

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JULY 21, 2023

Budget Messaging: Following the passage of HB33, the state operating budget, OPRA worked through its committees to develop [this communication document](#). This document is meant to be a tool in your toolbox as you communicate with your staff about the increases. You can customize the document as necessary to reflect the services your agency provides and how the increases will impact your agency. We waited to release this document until we could share percentage increases to the various waiver services. [Those increases have been posted to DODD's website here](#). You can find the increases under the "HCBS Rates (Agency and Independent)" tab toward the bottom of the page. We will share the final service rate tables when they are published by DODD. Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions about the document, the rates, or the budget in general.

Blueprint ADS Pilot: Over the past few weeks, DODD has held several meetings of the Blueprint implementation sub-committees, all focused on the ADS Quality Pilot that will be launched in the fall. Through the various meetings, DODD has shared they plan to release the application for the pilot (pending some approvals) on 8/1, and then will open up the application portal for submission on 8/11. The portal will then be open for applications through 9/1. Given the timing, scope and nature of this pilot, we want OPRA members to be as informed and prepared as possible for the application. We have attached the program implementation guide [here for your further review](#). Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions, and we will share the draft application questions as soon as we have them.

OOD Fee Schedule: As OOD prepares for future fee schedule changes and rate increases based on the recent budget investment, our advocacy coalition including the Ohio Council on Mental Health and the Association of Goodwill Industries met this week to align direction and advocacy around changes we would like to see. To help inform this process, we are holding an additional Employment Services Committee next Thursday, 7/27, to gather further feedback from the OPRA membership.

ARPA: Ohio still has access to over \$50M in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, which must be spent to enhance HCBS services and address workforce issues by March of 2025. In a meeting last week, DODD presented initial ideas for the use of the funding, and are looking for feedback. [The draft spending document can be found here](#) and we encourage your ideas, questions and feedback. This is one-time money so it will probably be used for shorter term projects or to temporarily bolster other existing or long-term projects. Please send any ideas, comments or feedback to [Pete](#) or [Scott](#).

PRF: Reporting for phase 5 funding of the federal Provider Relief Fund (PRF) is now open. Providers who received PRF funding of at least \$10,000 in the aggregate from January 1 to June 30, 2022 need to report on spending by September 30th, 2023. [You can find more information here](#)- or you can email Christine with any questions.

Budget Gratitude: Reminder that there is still time to send messages of gratitude to policy makers for their incredible support of our system in the state budget. Christine sent out instructions last week on how to do this and we encourage everyone to take part! If you have any questions about the budget more generally or sending thank you notes, please reach out to [Christine](#).



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download DODD's [Memo Monday](#), including information on the HCBS and ICF rate percentage increases based on the recently passed budget, Appendix K updates, funding for crisis intervention, and more!

Calling All Speakers! OPRA is proud to announce that the call for session proposals is officially open for the 2023 OPRA Fall Conference. The conference will be in-person and hosted at Nationwide Conference Center on October 26th & 27th, 2023. We invite you to submit a thought-provoking, informative session with a clear outline of the tangible impact your presentation will have on attendees and their teams. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Awards: OPRA is pleased to announce the call for nominations are now open for the 2023 OPRA Annual Awards. The purpose of the OPRA Annual Awards is to honor dedicated service professionals, groups and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions in the I/DD Field. We encourage all provider member agencies to submit nominations to recognize those that have worked hard and dedicated their time to help support the people they serve. We are accepting (2) nominations for each category per agency. Please take a moment to review the attached OPRA Awards Descriptions and coordinate with your staff before submitting your nominations. **All nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, August 25th, 2023.** You can [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the Annual Award Form to submit your nomination. You will be asked to log into your OPRA account. Nominators will be contacted no later than Friday, September 8th regarding the status of your award nomination. Please reach out to [Sonya](#) if you have any questions about this year's nomination process



Upcoming Events

[7/27: OPRA Employment Committee - OOD Fee Schedule Focus Group](#)

[8/3: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting](#)

[8/10: OPRA Healthcare Committee](#)

[8/11: Tech Summit 2023](#)

[Click here for DODD July/August Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["Ohio Announces \\$90 Million in Transportation Projects"](#)

["CDC Finds Nearly 9% of U.S. Children Diagnosed with a Developmental Disability"](#)

["States undergoing process of removing people from Medicaid after pandemic-era policy expires"](#)

["Sub-minimum Wage Employment Continues To Slide - Disability Scoop"](#)

