

## Important policy change provides increased access to family support dollars

CCBDD is pleased to share that its Board recently approved a policy change in the Family Supports Program that will help more families care for their loved ones. **Effective July 1, 2018, CCBDD will no longer require proof of household taxable income for individuals age 22 and older who reside in the family home and are not enrolled on a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver.** Individuals who meet this criterion are eligible for the full, annual Family Supports Program allocation of \$1,500.

CCBDD recognizes and appreciates the vital support families provide to their loved ones with developmental disabilities who live at home with them and wants to help families in this caregiving role by providing funding for resources and services available through its Family Supports Program, such as respite care, therapeutic classes, personal hygiene items, and specialized equipment.

This policy change will benefit **over 500 people**, who will be notified in writing over the next month. More information about the Family Supports Program is available at <http://www.cuyahogabdd.org/en-US/Family-Support-Program.aspx> or by calling (216) 736-2947.



## A Message from the Superintendent

Significant changes recently made to Ohio's waiver waiting list rule will allow county boards of DD to better plan for and provide resources to more people who have a current need. These changes are a result of the advocacy efforts of people with developmental disabilities and their families who had frequently stated that the waiting list process for a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver was very complex and in need of improvement.

In Cuyahoga County and throughout Ohio, the demand for HCBS Waivers has exceeded the ability of county boards of DD and state governments to satisfy the need for these services. This created the need for the waiting list. While the waiting list identifies the specific waiver a person wants and a registration date, there is no information about the person's needs. Some people on the waiting list have unmet needs and others who have no current needs ask, "What am I waiting for?" This has resulted in confusion and complicates efforts to direct resources to those who need the most.

Be sure to review the important information in this newsletter that explains how CCBDD will address the new waiting list rule that goes into effect on September 1, 2018 and how it will impact people currently on the waiting list.

I want you to know that we have services and supports available, such as our Family Supports Program, that do not require waiver funding and can be provided without having to be placed on a waiting list. Please call our intake department, (216) 736-2673, if we can be of assistance.

*Kelly A. Petty*  
Superintendent & CEO



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY**  
**Board of Developmental Disabilities**  
1275 Lakeside Avenue East Cleveland, OH 44114-1129

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### Coming Up

**CCBDD Board Meetings**  
**July-Canceled, August 23**  
Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.  
CCBDD Administration Bldg.  
1275 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland

**ADA Cleveland Day**  
**CCBDD Flash Mob**  
**Wade Oval Wednesday**  
**July 25**  
University Circle

**What's in your special needs**  
**estate planning toolbox?**  
Educational Services Center of Cuyahoga County  
**August 7; 6 - 8 p.m.**

Save  
the  
Date

Saturday  
Oct. 6  
2018

10am  
-  
2pm

FREE!

## PROVIDER & RESOURCE FAIR

Learn more about providers of services and community resources for people with developmental disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

Breakout sessions will cover the following topics:

- Changes to the waiver wait list
- Selecting a provider and ProviderGuidePlus
- MUI process from a family perspective
- Role of the support administrator
- Safety in the community
- Managing a job and public benefits

Interact with 50+ providers & community partners

**Holiday Inn**  
**6001 Rockside Rd., Independence**

Questions? Call (216) 362-3778.

## Background Information: Fix The List.

There are about 49,000 people with developmental disabilities on Ohio's waiting list for HCBS waivers. This includes the Level 1 Waiver, I/O Waiver and SELF Waiver. However, many people on the list receive some type of services because county boards of DD have a variety of ways to meet people's needs – a waiver is just one of them. In addition, some people currently on the waiting list may not actually need a waiver.

A report by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center\* (2014), sponsored by the Ohio DD Council, showed that a large percentage of people with developmental disabilities and their families presently on the waiting list expressed having no current, unmet need. They requested to be placed on the waiting list in anticipation of a long wait to receive waiver services.

Of the participants of the Ohio waiting list study\*:

**46%**  
Reported having no current unmet needs

**15%**  
Reported having no future unmet needs

To address these flaws, the Fix the List coalition was formed in 2016. With much input from people with developmental disabilities and their families, this coalition advocated for a new approach to Ohio's HCBS Waiver waiting list – one that prioritizes people who have current, unmet needs. On May 14, 2018, Ohio legislators approved a new administrative rule for the waiting list based on the coalition's recommendations. Visit [www.fixthelist.info](http://www.fixthelist.info) for more information.

## What's changing?

According to the PREVIOUS waiting list rule:

**Focus was on the date of request.**

- Placement on the waiting list depended on the date a person requested a HCBS Waiver.
- Those who qualified for emergency status or other priority status received waivers first. These people were often the only ones who were enrolled on a waiver due to financial limitations of county boards of DD.
- Annually, people on the waiting list received a letter informing them of their position on the waiting list.

According to the NEW waiting list rule:

**Focus is on a person's current need.**

- Only individuals who have a "current need" will be placed on the waiver waiting list. (A current need includes situations in which a person is likely to be at risk of substantial harm due to things like, but not limited to, a primary caregiver's inability to care for the person, a lack of any caregiver, or an ongoing need for supports to address significant behavioral or medical needs. Current need is identified through a common assessment.)
- Individuals with an immediate need will receive waivers first.
- Individuals who have had a current need that can be met within 12 months will then be placed on the waiting list.
- If a person does not have a current need (as defined in the new rule and as a result of the assessment), he or she will not be placed on the waiver waiting list. However, the person may access other non-waiver supports and services available from the county board of DD.
- Non-county residents cannot be placed on other counties' waiting lists.

**It is important to know that CCBDD may be able to meet some people's current needs through non-waiver resources and without having to be placed on the waiting list.** An example of this is accessing other resources, such as Medicaid or private insurance, to pay for needed equipment in the home or using local funds to pay for occasional out of home respite care.

## What's in your special needs estate planning toolbox?

Join Attorney David S. Banas of Hickman & Lowder Co., L.P.A. who will guide families through many of the legal and financial planning opportunities available and help you evaluate options and create a special needs estate planning tool box.

**Tuesday, August 7  
6:00 - 8:00pm**

**Educational Services Center of Cuyahoga County  
6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence**

**Registration required.** Contact Mary Warrell at (216) 736-2699 or [Warrell.Mary@CuyahogaBDD.org](mailto:Warrell.Mary@CuyahogaBDD.org).

## Home and Community-Based Services Waivers and Waiting List in Cuyahoga County

**4,269** = Current number of people enrolled on a HCBS Waiver

**2,241** = Current number of people on the waiver waiting list  
Of the **2,241** people on the waiting list:  
**39%** are waiting for an I/O waiver;  
**24%** receive other/community supports or participate in the Family Supports Program; and  
**7%** live in an intermediate care facility with 24/7 supports.

**70% of the people on CCBDD's waiting list are receiving some type of support or service.**

**\$52.8M** – CCBDD's current waiver match obligation for 2018, which is paid for with local tax levy funding. This amount represents 51% of the total levy dollars CCBDD receives and continues to increase as more people are enrolled on a HCBS Waiver.

## How is CCBDD planning for this change?

- Everyone on CCBDD's current waiver waiting list will be notified of this rule change in July.
- CCBDD will begin evaluating current needs using the new common assessment during the next several months. A support administrator will schedule the assessment.
- Everyone on the current waiver waiting list will have an assessment completed no later than the end of 2020.
- People on the current waiver waiting list will maintain their current waiting list date during this transition.
- CCBDD is hosting four "Connect with Us" events in August, September and October to share information on the improvements being made to the new waiver waiting list rule and how they will impact people on the current waiting list. (Notice of these events is being mailed to those on CCBDD's current waiver waiting list.)
- If someone has an immediate/urgent need during this transition period, he/she should call the intake department for assistance: (216) 736-2673.