

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 24, 2025



OHIO PROVIDER RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Ohio's Operating Budget

A GUIDE FOR OPRA MEMBERS

State Fiscal Year '26-'27

Budget Guide: OPRA has released the newest version of the State Operating Budget Guide for OPRA members. [You can view the guide here.](#) In the guide you will find information on the process, list of important General Assembly committees, and a directory of members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate. Now is a great time to introduce yourself and your organization to your members of the General Assembly, especially if your members serve on either the House or Senate Finance and Medicaid committees. We are happy to assist in setting up meetings and happy to join any legislative meetings and tours you and your team sets up. As we move through the process, we will be sharing more resources on talking points you can use in your meetings, resources you can share with your staff and board on what is in the budget, and how to participate in committee hearings.

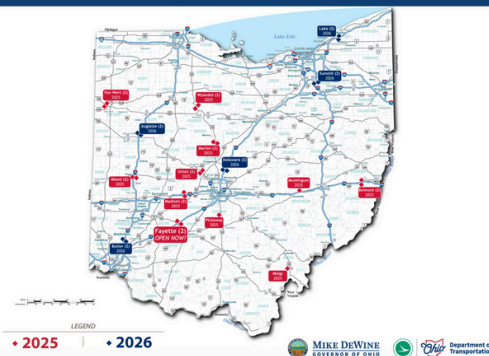
Pre-voc and Employment Services: Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to us over the past few weeks on the BEST, GES and Career Planning rule drafts. We compiled and consolidated the feedback and sent it to DODD last week. Our initial feedback document can be [found here.](#) As DODD aims to introduce these new services/rules in July, we expect to see revisions and changes and are hopeful that consistent stakeholder feedback will help address some of the significant concerns we know members still have with the proposals. We will keep everyone updated and will be discussing more at the [Day Array Committee](#) on Feb. 6th. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with questions.

OPRA's New Mission: At this week's OPRA Board meeting, we finalized our strategic plan for 2025-2026, including our new mission statement; "To Build and Serve a Community of Great Providers." To learn more about our new mission, vision and guiding principles, [click here.](#)

DCY Grant: On Jan.29, The Dept. of Children and Youth will be releasing a grant application for public/private partnerships to expand childcare access. [To learn more, click here.](#)



Universal Changing Stations at Ohio Rest Areas



OPRA had the honor of being in attendance as Gov. DeWine unveiled the first of 29 Universal Changing Stations installed in Ohio Rest Areas. We are deeply appreciative of the advocacy and effort that went into making Ohio's communities more accessible for people with disabilities.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: Click here to read this week's [DODD Memo Monday](#), which includes a 'clarification' on the new NMT to CIE rate, as well as a new nursing task inventory, Ohio Tech Ambassadors regional summits, and MUI and UI review deadlines.

MUI Annual Review: Independent and Agency providers are required to complete their annual review of MUI's by January 31, and submit their review to the county board no later than February 28, 2025.



Although registration just opened, in-person registration is already full for this year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day. [Online/virtual registration is still available](#) for the event on March 4th. This year's theme is 'Driving Towards Access'.

OPRA invites you to submit session proposals for our 2025 Spring Conference, scheduled for May 29 & 30 at the [Hilton Columbus](#) at Easton (3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, Ohio). This year's focus is on advancing the business of delivering high-quality I/DD services through strategic leadership, operational excellence, and innovation.

Conference Theme: Building Great Providers. The OPRA Spring Conference emphasizes the importance of building "Great Providers" who:

1. Deliver Person-Centered, Outcome-Focused Services
2. Invest in and Support Qualified Staff
3. Cultivate Strong Leadership and Partnerships
4. Establish Strong Operational Foundations
5. Advocate and Innovate Continuously



The deadline to submit your session proposal is Friday, March 7, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Sonya Summers at ssummers@opra.org

Upcoming Events

2/6: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting

2/10: OPRA CFO/Business Manager Network
Lunch and Learn

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD
training events

News & Resources

Recording and presentation from HMA Webinar:
"Understanding Policy Shifts in the New
Administration" available now

"Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appoints Lt. Gov. Jon
Husted to Vance's Senate seat"

"Federal health agencies told to halt all external
communications"

"Illinois Eliminates Subminimum Wages for
Disabled Employees"

