a discretionary program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Funding levels have general remained stagnant, with small decreases resulting from federal sequestration and a recent increase resulting from an adjustment to the federal funding formula. Ohio's funding is determined by the population, prevalence of developmental disabilities, and need.

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**Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any:**

There are 31 members of Council, nine (9) of whom receive a stipend in accordance with our federal law. Per Council Policy #00-11:

Stipends will be offered to Council members who:

1. Are not employed, are employed at sub-minimum wage rates, or must forfeit wages from other employment to attend Council meetings and perform Council duties, and
2. Are able to demonstrate that it would be a hardship to serve on Council without receiving a stipend.

A stipend will be offered to a qualified Council Member for doing Council business at the rate of \$100 per day for time spent on Council duties for a “day” that is 4 hours or longer, and at a rate of \$50 per day for a day that is longer than 1 hour but shorter than 4 hours. Full Council Committee and Business meetings will qualify as two full days. Travel time will not be included in calculating the length of a stipend's “day” except in those instances where total travel time in one day exceeds three hours. In the latter situation involving 3 or more hours of travel in the same day, the Council Member will qualify for the \$100 stipend.

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**Additional notes:**

In 2014, the Council, through the work of its members, staff and grants, reported some of the following:

Our Coordinating Center of Excellence on Dual Diagnosis (Mental Illness & Developmental Disabilities) ensured that 608 individuals with developmental disabilities were provided needed health care services and leveraged more than \$150,000 in other funding. The project, held by Wright State University, was able to train more than 750 residents and medical students about psychiatry and developmental disability.

Our Accessible and Affordable Transportation project in Athens County was able to provide rides to 8,068 individuals. This project serves areas of this rural county that are not covered by traditional transportation services. The project is also not limited to serving only people with developmental disabilities and provided rides for medical and human service appointments, work, school, and groceries and other leisure activities. As of December of 2014, the project had logged more than 250,000 miles.

Council's housing grant is credited with helping to develop 55 new residential housing units that are affordable and accessible to people with disabilities. This success has positioned the project to work collaboratively with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Housing Finance Agency and others to help plan and develop 200 scattered site single family, accessible homes over the final years of this project.

The Council's research project completed a study on the market impact that accessible features known as Visitability (one entrance without a step, wide doorways on main floor, usable bathroom) will have on single family housing. The study is being used to educate housing professionals (realtors, builders, appraisers) about expected market demand for accessible features in single family housing as Ohio's population ages.

The Council has partnered with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence to pilot an evidence-based transition model in two public schools in northeast Ohio. The model, if successful, will help public schools develop better transition plans for students with disabilities that support Ohio's Employment First policy and law.

These projects and several others were developed through public input into Ohio's 5 Year Plan on Developmental Disabilities and were competitively bid using the Council's grant review process. All competitive grant reviews of the Council are independently scored by 5 members of a review panel, 3 of whom are members of the general public, and evaluated by each panel for their ability to achieve outcomes.