



Community Integration: Strategies for Success

Being an active member of the community is more than just accessing community resources. It is truly inclusive when the individual participates as a full member of the group: when he/she is acknowledged and appreciated by other members for his/her contributions to the group. This happens over time as people learn what is expected as a participant in the activity, gain skills needed for full participation, become comfortable in their role and establish relationships within the group.

There is more to identifying what a person would really like to do than just identifying an interest and attending something that relates to it. It happens through exploration, experience, regular attendance and relationship building. Staff is present only for support, coaching and connecting people to other community members, as needed.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities' (CCBDD) philosophy of supporting individuals to achieve full access to their community is done through an 'explore interests, educate on how to access them more readily/independently, and extend the reach of community membership' process. As we have developed our own model for delivering community integrated services, we have created many tools and resources that support this process. These can be used by any provider agency to create, implement, monitor, and evaluate its own community integration efforts. Below you will find a few of these resources that will familiarize you with our community integration efforts. These are available on the [CCBDD YouTube Channel](#).

Video Staff Training Modules

Building the Foundation	Discovery and Exploration
Making a Choice	Coaching to Independence

Video Models of Common Routines in the Community

Shopping	Bowling	Sit Down Restaurant	Movies
Library	Recreation Center	Fast Food Restaurant	

These videos and all corresponding materials are intended only as a reference. They are not meant to serve as a complete and total training package. CCBDD's Technical Supports Department offers many more resources, in-depth training, and side-by-side coaching on how to shift your agency's service delivery to maximize community membership.

You can schedule individualized training or receive any/all printed materials by contacting Desiree Gillespie at 216-736-4507 or Gillespie.Desiree@CuyahogaBDD.org.