

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
- Increase family resources
- Improve quality of care
- Provide staff with decent wages



***Support the
MRDD
Budget Proposal***
*developed by
Ohio's Waiting List Coalition*

Act now...

1. Contact the Governor's Office before December 1, 2000 call, fax, write or e-mail the Governor and let him know how important it is to address the needs of people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities in the next state budget. Tell him *why* it is important to you or those you love.

It does not need to be fancy. A two-paragraph letter with a little mustard on it will let them know it came from a real person.

Send your letter to:

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

Or you may call: (614) 466-3555,
fax: (614) 466-9354, or
e-mail: Governor.Taft@das.state.oh.us

2. Get some friends to contact the Governor's Office with their own messages.

3. Share your message with your State Senator, State Representative, or with the person who will hold that position beginning in 2001. Ask this person to send a letter of support for the Coalition's proposal to the Governor.

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*

Our Goal

To have the Governor adopt the Waiting List Coalition's MRDD Budget Proposal in his next budget, which will be out late in 2000 or early in 2001.

It becomes very difficult to add new funding to the state budget if the Governor has not already proposed it.



Illustrations by Martha Perske

How we got to this point...

Ohio has underfunded MRDD services for the past decade.

Result: Below standard supports and services, as pointed out by federal inspectors in the recent Medicaid report, and inadequate wages to provider employees.

Ohio has not met its constitutional duty to provide residential care for adults with MRDD.

Result: Thousands of people are stuck on waiting lists that are not moving, and County Boards must divert local levy dollars to fund emergency residential services.

Ohio has not taken full advantage of the federal Medicaid funds available for residential care.

Result: Millions of federal dollars that Ohio citizens with MRDD are entitled to are lost each day.

Ohio's leading MRDD professional and advocacy organizations have developed a comprehensive plan to:

1. Substantially reduce waiting lists
2. Fix the problems in the system
3. Bring to Ohio a significant amount of additional federal Medicaid funds, as shown in the chart on the right.

Waiting List Coalition's MRDD Budget Proposal State General Revenue Funds (GRF)

	<i>Fiscal Year 2002</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2003</i>
CURRENT BUDGET WITH INFLATION Maintaining current services	\$352,600,000	\$361,415,000
INCREASE CURRENT SERVICES	\$8,600,000	\$17,415,000
INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS		
Residential Program Managers To improve quality/oversight	\$ 5,700,000	\$11,400,000
Residential Direct Care Wages To recruit/retrain qualified employees	\$15,000,000	\$28,400,000
Delegated Nursing To ensure quality medical care	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,125,000
Service and Support Administration Service coordination, quality assurance, abuse investigation	\$10,000,000	\$10,250,000
Tax Equity Quality CAFS (Community Alternative Funding Systems) Services statewide	\$ 5,350,000	\$10,700,000
Behavior Management Costs of new rule	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,612,500
Subtotal Infrastructure Repairs	\$45,550,000	\$70,487,500
WAIVER EXPANSION		
Family Support Support in home, respite, etc.	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
Underdeveloped Counties Aid to areas with few residences	\$16,950,000	\$34,323,750
General Waiver Expansion Using local funds as match	-0-	-0-
Subtotal Waiver Expansion	\$19,950,000	\$40,323,750
TOTAL NEW STATE GRF DOLLARS NEEDED	\$ 74,100,000*	\$128,226,250*

* These new state dollars will generate/draw down nearly **three** times that amount in new federal funds.