

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

Shutdown & SNAP: Congress officially [reached an agreement](#) on reopening the federal government this week after the longest ever shutdown of 43 days. With the reopening, the state has published some guidance on the issuance of SNAP benefits for November. You can read the the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services [guidance here](#). You can see the most up-to-date guidance by referring to the ODJFS press release section. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Christine](#). The bill does not address the expiration of federal subsidies for healthcare purchased on the [ACA exchange, the policy issue](#) at the center of the shutdown. Additionally, with the government's reopening, operations at OOD should be returning to normal and authorizations should be able to continue as originally planned. Since the funding bill also restores layoffs enacted during the shutdown, we expect that layoffs at the agency should be paused and administration of state VR grants should continue. We will keep everyone updated if we learn anything new in the coming weeks regarding the reopening.

Wage Survey: This week, DODD released the [2024 Direct Support Professional \(DSP\) Compensation Survey Summary](#), showing the progress providers have made in increasing DSP wages and reducing turnover as a result of state budget investments in reimbursement rates. We appreciate OPRA members for completing this survey, which helps to provide important data and shows the efficacy of investment in disability services.

Remote Support Rules: The draft rules for both Remote Supports and Assistive Technology are set for a public hearing on 11/17 and [can be reviewed here](#). OPRA has connected with AT providers to finalize any additional feedback on the rules ahead of Monday's hearing. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any additional ideas or feedback on these rule drafts.

HB 585- On Monday, Reps. Odioso and Lett introduced HB 585, a bill that will amend DODD's authority over the community capital assistance funds. The bill was referred to the House Community Revitalization Committee. It does not appear that the bill is slated for a hearing next week. [You can read the bill here](#).

EVV: The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) published the November EVV newsletter. ODM included information/guidance on calculating on units, especially when a provider bills two different billing codes or multiple rates for one service in one day. [You can read the newsletter here](#). ODM is hosting the next EVV stakeholder meeting on Monday from 2:30pm to 4pm. Part of the meeting will include a presentation on the guidance on calculating DODD units included in the November EVV newsletter. [You can register for the stakeholder meeting here](#)

DODD Housing Workgroup: Today (11/14/25) DODD convened the first meeting of their Housing Workgroup. DODD plans to publish the workgroup's suggestions during the summer of 2026. [You can review the workgroup's materials here](#). If you have any questions about the workgroup or would like to provide input into OPRA's work on the workgroup, please reach out to [Christine](#).



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](#), including InterRai Town Halls, the County Board accreditation tool, end-of-year training requirements, and upcoming workshops, gatherings and trainings.



**GREAT PROVIDER
PLAYBOOK**

Insights you can act on from OPRA
'Tis the Season for Surveys

The compliance and survey process can feel intimidating for providers and their staff. Although most surveys and reviews are unannounced, **Great Providers** utilize their playbook to maintain year-round readiness through ongoing monitoring and continuous quality improvement. This guide offers a roadmap to help prepare your team, records, and systems—building confidence no matter when or what type of review occurs.

Federal (CMS)	<p>Federal surveys are the primary tool used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure that Intermediate Care Facilities comply with the federal Conditions of Participation as outlined in 42 CFR 483.400–483.480. In Ohio, these reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are conducted by the Ohio Department of Health on behalf of CMS every 12-15 months;• Are typically unannounced and may include a recertification review, focused fundamental survey, complaint investigation, follow-up visit, or federal validation review.• Are based on Exhibit 355 which serves as a guide for both the surveyor and provider.
State (DODD)	<p>DODD's Office of Compliance conducts reviews of licensed facilities and waiver providers as well as oversight reviews of County Boards and Councils of Government (COGs). These reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are conducted by DODD's Office of Compliance at least once during each certification period or term of accreditation or licensure;• Are announced at least 90 days prior to the review being conducted;• Are based on a DODD provided Compliance Review Tool and a list of required documents. There are different review tools available depending upon the service being provided. <p>Providers who are accredited through a national accreditation entity (CARF, CQL, etc.) may request an ABBREVIATED REVIEW by submitting a written request to the Department.</p>

The latest issue of the [Great Provider Playbook](#) was recently released, focusing on **Survey Season**, including the different types of reviews and surveys as well as a 90-day countdown preparation guide to navigate the review process.

Member Survey: As we plan for 2026, your feedback is essential in helping us strengthen and refine our work. Please take a few minutes to complete OPRA's [Member Feedback Survey](#) — your input directly shapes our priorities, resources, and advocacy efforts for the coming year. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and covers four key areas aligned with our CARE framework: Please complete the [survey](#) by Wednesday, November 26 (and then go enjoy Thanksgiving!). Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective and for being part of a community that's shaping the future of Ohio's DD system.



Discover the Frontline Supervisor Experience (FLSX)!
Join fellow Frontline Supervisors for an empowering experience where your voice matters!

Share your insights and feedback directly with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and system partners to help shape the future of recruitment, retention, job satisfaction, and career growth among Frontline Supervisors in the intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) field.

The FLSX is sponsored by Ohio DODD & facilitated by OADSP.

SCAN TO REGISTER!



Don't miss out! Scan the QR code to register for in-person regional meetings. Meeting locations include Cincinnati, Ohio (12/1/2025); Toledo, Ohio (12/2/2025); Columbus, Ohio (12/10/2025); and Cleveland, Ohio (12/17/2025). Choose from morning or afternoon session times!

Upcoming Events

11/17: 2025 OPRA Regional Training - District 7

11/18: 2025 OPRA Regional Training - District 5

11/19: OPRA QIDP Peer Learning Session 3

11/20: OPRA HR Committee Meeting

Click [here](#) for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News & Resources

“Agencies prepare to bring back furloughed staff, rescind layoffs as shutdown comes to an end”

“What to expect (from CMS) when you're expecting (an end to the shutdown)”

“SNAP benefits are a 'lifeline' — especially for people with disabilities”

“Cleveland Guardians and City of Cincinnati Awarded the Inclusive Employer Award”

