



ABOUT BENEFITS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: Advocacy & Regulatory Representation

The times never seem to be anything but challenging for providers offering services to individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities (DD). The greatest portion of **OPRA's mission** is to remain in the thick of the battle, representing those providers and, in turn, the people they serve. The next generation of ICF/IID services is being developed, and OPRA is **proactively engaged** in that process. Medicaid programs are consistently under threat of reduction or elimination, and OPRA is **in the vanguard** of protectors shielding that valuable funding. Whatever the initiative or challenge, the need for providers to have a unified message – to be heard as these and other policy changes are considered – has never been greater. As such, OPRA's role as the leading voice has never been more critical.

*The Trusted Voice for Providers
Serving Ohioans with Disabilities*



EDUCATION: Training & Professional Development

Keeping providers informed of the ever-changing landscape of customer needs, new technology, best practices, and pending rules, regulations, and system plans is another critical element of OPRA's role. To keep members up-to-speed, OPRA conducts several **statewide Conferences and training seminars** annually. The Spring and Fall Conferences typically feature an assortment of separate, up-to-date educational tracks for CEOs, COOs, Program Directors, HR, Direct Support, DD Nurses, Housing Specialists, and Technology Experts. Smaller training events throughout the year may touch on Ethics Law and the Positive Culture Initiative. OPRA members also have access to **exclusive online educational resources**. Most of these education events offer **continuing education units** from a variety of industry-relevant state boards. Since 1991, as a reflection of its ongoing dedication to professional development within the DD industry, OPRA has hosted an **Annual Awards Luncheon**, honoring individual and team recipients nominated by their employing organizations - provider members of OPRA.

UPDATES: Networking, Marketing & Information-Sharing

OPRA encourages members to join its **Committees**, which address a variety of industry-relevant areas. Participation provides members the opportunity to share ideas, experiences, and knowledge, and to advance the collective mission and improve the group advantage. The core standing Committees include Policy, Program Directors, Human Resources, and IT. The **OPRA list serv** facilitates timely communication among members, efficiently disseminating e-updates on important issues related to DD, such as the state budget, waiver reimbursement, adult day services, rule changes, etc. Different groups within the list serv cover everything from general member information to specific topic areas, and many groups correspond to the above-listed OPRA Committees. List serv addressees are encouraged to provide input as well as post questions and comments. OPRA's **online directories and databases** offer an efficient way for providers and the individuals and families they serve to easily access a wide variety of important and specific information about the services and solutions available in their communities. The **Citation Database** is a members-only resource that provides timely Medicaid survey and accepted plan-of-corrections information. The data is

OPRA CORE BELIEFS

We are dedicated to these principles:

- Dignity for all persons with developmental disabilities;
- Supporting members in their commitment to sound, innovative business practices and quality standards of service;
- Transparency in all activities;
- Advocacy for the right public policy for the right reasons;
- Quality that people can trust;
- Mission-driven values;
- Leadership through shared learning.

provided anonymously by members and can be viewed and sorted based on search requirements. The **Member Directory** is available in the exclusive members-only section of the website and is updated there as any corrections/changes are reported by members. The **Service Provider Directory** offers all website visitors the chance to browse through OPRA members' profiles, and features a customizable search function. OPRA members can add more information to help their organization stand out. OPRA's **Service Openings Directory** permits members to post specifics about current openings within their residential and day services, including the type of facility and contact information. OPRA's online **Job Bank** allows members to post any and all job openings within their organizations. OPRA's online **Calendar** lists upcoming events at the Association, plus activities hosted by members as well as other agencies throughout the state and nation.

FINANCES: Discounts & Money-Saving Exclusives

OPRA members receive **unlimited discounted registrations** to a wealth of training and professional development events, including marquee occasions like the annual Conferences. Additionally, OPRA products – such as the bi-annual Compensation, Benefits & Turnover Survey reports – are offered to members at a price well below the market rate.

To help further reduce costs and improve members' bottom lines, many of OPRA's Associate Members – businesses and organizations that support providers – participate in OPRA's **Member Discount Program**, offering savings on products and services that providers need and use every day.

MEMBERSHIP: How-To

Provider Membership in OPRA is available to all Waiver, ICF/DD, and Supported Living service providers. *Associate Membership* is extended to businesses and organizations that support providers, as well as friends and relatives of individuals with DD. To become a member, or for more information, visit www.opra.org, or email us at opra@opra.org.

