

Did you know?

- Approximately 60% of adults with mental retardation are still living with their parents.
- The vast majority (95.9%) of Ohioans agree that it is important to eliminate lengthy waiting lists for people with MRDD to obtain services.
- Most Ohioans (80.1%) approve of spending more money than the State currently spends to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- More than 6,800 individuals with MRDD have been waiting for residential services; some for many years.
- Another 6055 people are waiting to move to a more appropriate setting.
- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Olmstead* decision that indefinite waiting lists are unconstitutional.
- MRDD's share of the State Budget has consistently decreased over the past ten years.
- The impact of additional State expenditures will be multiplied if used as an investment to obtain more Medicaid funding.
- Every time a County Board diverts local levy dollars to provide emergency housing, it is less able to provide other essential services, such as employment, early intervention, transportation, and service coordination.

The longer we wait to begin repairing the MRDD service system, the more expensive it will be. Support the MRDD Budget Proposal NOW!

Ohio Citizens with Mental Retardation & Other Developmental Disabilities Need Your Help to...

- **Reduce residential waiting lists**
- **Provide in-home supports**
- **Improve quality of care**



**Support
the Governor's
MRDD Budget Proposal**

Act now!

1. Contact your State Representative (before April 15) **and your State Senator** (before June 1).

Express your support for the Governor's budget request for the Ohio Department of MRDD. You may also meet with your legislators. Tell them your personal story, especially if you have been waiting for services for a family member with mental retardation or other developmental disability.

2. Contact the Governor.

Thank him for his budget proposal and his willingness to allow County Boards of MRDD to use local funds to draw down Medicaid funds. Tell him *why* these funds are important to you and those you love.

The Honorable Bob Taft
Governor, State of Ohio
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus OH 43266-0601

Phone: (614) 466-3555,
Fax: (614) 466-9354, or
E-mail: Governor.Taft@das.state.oh.us

3. Ask friends to contact the Governor and their State Representatives and Senators.

Ask them to convey the importance of what the Governor's budget proposal means to people with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities.

Our Goal

To have the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate support the Governor's Budget Request for the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as introduced in House Bill 95.

This will provide the essential foundation to allow the system to use existing funds to begin to address the waiting list in a creative manner, as expressed in the Waiting List Coalition's Enhanced Budget Proposal.

Members of Ohio's Waiting List Coalition

*Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc.
Arc of Ohio
Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio
Ohio AAMR
Ohio Association of County Boards
of MRDD
Ohio Developmental Disabilities
Council
Ohio League for the Mentally
Retarded
Ohio Legal Rights Services
Ohio Provider Resource Association
Ohio Superintendents of County
Boards of MRDD
Ohio Supported Living Association
People First of Ohio*