



ABOUT OPRA

THE BASICS

As a **statewide association of service providers**, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) is a leader in efforts to collaboratively build a service system that meets the needs of the industry's ultimate customers: Ohioans with developmental disabilities (DD).

Founded in 1974, OPRA is a **non-profit organization** that represents community-based providers of services to individuals with disabilities. At the beginning of de-institutionalization - when individuals with DD were first moving back into their communities - we worked actively to support the integration of Ohio's citizens with DD from large, state-operated agencies to small, privately-owned, and community-based residential settings.

In recent years, community-based services have evolved to include not only supervised residential settings, but also individualized supports provided to adults and children in their own homes, as well as vocational and employment assistance. There are numerous specialty programs for medically fragile individuals and for individuals with behavior challenges. Additionally, there are innovative programs designed for children and senior citizens with DD. OPRA's membership consists of over **150 organizations** providing services to more than 15,000 Ohioans with DD, and the businesses that support those organizations. We represent approximately 70% of the state's community-based providers.

THE MISSION

OPRA's mission is to **support and provide advocacy** for community-based service providers to ensure availability of programs, services, and funding adequate to support and assist individuals with developmental disabilities as they strive to achieve a life of increasing independence, productivity, and integration.

OPRA works with Ohio lawmakers, administrative agencies, and other stakeholder groups to shape public policy affecting providers and people with DD. **We work to promote the creation of a statewide structure that is efficient, equitable, and effective.**

Evolution of the OPRA logo

Early version



2006



Today



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.

THE STRATEGY

As the voice of our members and a leader on issues of concern to people with disabilities, **OPRA works with legislators, administrative agencies and other stakeholder groups, including families and community-based organizations** to shape public policies that deeply affect individuals with DD. We are committed to protecting the right of individuals and families to choose where and how their loved ones are cared for and supported, and our highest priority is providing and sustaining high-quality services for all Ohioans with disabilities.

OPRA is one of the prime movers in creating a statewide structure that is rational, equitable, fair and effective. We are determined to build a system in which our members and their employees can grow and thrive in their pursuit of a human service mission.

OPRA is a values-driven organization that sticks to a coherent set of guiding beliefs, even as it adapts and adjusts its tactics to reflect the changing environment within which it works. We support our members in their commitment to sound, innovative business practices and quality standards of service. We are transparent and open in all of our activities. We are outspoken in our advocacy for public policies and practices that address the needs of individuals with disabilities.

BECOME A MEMBER

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.

