



ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

DEAR FRIENDS OF CUYAHOGA DD:

As I look back on 2022, I am incredibly proud of the collaborative work we did as a community to provide innovative new service options to the people Cuyahoga DD supports and their families. In each of our service areas, Cuyahoga DD staff pushed the envelope to create new opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

In this report, you will read about the TryTech Apartments— smart apartments for people with disabilities in a building with typical, market-rate units. People supported by Cuyahoga DD can live at TryTech for up to three weeks and try various pieces of technology that can support them in their goals of living independently.

You will also learn about our Intensive Support Teams, which pull professionals from all of our service areas to provide holistic support for young people with intense needs and their families.

In 2022, we also launched our Family Fun Fairs, giving families with young children that we support opportunities to engage with various Cuyahoga DD departments and each other. We also partnered with local day programs to encourage self-advocacy through our Empower Pop-Ups.

Last year we also saw continued increases in enrollment for Cuyahoga DD services and our Family Supports Program. I am extremely proud of this, as it means we are reaching more people in our community who need our support.

By the time you receive this report, I will have transitioned into retirement. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve our community as Superintendent and CEO of Cuyahoga DD since 2013. The future is bright, and I look forward to seeing all the things we continue to accomplish together.

Sincerely,

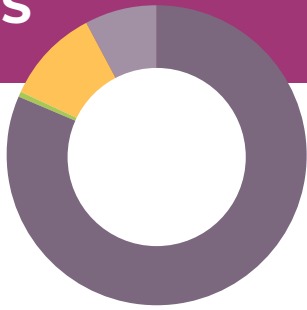


Kelly A. Petty

KELLY A. PETTY
Superintendent & CEO

2022 FINANCIALS

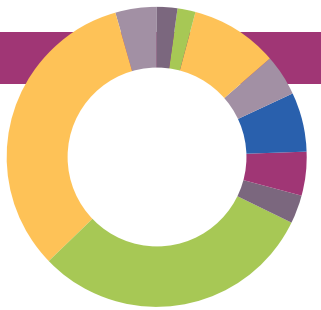
REVENUE



- » Levy **81.60%**
- » State of Ohio **0.61%**
- » Federal Funds **10.15%**
- » Other **7.64%**

\$134,544,021

EXPENSES



- » Services for Children **2.43%**
- » Services for Adults **2.00%**
- » Special Services **9.33%**
- » Building Operations **4.57%**
- » Business Operations **6.28%**
- » Administration **4.68%**
- » Provider Dev. & Supp **2.99%**
- » Comm Mcd Services **30.59%**
- » Local Match **32.70%**
- » Transfer to Reserve **4.43%**

\$135,455,387

CUYAHOGA DD BY THE #S 2022:



14,653

Total Number of people supported in 2022

6,339

Referrals made for services to help people find providers/ caregivers



\$2.9 MILLION

Given to service providers through Cuyahoga DD grants

3,882

Families in the Family Supports Program



281

People supported by Forensic Services

7,231

People on Support Administration caseloads



18,352

Individual Service Plans (initial, redeterminations, and revisions) completed by Support Administrators

2,570

Children served through Early Intervention



11 Families who used Respite Care

3,881

Items borrowed from the Lending Library



499

New waiver allocations (Includes Level 1 and I.O.)

1,812

Major Unusual Incident Investigations



32,148

Early Intervention home visits

2,409

People who received Behavioral Health support



\$971,817

Spent on Home Modifications



Supporting Young People with Intense Needs

The number of families Cuyahoga DD serves with young people with intense needs has increased significantly over the last few years. Working with these families, we saw how much the entire family—not just the person served—was struggling. In some cases, families were looking for residential placement options and/or they were giving up custody of their child.

With a goal of giving families the support they need and stabilizing the home environment, Cuyahoga DD created Intensive Support Teams (ISTs) in 2022. With a team on the east side and one on the west side, Cuyahoga DD staff from across service areas worked together in new ways to support young people with intense needs, ages 10-25 and their families.

IST participation is based on a referral from Cuyahoga DD staff. Young people whose behaviors cause significant worry or present a risk to themselves or others can be considered for an IST. IST services are intensive, short term, personalized to meet the family's needs, and provided in the home or community at no cost to the family. IST services are funded through local levy dollars.

CUYAHOGA DD STAFF THAT WORK ON A FAMILY'S INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM INCLUDE:

- » SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR
- » OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
- » SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
- » BEHAVIOR CURRICULUM INTERVENTION SPECIALIST
- » MULTI-SYSTEM SUPERVISOR
- » BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF
- » NURSE

As needed, an IST will bring in additional resources, such as physical therapy, assistive technology, and/or a community provider. The IST works with families to assess the young person's needs on a regular basis and put interventions in place to address them. And in some cases, they connect family members to needed services as well, such as marriage counseling and counseling for siblings.

Cuyahoga DD has served 29 families through ISTs to date. Assessments show that 52 percent of IST participants showed between a 10 and 50 percent improvement in critical areas. More important than that, though, is that the program is keeping families together. Read more about a family served by the IST.

MEET LOGAN

Nicole, whose 16-year-old son Logan is served by Cuyahoga DD, was looking for residential placement for him when she learned about the Intensive Support Program. Logan's IST worked with the family, which included Nicole, Logan, Logan's grandmother, and his younger brother, at least once a week for 18 months. During that time, the team worked on executive functioning, empowering Logan to help them develop schedules and routines. They also helped Nicole and her mother understand what was motivating Logan's behaviors and gave them tools for how to work together to address them.

Logan's experience with the IST helped build his self-esteem. He's built friendships and knows that there are adults who care about him and can help him with his needs. According to Nicole, "You can feel the love in the home again." And when asked how he felt now that he's completed his time with the IST, Logan said, "I feel like a million bucks!"



TryTech Apartments

In 2022, Cuyahoga DD developed a nationwide-first housing opportunity to answer this question: What do adults with developmental disabilities (DD) do when they can't live at home with their parents anymore? Already, 76 percent of these adults live in the family home, and 25 percent of those family homes are led by someone over the age of 60.

TryTech at the Cranford Apartments in the heart of Lakewood offers a unique opportunity for people with DD to live in a smart apartment in an integrated building on a short-term lease. TryTech lets residents try technology and tools they might want to use in their future daily home life for mealtimes, entertainment, security, wellbeing and self-care, and more.

This trial housing option provides an immersive independent-living experience for people with DD to gain confidence and determine what technology works best for them as they move toward living as independently as they want.

To adapt the four units into safe and comfortable apartments for people with DD—including two accessible units—Cuyahoga DD partnered with North Coast Community Homes, an organization with decades of experience in fulfilling the housing needs of people with disabilities.

Renters can live in a TryTech apartment for several weeks, during and after which their Cuyahoga DD Support Administrator and Assistive Technology staff will assess their needs and determine next steps for achieving their independent living goals.

The technology has a positive, lasting effect on the people who have lived at TryTech.



“Every person who has stayed at TryTech has benefited in terms of increased independence,” said Candi Markle, Housing Coordinator, Community & Medicaid Services. “At this point, every past TryTech resident has moved to a more independent living situation or is in the midst of that process.”

“We are seeing that the technology is helping TryTech residents feel more comfortable with the idea of finding a living option outside of their family homes,” said Melanie Rak, Manager, CMS Contract and Residential Services, Community & Medicaid Services.

“Neil said it could be a good fit and I said, yes, of course!”

MEET GRACE



Grace Gorton was the first person to live at TryTech, Cuyahoga DD’s short-term rental apartments furnished with assistive technology and services. Grace lived in a group home, then moved in with her aunt. That’s where she lived when her Support Administrator, Neil Lipschutz, told her about TryTech.

Grace lived at TryTech for nearly two months. Once her stay concluded,

Grace took time to consider her next living arrangement. She credits Neil, as well as her parents and her aunt, for helping her decide.

“Neil helped me navigate how I felt about living independently. He gave me the space to take a step back and figure out what help I needed. He gave me a bridge to be more independent,” Grace said.

After finding a sunny, newly renovated unit in Lakewood, Grace moved into her own apartment in October 2022.

MEET BREANNA

Breanna was living with her dad in Avon before her stay at TryTech.

According to Breanna, her three-week residency at TryTech was affordable, really fun, and helped her learn that she could live by herself, independently. “I could walk to stores and restaurants—including CVS where I get my medication—and it was close to the bus line,” she said.

Breanna wants to assure future TryTech residents that she easily found short-term, temporary caregivers to

support her during her stay.

“And, it was very wheelchair-accessible,” she said.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for people with DD to try. Three weeks seemed like a long time, but it actually flew by, because I was having fun and felt really comfortable there.”

Once her TryTech experience ended, Breanna moved to a group home in Parma, only 15 minutes from where she is a social-work major at Cleveland State University.



Provider Development & Support

We know our provider partners play an important role in helping the people we serve live their best lives. That's why Cuyahoga DD supports provider partners in ways that give them resources they need to do their jobs well and show how much we appreciate their hard work.

GRANTS HELP PROVIDERS SUPPORT DSPS

In 2022, Cuyahoga DD gave grants totaling \$2.9 million to over 100 Cuyahoga County providers. The providers could use the money to give staff sign-on and retention bonuses, training, incentives for staff, etc. At a time when providers are struggling to attract and retain direct support professionals (DSPs), these grants made a difference.

“Rose-Mary is very appreciative of the grant money provided by Cuyahoga DD. This grant allowed us to provide our direct support professionals with bonuses for their dedication and hard work.”

- GINA KERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ROSE-MARY CENTER

TRAINING TO SUPPORT PROVIDERS ONBOARDING NEW DSPS

The Academy for Professional Development provides high-quality, in-person training on how to best support people with disabilities and/or achieve compliance with state rule and best practices. Cuyahoga DD offered this training to providers at no cost to them. This helped them onboard new staff in a timely manner and make sure they received high-quality, consistent training. Topics included the eight-hour initial/annual mandatory provider certification; CPR/First Aid/AED; and Medication Administration Certification 1.

Over the three-month period these courses were offered, 38 provider agencies, 29 independent providers, and 144 individual direct support professionals completed training.

“The free, Cuyahoga DD-sponsored trainings have been a fantastic resource for our agency as we are trying to hire multiple DSP positions. We cannot thank you enough for supporting us as a provider so that we can better support our clients!”

- THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS FOR CHILDREN



SHOWING APPRECIATION FOR DSPS

Cuyahoga DD held a DSP appreciation week in 2022 to show appreciation for individual DSPs. They received family four-packs of tickets to local attractions like Cedar Point, Urban Air, and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as a token of Cuyahoga DD's appreciation for all that they do to support people with disabilities.



Community Development

In 2022, the Cuyahoga DD Community Development team took its message of inclusion, accessibility, and community connections into the community. They gave grants to local organizations and created new programs, like Empower Pop-Ups, Family Fun Fairs, and the Library Facilitator program.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



R2C
REC2CONNECT THERAPY

Adult Social Club

- Adult Social Club is an opportunity for adults to explore leisure opportunities while creating connections with friends
- Each month we will be meeting at a different location
- November's Adult Social Club will be:

Browns Tailgate!
Sunday, November 20th
Bedford Heights Winking Lizard
1 - 3 p.m.

- Cost for this program is \$10.00 and includes light apps/beverages. Any extra food beyond that is the cost of participants/their guardian.
- This program is made possible by a grant from the CCBDD
- Space is limited to 20 participants- register today!



received. Middleburg Heights Recreation Center used grant funding to install an adult changing table in their facility and purchased equipment for their free, adaptive adult programs. Rec2Connect Foundation started adult social programs to foster friendships

and new social experiences in the community including a bowling party, karaoke pool party, football tailgating, yoga in the park, and more.

Arts and culture recipients brought the arts to over 900 people with disabilities through grant funding. Art of Me, Bad Racket Recording Studio, Broadway School of Music and Arts, Future Ink Graphics, and Solon Center for the Arts all created or expanded programming for people with disabilities.

Cuyahoga DD awarded eleven arts and culture organizations, four libraries, and fifteen recreational centers and providers \$240,000 in grant funding to create or expand inclusive, adaptive and accessible programming for people of all ages with disabilities. Along with the funding, recipients received training, support, and resources to become more inclusive, adaptive, and accessible.

In 2022, recreational centers and provider recipients served over 1,500 people with the funds



LIBRARY FACILITATOR PROGRAM

To provide inclusive and adaptive library programming in Cuyahoga County, we partnered with Euclid Public Library, Westlake Porter Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library – Middleburg, and Cleveland Public Library for the Library Facilitator Program. Five people with developmental disabilities were contracted to co-lead 35 inclusive library story times.



The program allowed Library Facilitators to work on their leadership, public speaking, and community relations skills. Participants enjoyed story times, craft sessions, and special guests all through the lens of inclusion and kindness. Library Facilitators let their personalities and abilities shine while growing their self-confidence and knowledge of the community.

EMPOWER POP-UPS

Empower Pop-Ups were created to encourage self-advocacy for people with developmental disabilities through learning from new experiences. Over 300 people with disabilities learned about assistive technology, recreational support, self-advocacy, and more during a day of fun at their provider location. The Community Development team worked with provider partners – Vocational Guidance Services, Medicare Transport and Achievement Centers, Koinonia, and Solutions At Work – to host six pop-up events from June through October.



FAMILY FUN FAIRS

Last summer, two Family Fun Fairs brought families of young children together to learn about Cuyahoga DD supports and services while connecting with each other and having fun. At each location (our Green Road Center on the east side, and our Big Creek Center on the west side), children and their parents talked to Cuyahoga DD staff to learn about eligibility, assistive technology, behavioral health, developmental support, occupational and physical therapy, speech therapy, and could try pieces of equipment in the Assistive Technology Vehicle. Children enjoyed a fun bubble and magic show and summer treats. Families became more aware of resources available to their families and the many ways Cuyahoga DD can support them.



Workforce Development

As the region continues to move forward through uncertain economic times, the work of Cuyahoga DD's Workforce Development team is as important as ever.

Since 2018, the department has served two crucial roles: working with employers to increase awareness on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and partnering with providers and Support Administrators to connect eager job seekers with opportunities. These job opportunities offer people with disabilities the same responsibilities and pay for their work as their peers without disabilities.

In 2022, Workforce Development continued to build connections with employers throughout the county. The team worked with the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County to support two sold-out hiring events, organize the "Night to Celebrate Inclusion" awards gala honoring outstanding employers and employees, and create a program for employment providers explaining best practices for inclusive employment services.

The hard work paid off. Workforce Development engaged more than 900 businesses and community organizations throughout the year, creating 454 unique job opportunities for more than 100 people with disabilities.



“Ricoh has enjoyed the business partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities that has grown over the past six months. We have found it beneficial to both sides, most importantly it has allowed Ricoh the opportunity to provide employment to an underrepresented population that can have a role in continuing to grow our business.”

-DAVID DUKES, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLANNING AT RICOH USA



“A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE INCLUSION” CUYAHOGA DD-ASSOCIATED AWARD RECIPIENTS



FIVE-STAR CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD » Lynell Smith

MVP AWARD » Gregory Oswald

ROCK STAR AWARD » Kyle Hoffmaster





Family Supports Program

KAIZEN PRACTICES MAKE FAMILY SUPPORTS PROCESS FASTER

Kaizen is a Japanese business philosophy that focuses on continuous improvement of working practices and efficiency.

In 2022, the Family Supports Program, together with our partners at NEON (North East Ohio Network Council of Governments) participated in a Kaizen event and applied what they learned to improve services and benefit families.

Using Kaizen strategies, they created action steps and a simpler process to get equipment to families 70 percent quicker. Requests that previously took an average of 17 days began taking only five.

The number of individuals served by the Family Supports Program grew from an already impressive 3,066 in 2021 to 3,881 in 2022!

We added two new Family Supports Coordinators in 2022 to improve customer service and satisfaction for this growing number. They reach out directly to help families better understand how Family Supports can benefit them and how to access the program. One of the new staff members is fluent in Spanish. This played a significant role in helping us reach more Spanish-speaking families.



MEET GABRIEL

Gabriel and his brother Johann receive services through Family Supports. According to their mom, Ruth, Gabriel’s new communication device makes a big difference in their home, to him and their family.

Their family speaks Spanish but Gabriel is nonverbal. He uses his iPad to communicate with the Próloquo2Go program. Ruth says this helps him stay calm knowing that he is being understood. He uses images from the program to help express his feelings or let them know when he wants or doesn’t want something. She states there is more peace of mind and less frustration at home. With gratitude, she describes Gabriel as always smiling “una sonrisa de ángel” (an angel’s smile), being calm and happy and loving the time he spends with his dog, Molly.

“El está muy contento con su nuevo iPad. Muchas gracias a ti y a tu organización por ayudar a nuestros Angelitos.”

“He is very happy with his new iPad. I am very grateful for your organization always helping our little angels.”

-MOM, RUTH

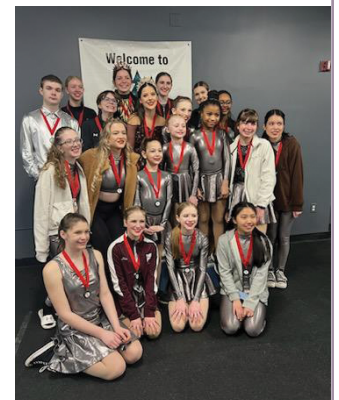


MEET MARCUS

Ice skating has been important to Marcus since a young age. His sister competed, his mom skated, and he grew up being part of the skating community. When his sister stopped skating, Marcus did not want to leave this community. Funding from Family Supports helped Marcus receive skating lessons and training that not only kept him involved but led to local awards, medals, and national competitions. Being part of this inclusive skating community brought Marcus joy, friendship, and many great opportunities.

“Ice skating has allowed Marcus to excel in an activity where he is isn’t restricted due to his sun allergy. Since most sports are outside, he would need to take breaks out of the sun. Ice skating allows him to be free.”

-MOM, APRIL



MEET EVIN

The Family Supports Program provides funding and creates opportunities for people to live their best life according to their desired outcomes. Evin has used Family Supports funding for a variety of services including camp, respite, and recreation in his community!

“Whether Evin is at camp or something social he loves to spend time with friends and family. Family Supports helps Evin stay active in his community with friends and family. “

-MOM, AMY



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y
Board of Developmental Disabilities

MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY IN THE COMMUNITY.

**SOCIAL
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