

STABLE Accounts- Giving people with special needs more independence and financial security

A STABLE Account is an investment account for eligible individuals with disabilities. It allows individuals with disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs, like Medicaid or SSI. Earnings in a STABLE Account are not subject to federal income tax, as long as they are spent on "Qualified Disability Expenses."

STABLE Accounts have some similar features to normal bank accounts, but they are not checking or savings accounts. They are investment accounts, similar to 529 college savings accounts or 401(k) retirement accounts. When you deposit money into a STABLE Account, the money will be invested in different options that you choose. While you can still withdraw and spend your money whenever you need it, a STABLE Account also allows you to grow your money and to save long-term for disability expenses.

To learn more, visit www.stableaccount.com.



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Looking for an opportunity to learn new skills, share ideas and connect with others?

Consider attending the monthly SOUP meetings. Day and evening options are available. SOUP (Stir One Up Program) are advocates who attend meetings and participate in small group discussions, share ideas, use their voice and connect with others in their community through service projects.

Meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Garfield Heights Library at 10:30am & 6pm, with some exceptions. There will be no meeting in June. July -location to be determined, Nov. 12 and Dec. 17. Support people are welcome.

To learn more, visit www.CuyahogaBDD.org/en-US/people-first.aspx.

C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y
Board of Developmental Disabilities
1275 Lakeside Avenue East Cleveland, OH 44114-1129

Coming Up

CCBDD Board Meetings
December 20, January 24
Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
CCBDD Administration Bldg.
1275 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland

Winter Break
All CCBDD buildings will be closed
December 24, 25, 31, 2018
and January 1, 2019

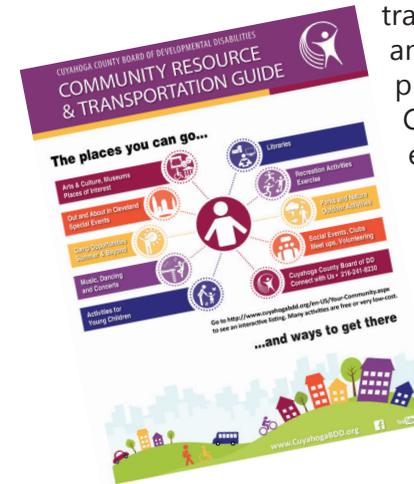
Adult Activities Centers' Winter Break
December 24, 2018 thru January 2, 2019
AACs reopen January 3, 2019



A Message from the Superintendent

People with developmental disabilities have advocated long and hard for the right to be included in their communities. Their voices have been heard. Their efforts have been recognized. New laws, policies and service definitions are creating a modern vision for the full and authentic inclusion of people with disabilities in society.

In this spirit of inclusion in the community, we have created a new Community Resource and Transportation Guide that was recently mailed to individuals and families served by CCBDD. This Guide offers tips about accessing the community, local



transportation options, and a link to an interactive listing of the many places the Greater Cleveland Community has to offer. (An electronic version of the Guide is available at www.CuyahogaBDD.org/en-US/Your-Community.aspx).

Happy exploring!

Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO



Preparing for the transition of the Adult Activities Centers

Much planning continues as the Cuyahoga County Board of DD prepares to transition its Adult Activities Centers (AACs) to a private provider or providers in January 2020. Meetings were held for parents and family members at each of the AACs in September. The purpose of these meetings was to share updates on the planning process and related timeline as well as answer questions. Below are the top five frequently asked questions parents and family members had as well as CCBDD's responses to them.

A copy of all the frequently asked questions and many other documents and notices about the transition of the AACs are available online at www.CuyahogaBDD.org by clicking on this button.



1 How will the private provider be chosen for the Adult Activities Centers?

CCBDD will use a competitive process to identify a potential private provider for each AAC. A three step review process will be utilized and includes: an initial screening of the proposal; a paper scoring based on responses; and an in-person interview. Recommendations on the selected private provider(s) will be presented to the CCBDD Board for its approval on June 27, 2019. CCBDD will then enter into a contract with the selected private provider(s) for a three-year period, beginning on January 6, 2020.

2 What are the certification requirements and standards for private providers?

Private providers are required to be certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and follow all requirements- like county boards of DD. All of the provider certification rules and standards are available at www.dodd.ohio.gov/Providers/Pages/AP.aspx.

3 What role will the Cuyahoga County Board of DD have in monitoring the services of the private provider?

CCBDD will continue to have a role in monitoring services through the Support Administrator (SA) role and technical assistance/training. We will also continue to have a presence in all of the AACs as we will continue to have office space in these Centers for staff, such as therapists, behavioral health professionals, and others.

4 Will transportation be impacted?

Transportation will remain the same for people who use a Non-Medical transportation (NMT) provider. Those who attend the AACs always have the option to change their transportation provider if that is something they desire. Some private providers offer their own transportation services. Depending on which private provider is selected for an AAC, a person may want to change his/her transportation provider.

5 Will CCBDD still need levy funds?

Yes! CCBDD will continue its vital role as a funder of services. Even when CCBDD is no longer a provider of direct services, it will need to fund these and other services. For waiver services, Medicaid pays 60% and CCBDD uses local levy funds to pay the required 40% match. Levy funds are also used to pay for non-AAC services, such as the early intervention program and behavioral health services.

Request for Qualification Timeline Privatization of the Adult Activities Centers (AACs)

Fall of 2018	AAC facility tours
January 7, 2019	Request for Qualification published*
Week of February 4, 2019	AAC facility tours
Thru May 2019	Review process
June 27, 2019	Selection approval by CCBDD Board

January 6, 2020

Transition date for all AACs

*A copy will also be published at www.CuyahogaBDD.org/en-US/Legal-Notices.aspx

Reminder: Recent policy change provides increased access to family support dollars

CCBDD's Board approved a policy change in the Family Supports Program back in July that helps more families care for their loved ones. CCBDD no longer requires 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.

The 2019 Family Supports Program application was recently mailed to families currently receiving supports through this program. It is due on or before January 1, 2019.

To see if you are eligible for the Family Supports Program or to learn more, visit www.CuyahogaBDD.org/en-US/Family-Support-Program.aspx or call (216) 736-2947.

ProviderGuidePlus

ProviderGuidePlus is a new resource for rating providers of services for people with developmental disabilities. This easy-to-use, online system provides an opportunity for you to rate your provider and learn how others have rated their providers. *ProviderGuidePlus* is intended to help people select a provider and help improve services overall.



Follow three simple steps to access ProviderGuidePlus:

- Go to www.ProviderGuidePlus.com
- Click Find, Rate or Review Provider
- Type the name of the provider you want to rate or review