

Ohio's Response to Autism

Five Facts in Five Minutes!

View how Ohio has built a collective, coordinated response to autism. Learn five facts that have impacted the state in its efforts to reduce disparity, raise the bar for professional excellence, create effective autism policy, and measure system improvement and success.

Led by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, in coordination with Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism. Project partners include:

- Ohio's State Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs Program/ Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence
- Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Family Child Learning Center/Akron Children's Hospital
- Ohio's two University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities/LEND Programs at the Ohio State University Nisonger Center and the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center/University of Cincinnati
- Nationwide Children's Hospital Autism Treatment Network
- Ohio Autism Coalition (family support and advocacy network)



Resources, Education, Alignment and Linkage

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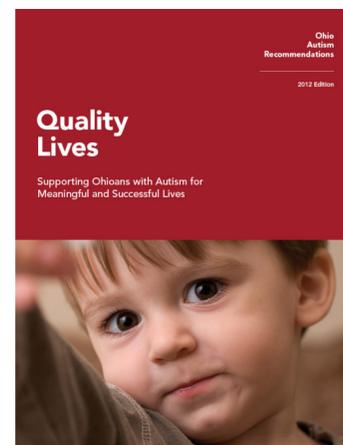
Relationships, Relationships – The Cornerstone of Success

Ohio's project has brought together the collective expertise and perspectives of families, the public services system, the medical community, the university community, local service providers, and the private sector. Now supported in statute, Ohio has a coordinated, collective state response to autism through its **Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA)**, the **Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)**, and OCALI's Advisory Board. Multiple key relationships have been instrumental in keeping Ohio forward-thinking and solutions-oriented in moving autism policy to action.

2

A Good Plan is the Anchor.

The state's autism work is now guided by a comprehensive set of Autism Recommendations, "**Quality Lives: Supporting Ohioans with Autism for Meaningful and Successful Lives**". These recommendations are a reflection of the needs, opinions, and feelings expressed by Ohioans impacted by autism as family members, service providers, self-advocates, and neighbors.



3

Reducing Disparity Requires Innovative Action.

Recognizing Ohio's rich cultural and ethnic diversity, the project has been vigilant in its efforts to reach underserved populations to increase the likelihood of children with autism getting identified earlier. Initiatives include: **public service announcements** targeting information to Hispanic and African American families and a concentrated outreach effort to Ohio's Somali community; creative use of technology through a Tele-early intervention pilot, providing virtual home-based services for families living in remote and resource-poor areas of the state; and OCALI's user-friendly **online service locator** with Smart Phone app.

4

Raise the Bar for Professional Excellence.

Through the grant, all 3rd year medical students at The Ohio State University are now participating in a **unique educational experience about autism and other developmental disabilities** during their Family Medicine rotation. Plans are underway to explore replication of this ASD curriculum content for medical school education at other Ohio medical schools. Also, a training series for school-based evaluation teams wanting to become proficient in educational identification of students with ASD is being conducted.

Ohio remains committed to looking systematically at increasing the capacity and competence of individuals supporting those with ASD. To this end, legislative action has recently resulted in a proposal to develop a multi-tiered online autism certification program for Ohio.

5

To Know Success, You Must Measure!

Through trusted partnerships and strategic planning, Ohio's IWGA has seen first-hand that cross system coordination and a lifespan focus is key to implementing a comprehensive and responsive plan for system improvement. A system design framework is currently in development to track lifespan autism-specific state initiatives supported through public funding that address or align with the state Autism Recommendations. Ohio is partnering with other states across the country, through the **National Autism Leadership Collaborative**, to develop quality indicators to complement the systems design framework. These will support states to evaluate impact and guide future autism policy development.