



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**Ohio** | Department of  
Developmental Disabilities

# Frequently Used Acronyms

Throughout the Department of Developmental Disabilities Annual Report 2022, you may encounter some frequently used acronyms without additional context. If you are not familiar with this type of language, this page is dedicated to a few of the most common ones you may read.

*Please note, this is not a full list of all DODD-related acronyms.*

**DD** - developmental disability

**DODD** - Department of Developmental Disabilities

**DSP(s)** - direct support professionals

**EI** - Early Intervention

**FY22** - Fiscal Year 2022 running from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

**ISP** - individual service plan

**MUI(s)** - Major Unusual Incidents

**MCAT** - Multi-Disciplinary Comprehensive Assessment Team

**MI/ID** - mental illness and intellectual disability

**OHMAS** - Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services

**OSSAS** - Office of System & Support Standards

**QIDP(s)** - qualified intellectual disabilities professionals

**SSA(s)** - service and support administrators

# Table of Contents

<b>Director’s Message</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Highlights and Accomplishments</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DODD Initiatives</b>	<b>9</b>
Early Intervention (EI)	10
Multi-System Youth	11
Family Support	12
Technology First	13
Employment First	14
Blueprint	15
Supporting DSPs	16
Support Teams	17
OSSAS	18
Fiscal	19



## Director's Message

The past year, we have experienced many challenges, opportunities, and successes. I am pleased to share much of this work through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report.

Since I was appointed Director of the Department in January 2022, I have been humbled to lead a team of passionate and skillful people, from around the state, that truly cares about the people we support. Former Director Jeff Davis navigated our agency through a very difficult time and had many strategic advancements throughout his time as director. He was and still is an ardent advocate for Ohio's DD system and I am happy to continue many of the initiatives he started.

Hearing from those we support and partner with has been a top priority during my time as director. I began a journey to visit each of Ohio's 88 counties to hear about successes, difficulties, and ways DODD can better support the DD system. While each visit is unique, it has been great to hear innovative and creative ideas from those on the local level. The Department will continue to seek feedback to enhance our programs and work with our partners. It has been an inspiring experience and I am looking forward to more visits in the future.

At DODD, we appreciate the support we have received from Governor Mike DeWine. Under his leadership, we have been able to make significant investments in housing for people with developmental disabilities, and we have collaborated with other cabinet-level agencies to better support youth with complex needs and increase the use of technology.

In this report, you will read about our key initiatives and accomplishments. What makes these all possible are the people behind them and the many voices that provide valuable input to DODD. While there is always more work to be done, I am pleased with the Department's progress and excited about the future.

I look forward to working together,

Kimberly K. Hauck, Director

# 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS





### **Provider Relief Funds**

During the last three years, through state, local, and federal relief funds, DODD has made over \$472 million eligible to Ohio's developmental disabilities providers. Funds were sent to providers to combat the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic climate. Providers have used funds to ensure they could continue supports for people with developmental disabilities and maintain their direct support professional (DSP) workforce.

### **\$25 Million in Capital Budget**

In his second capital budget, Governor DeWine worked with DODD and the Ohio General Assembly to prioritize the housing needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The budget included \$25 million to fund the Community Capital Assistance program which builds, buys, and renovates homes for independent living options across the state.

In FY22, DODD worked with local partners in 58 counties to authorize the purchase of 62 homes, construct 15 homes, and renovate 344 homes for more than 1,200 people with developmental disabilities.

## Waiver Simplification

DODD partnered with stakeholders to successfully implement changes to DODD waivers to simplify, increase flexibility, and better align services contained in the Level One and SELF waivers. DODD also added a new waiver service to all three DODD waivers called Self-Directed Transportation. Transportation has long been identified as a significant barrier to people with developmental disabilities being able to fully access competitive employment opportunities and engage in integrated community activities. This new service is self-directed and available in all three waivers to make independent travel accessible for people around the clock.

These changes created a more streamlined and user-friendly waiver system. This involved adding needed services to each of these waivers and making the funding more flexible to support people in more person-centered ways.

## Learning Aid Ohio

In partnership with Governor DeWine's Children's Initiative, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, DODD supported the implementation of Learning Aid Ohio which provides in-person, supplemental learning support for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and remote learning.

In FY22, Learning Aid Ohio awarded more than \$4.8 million in scholarships to 1,765 students in 68 counties across the state to access over 45,000 total hours of meaningful learning opportunities. As a result of these supplemental learning sessions, families reported their children have increased confidence, decreased behavioral concerns, and developed a love for learning.







## OhioISP

DODD is committed to one uniform individual service plan (ISP) for each person supported with developmental disabilities in Ohio. The single

standardized assessment and plan template was tested by service and support administrators (SSAs) and qualified intellectual disabilities professionals (QIDPs). Training, IT application development, and onboarding was a priority in FY22. OhioISP training was developed and made available to all SSAs and QIDPs through MyLearning and regional in-person or virtual gathering sessions. The OhioISP application through Salesforce was completed and organizations have begun the onboarding process.



“ So far it has been a very positive experience. The SSAs have found that it is very easy to go through the assessment process. One SSA reported the new system is fun and addictive to work in. ”

— Mimi Patterson  
SSA Supervisor with the Holmes County Board of DD

DODD looks forward to working with county boards of developmental disabilities and intermediate care facilities to ensure a successful transition to the OhioISP.



# DODD INITIATIVES



### Early Intervention (EI)

DODD and EI stakeholders recognized the increasing importance of meeting children’s social-emotional needs. Through a cooperative initiative with Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHMAS), all local EI teams in the state now have access to an early childhood mental health consultant. These consultants provide important expertise around infant/toddler’s social and emotional development to the hundreds of interventionists in the state who are the primary providers of EI services to families. In collaboration with stakeholders, DODD also changed the focus of its federally required State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) for EI to improving social-emotional outcomes for children.



“

When we started I was at a dead end with trying to help my son. Andrea and Lindsey (My local EI team) were the first people to ever actually listen to my concerns and helped to get us where we needed to be.

”

Since adding neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and elevated blood lead levels to the automatic eligibility diagnosis list for EI in 2019, Ohio’s EI system has served hundreds of families with children with these diagnoses. DODD is engaging in outreach activities aimed specifically at reaching more families in these situations.

Nearly 33,000 referrals in 2021  
resulting in 23,400 children served

DODD released new outreach materials that targeted families with delay-specific concerns. DODD supported local EI systems in further implementing evidence-based EI practices and engaging in process improvement strategies to strengthen local EI systems.

## *Multi-System Youth*

### **Multi-Disciplinary Comprehensive Assessment Team (MCAT)**

The MCAT project is a partnership between OCALI and DODD and part of the Department's efforts to intervene early and keep youth in their homes and communities. This is an opportunity for local teams to present challenging situations to a clinical team comprised of experts from multiple disciplines. The MCAT team includes a psychologist, primary care physician, psychiatrist, occupational therapist, speech and language pathologist, and trauma and autism experts. All of the experts on the team have specific expertise with youth who have a mental illness and an intellectual and developmental disability.

### **Multi-System Youth and Family Regional Coaches**

OCALI and DODD also partnered to help support families with the Multi-System Youth and Family Regional Coaches. After a youth is presented to the MCAT team, the family will be provided a regional coach who will assist the family carry out the MCAT recommendations. The regional coach will provide hands-on, in-home support, and share how to implement specific interventions. OCALI will be recruiting, hiring, and training the regional coaches with a goal of 12 regional coaches across the state by June 2023.

### **Keeping Families Together**

DODD awarded approximately \$1 million in state subsidy funding for the provision of respite and other services and supports for youth with complex behavioral needs to enable them to remain with their families. County boards submitted proposals outlining their plans which could include, training and incentives for providers, home furnishings and repairs, recreational items, parent training, coaching, and respite. DODD was pleased to award 46 county boards of developmental disabilities proposals across the state as a result of the application process.

### **Telepsychiatry For Youth with MI/ID**

DODD partnered with Wright State University and Access Ohio Mental Health Center of Excellence to provide telepsychiatry services for youth and adults enrolled in Medicaid with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and intellectual disability. In FY22, there was over 300 youth enrolled statewide.



# Family Support

## Ohio Family Network (OFN)

Through continued funding from DODD, the Ohio Family Network (OFN) expanded to a new network partner in northwest Ohio. OFN provides resources, information, networking, and services to thousands of families through the collaboration of six Ohio Family Network partners: Autism Society of Greater Akron, Autism Society of Northwest Ohio, Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, The Family Leadership Network of Starfire, The Center for Disability Empowerment, and Milestones Autism Resources.

Nearly 75 percent of participants stated that OFN helped them identify and connect with resources for their family members

## Community of Practice for Supporting and Empowering Families

Ohio's Community of Practice for Supporting & Empowering Families collaborated to enhance systems of support for families throughout the lifespan of their family member with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The quarterly meetings engaged multiple stakeholders throughout Ohio and participation continues to grow with new partners from education and provider fields.

## Charting the LifeCourse

Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) is a framework with tools that help people plan and think about the supports they need to reach the vision they have for their life. During the past year, more than 150 CtLC trainings have taken place with the Ohio State University Nisonger Center's Family Resource Network of Ohio. In addition, Ohio's first in-person CtLC Ohio Showcase highlighted the many ways organizations, providers, county boards, family members, and people with developmental disabilities used the CtLC framework and tools. With support of DODD, Ohio has added six Charting the LifeCourse Ambassadors who integrate the framework into their work and spheres of influence in supporting families.

## Family Outreach and Engagement

People with developmental disabilities and family members are connected to DODD in a variety of ways. DODD's Facebook Family Forum provides information and connection to more than 1300 members. DODD engaged family members through Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings, and family-serving organizations were supported and invited to quarterly Family Organization Forums (FOF). The FAC and FOF provide an opportunity for people with disabilities, family members, and organizations to receive updates from the Department on key initiatives and programs, while also providing an opportunity to provide the Department feedback.



## Technology First Initiatives

DODD ramped up efforts in FY22 to ensure supportive technology is one of the first considerations when planning and providing supports:

- A Technology First Taskforce was established to bring together state government representatives to provide advocacy and alignment on innovative technology for people with developmental disabilities across supports offered by state government.
- Ten grants were awarded to increase knowledge capacity in the field and incentivize provider innovation concerning technology solutions.
- In April 2022, the Technology First Rule was launched, to ensure that county boards, intermediate care facilities, and developmental centers develop policies and procedures around supportive technology in their organizational and person-centered planning.
- One of the main ways DODD continues to build assistive technology capacity is through telling the personal stories of people who use supportive technology in their daily lives. The second year of the Ohio Tech Ambassadors project increased the number of ambassadors to eight, allowing for more connections and events to take place, and resulting in over 95 videos featuring stories highlighting the benefits of technology in people's lives.



### More than 400

additional people were authorized to receive the remote support service

### 78 county boards

of developmental disabilities authorized the remote support service

### 87 county boards

of developmental disabilities authorized the assistive technology service

### More than 900

additional people were authorized for the assistive technology service

# Community Life Engagement

## Employment First

The Employment First Initiative celebrated its 10th Anniversary in FY22. Over the past decade, provider agencies, schools, families, businesses, and people with developmental disabilities across the state have worked together to shift expectations and innovate the ways people connect to the community, establish careers, and build the lives they way want. In 2022, nine providers were awarded Building Innovative Service Models grants, with an emphasis on developing and implementing community-based supports for people with complex needs.



Providers, county boards, families, and people supported came together for the 2022 Innovation Series. The series included a kick-off webinar and five in-person Innovation Labs, spotlighting innovative practices focused on employment, supportive technology, family engagement, and self-advocacy.







Blueprint works to improve adult day support services and transportation services, while strengthening competitive, integrated employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities served in Ohio.

### **Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services Workgroup**

DODD and Blueprint group members began implementation of the Blueprint Proposal in October 2021. Three implementation teams represent stakeholders within the Ohio developmental disability support system and work in partnership with multiple DODD divisions to implement the work outlined in the proposal.

### **Blueprint Proposal Implementation Updates**

- Implementation of the Basic Employment Skills Training service will occur after December 2022. Priority will be given to modifying the adult day support service and the array of employment services.
- The new self-directed transportation service was created and is in effect.
- DODD secured a system finance and rate expert, along with other state agencies and stakeholders to make necessary changes to the financial system.
- Private Duty Nursing, as well as Medicaid Home Health Nursing, can now be provided while a person is attending day services at a facility or in the community.
- Research continued regarding how to use services available in the traditional Medicaid service plan to bridge the potential gaps in the waiver service delivery system.

# Supporting DSPs

## Frontline Forum

DODD continued to partner with the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals to develop the Frontline Forum. The forum offers a virtual place for DSPs and frontline supervisors to connect, synergize, and learn together. The forum takes place quarterly and enables DODD to get direct feedback from the people who provide crucial support for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

## DSP Survey

DODD partnered with The Ohio State University and their L.E.N.D Program to better understand the direct support workforce. Together with other stakeholders, a survey was developed specifically for Ohio's DSPs was developed. Nearly 1,000 of Ohio's DSPs participated in the survey, and L.E.N.D faculty are organizing the submissions for data and future recommendations.

## Provider Certification and Training

Following a robust stakeholder engagement process, new provider certification rules became effective Sept. 1, 2021. These rules help clarify and distinguish provider requirements for agency from those for independent providers by separating them into two different rules. Initial and annual DSP training was standardized throughout the state. More than 6,200 DSPs and independent providers have taken the new standard, initial training through MyLearning, while 7,485 DSPs and independent providers have taken the DODD annual renewal training.

## Workforce Crisis Taskforce

DODD established the Workforce Crisis Taskforce with the goal to evaluate solutions, make recommendations, and pursue strategic immediate, short-term, and longer-term actions to improve conditions to attract, recruit, and maintain a DD workforce large enough to meet adequate staffing levels in face of a highly competitive job market. The taskforce, made up of various stakeholders such as self-advocates, family members, and DD associations, to make recommendations for change to the DD system's design, policies, procedures, rate structures, and other necessary elements to sustain the DD system.

## Flexibilities

Due to the exacerbated workforce crisis, DODD implemented many flexibilities to ensure services are delivered and to support providers in recruiting and retaining DSPs. DODD partnered with county boards of developmental disabilities and providers to implement changes to the Monthly Rate Calculator. DODD continued to waive certification fees for independent providers and continued to allow parents of minor children to be paid providers.



## *Developmental Centers*

The developmental centers (DCs) provided crisis stabilization admissions to 126 people from the community in FY22 and had an average census of 630 people. Of those 126 people admitted for crisis stabilization, 14 were between the ages of 11-17. The Tiffin Developmental Center continues to specialize in crisis stabilization for youth with complex needs.

The DC staff worked tirelessly to keep people safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring the health and safety of those who call a DC home remains a top priority for the team. Finally, the DCs continue their path to becoming Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Centers by including trauma informed timelines into the person-centered planning, with DC Trauma Champions and support staff completing over 40 adult and youth trauma timelines over the past fiscal year.

## *DODD Support Teams*

### **DODD Regional Support Teams**

DODD aligned staff who provide technical assistance to partners into regional teams across six regions in Ohio. The teams consist of subject matter experts within DODD to support people with developmental disabilities, families, guardians, providers, and county boards of developmental disabilities. In FY22, they completed approximately 565 support contacts. In addition, the community resource coordinators (CRCs) completed individual resources and supports (IRS) for 194 adults and their support teams

People looking for assistance in various areas of DODD can find contract information for people in their county by visiting <https://dodd.ohio.gov/about-us/support-team>



## Major Unusual Incidents (MUI)

DODD's Major Unusual Incident and Registry Unit continues to provide oversight to county boards of developmental disabilities and providers to help ensure the health and welfare of people with disabilities who receive services. DODD supported partners with training and technical assistance to 2,399 people on health and welfare topics in 2021. The unit held over 30 trainings resulting on topics including Foundational Civil and Criminal, Supporting People with IDD in the Criminal Justice System, Report Writing, Intro to Hoarding/Clutter, Orientation of new ODH ICF Reviewers, Choking Prevention, MUI Rule, and Board Member training. As a result of increased training, awareness, and provider vigilance, choking incidents dramatically decreased in 2021.

DODD worked on the development of a new system to track incidents. The new system, Ohio Incident Tracking and Monitoring System (OITMS), will replace a nearly two decade old system and will provide a better system for county board of developmental disabilities investigative agents and department staff to work collaboratively on investigations.

- » 18,440 MUI investigations initiated during 2021
- » DODD MUI Unit staff reviewed and closed over 7,500 MUIs
- » Supported customers by answering 571 hotline calls during FY22
- » Choking deaths decreased by 48 percent from 2020 to 2021

## Office of System Support & Standards (OSSAS)

The Office of System Support & Standards (OSSAS) works with county boards of DD and providers in a cooperative manner. The team's goal is to provide clear information, receive feedback, provide training and technical assistance, and increase compliance for better supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

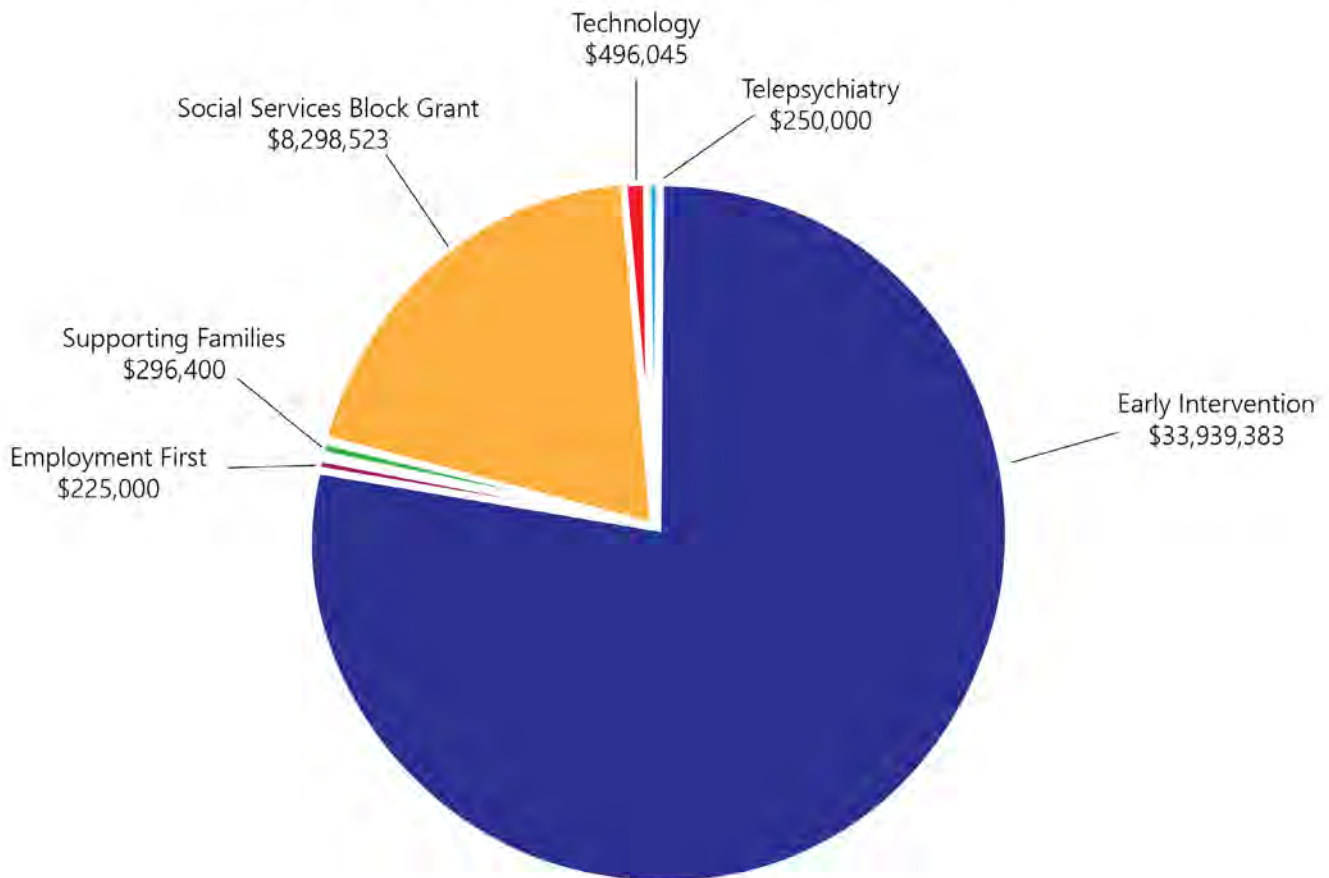
In January 2022, DODD began a series of training for providers. These sessions have been offered virtually and recordings and handouts are available after each session. The purpose of the training sessions is to discuss topics that will assist providers in having better review outcomes and better outcomes for people who receive services.

DODD also began monthly training to county board staff to assist county boards in preparing for accreditation reviews. DODD staff from different offices and units have provided training in their areas of expertise. Over 1,300 people have joined sessions during the fiscal year.

# Fiscal

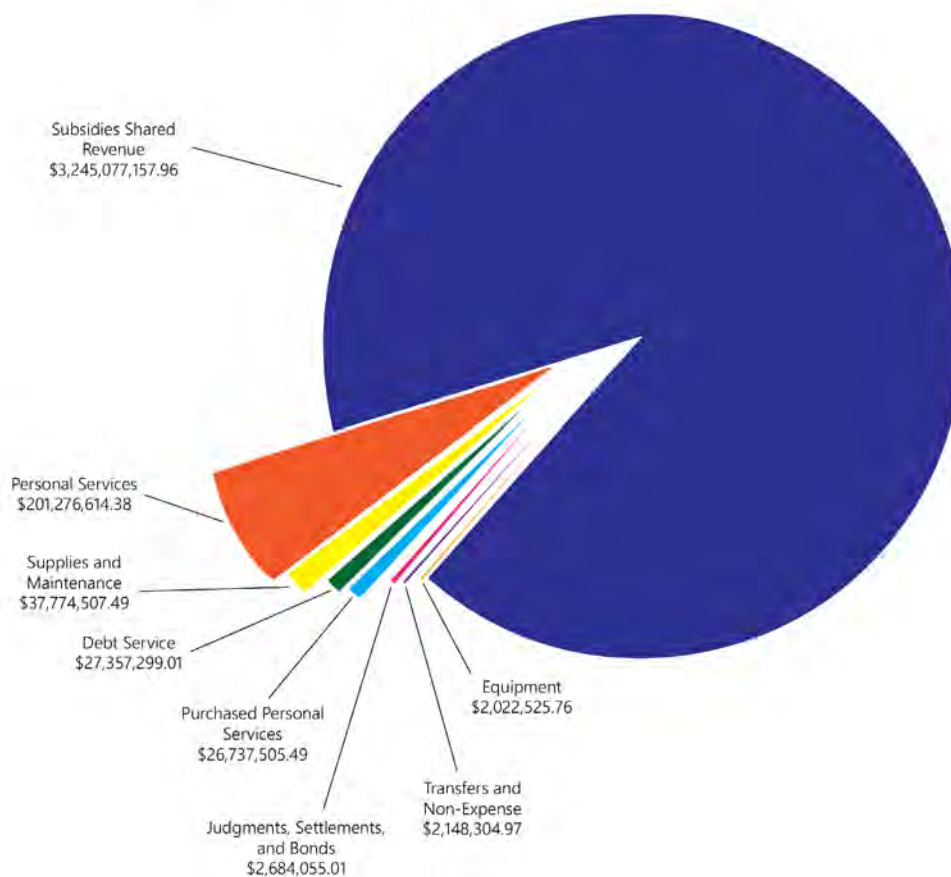
Grant/Project	FY22 Amount Obligated
Early Intervention	\$33,939,383
Employment First	\$225,000
Supporting Families	\$296,400
Social Services Block Grant	\$8,298,523
Technology	\$496,045
Telepsychiatry	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,505,351</b>

**State Fiscal Year 2022 Dollars Obligated to Grants**



Service	FY22 Dollar Amount
Equipment	\$2,022,525
Transfers and Non-Expense	\$2,148,304
Judgments, Settlements, and Bonds	\$2,684,055
Purchased Personal Services	\$26,737,505
Debt Service	\$27,357,299
Supplies and Maintenance	\$37,774,507
Personal Services	\$201,276,614
Subsidies Shared Revenue	\$3,245,077,157
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,545,077,970</b>

FY22 Budget Dollar Amounts







## Department of Developmental Disabilities

30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: (800) 617-6733  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
8 AM to 5 PM

@DODDohio



[dodd.ohio.gov](http://dodd.ohio.gov)