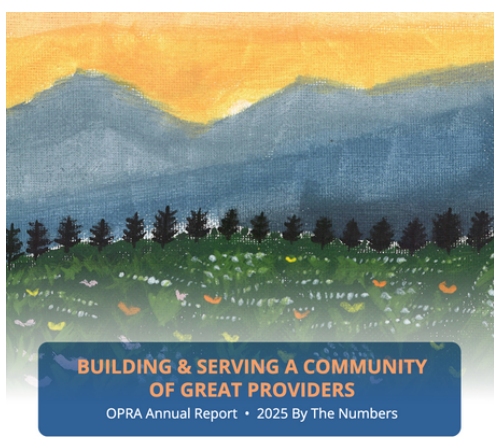


# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 9, 2026



**Annual Report:** OPRA is proud to share the release of its 2025 Annual Report, detailing the association's strategic efforts, accomplishments, and impact delivering supports and advocating for community-based providers across Ohio.

OPRA continues to champion excellence in services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, strengthening the provider community and influencing public policy across state systems. This report tells the story of what we've built together over the past year: a strong, connected community committed to quality, learning, advocacy, and continuous improvement. [Click here to read!](#)

**RHT:** The Rural Health Transformation Fund is a \$50 billion federal initiative administered by the CMS to strengthen rural health care access, workforce, innovation, and infrastructure across the U.S. and address funding gaps created in the OBBBA last year. Ohio was awarded approximately \$202 million in the first year, placing it slightly above the national average for state awards. According to Ohio's project abstract, its plan centers on five core pillars: creating rural health innovation hubs linking hospitals, clinics, EMS, pharmacists, and community partners; transforming emergency care through advanced EMS models; expanding school-based health centers for primary, behavioral, dental, and telehealth services; growing statewide mobile vision, hearing, and dental care; and building a rural health workforce pipeline from high school through professional training. [Click here to read Ohio's project abstract, along with the other state awards and abstracts.](#)

**ICF Personal Needs Allowance:** Starting on 1/1/26, the Ohio Department of Medicaid increased the personal needs allowance for residents in ICFs. The allowance increased from \$50 to \$75 a month. This increase is a result of negotiations during the state budget process. [You can read more about the increase here.](#) Please reach out to either [Christine](#) or [Rachel](#) if you have any questions.

**DODD Medication Administration Rules-** The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is seeking comment on a package of seven rules relating to medication administration. [You can read about the changes here.](#) These changes reflect statutory changes made during last year's state budget process. Please send any feedback you may have to [Christine](#) by Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ACA Premiums:** This week, the US House of Representatives voted 230-196 to pass a bill that would revive expired enhanced ACA insurance marketplace subsidies. These subsidies expired at the end of 2025 with no clear path on replacing the funds. Seventeen Republicans, including three from Ohio, joined Democrats to pass the bill that would extend the subsidies for three more years. This bill is likely to die in the Senate, however, Senator Moreno is working on a different bill that could pass the Senate and hopefully the House. The bill will likely be introduced in the very near future. [You can read more about the on-going debate here.](#) Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

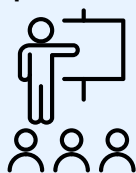
**Memo Monday:** Click here to read this week's [DODD Memo Monday](#), which includes info on Updates for Chair Recliner Coverage Under State Plan Benefits, the Personal Needs Allowance Increase, the Request for Proposals: Expanding Capacity for Group Employment Supports, a DSP and Provider Toolkit Information Session and more.

**Minimum Wage:** Ohio's minimum wage increased to \$11 for non-tipped employees starting on 1/1/26. This increase is a result of an Ohio Constitutional amendment passed back in 2006 that implemented annual minimum wage increases tied to certain CPI data. [You can read more about the increases here.](#) Please reach out to [Christine](#) if you have any questions.

## CALL FOR SPEAKER PROPOSALS!!

**Deadline to Submit is Monday, February 16, 2026**

Cleveland is the city where rock & roll found its name—and where greatness is celebrated every day. Just steps from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, OPRA's 2026 Great Provider Summit invites you to Get Ready for Greatness. Join us as we turn up the volume on what it takes to lead in the next era of I/DD services—through strategic leadership, operational excellence, workforce investment, and advocacy that shapes the future of our field. OPRA invites you to submit session proposals that are practical, forward-thinking, and equipped with concrete tools and strategies to help providers reach Hall of Fame-level impact and performance. [Click to submit!](#)



## ADVANCE

/Provider Leadership Training

Recognizing the critical importance of developing tomorrow's leaders, OPRA proudly offers the ADVANCE Provider Leadership Training, a year-long development experience for DD professionals. Registration is currently open for the training program, which begins in January 2026. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

## Upcoming Events

1/15: OPRA HR Committee

1/20: OPRA District 2 Meeting

1/21: 2026 OPRA QIDP Peer Learning Session 4

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

## News & Resources

“DeWine reflects on 2025 achievements, outlines 2026 priorities in final year as Ohio governor”

“House passes ACA subsidy extension as bipartisan negotiations heat up in Senate”

“Ramaswamy picks up key endorsement from DeWine in Ohio governor race”

“National Core Indicators® State of the Workforce for IDD in 2024 Report”



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