

OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Ohio has focused on making system improvements and developing capacity. The activities below show the progress made during the 2019–2020 membership year.

Activity 1: Performance Measurement and Data Management

In early 2020, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) restructured, reorganized, and developed a strategic analytics and innovation unit. This unit is establishing data as a strategic asset and is focused on data quality, data governance, and self-service analytics. This allows DODD to implement a strategic analytics roadmap across all divisions. DODD is promoting a culture committed to simpler and more efficient processes that result in better outcomes for individuals served and agency stakeholders, and allows for increased collaboration between internal divisions and external groups.

In the last year, one of DODD’s collaborative efforts was the Outcome Tracking System (OTS). The OTS application was developed with internal and external stakeholders to capture how people with IDD are spending their days. This application was launched in October 2019 to look at larger systems and services outcomes within adult day and employment services. The application will capture these outcomes yearly as a static data snapshot in each reporting period.

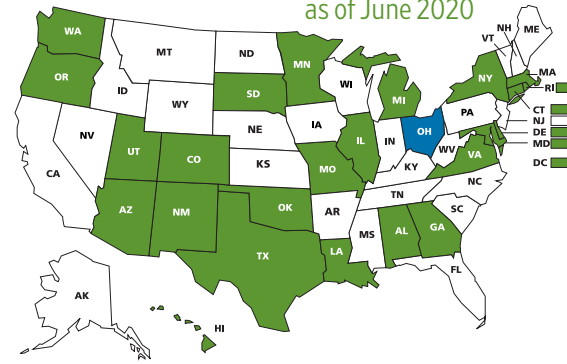
DODD has completed its first reporting period and will be analyzing and sharing the data on a new public website. The data captured with the OTS application allows DODD to align policies, procedures, and legislation that will improve how people with IDD live and work in their communities.

Activity 2: Service and Service Innovation

As DODD moves forward with multiple initiatives and policy changes related to adult day services, employment services, and technology supports, communicating about the changes remains a high priority. DODD is reviewing all current services and making recommendations to modernize Ohio’s adult day and employment services system in alignment with customer needs and funding requirements.

The Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST) framework, which aligns Ohio’s Medicaid prevocational services with state and federal requirements, is moving forward. During this implementation process, communication among service providers, county IDD boards, families, and people receiving services is paramount. A subcommittee is designing a communication plan incorporating the different ways each group will need information provided to them. The first survey from the subcommittee was sent to each intended audience to gauge information preferences and knowledge about the upcoming transition to a new service, and to help craft an effective communication plan.

SELN member states as of June 2020



Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

State Snapshot



51% are employed

49% are not employed

41% indicated they did not want a job in the community

Of those employed,

58% are in facility-based jobs

33% had an individual competitive job

16% had a group integrated job

Less than 1% were self employed

Source: Ohio Outcome Tracking System Data, 2020

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State Employment Leadership Network



The SELN is a joint program of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services.

www.selnhub.org

The BEST framework is one component of Ohio's Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services Work Group which is being convened to improve adult day support services and transportation services, as well as to strengthen competitive integrated employment outcomes for people with IDD. From the beginning, information about the purpose of the work group, its members, and the outcomes of each meeting has been communicated broadly throughout Ohio's system. This is helping to ensure transparency and to spark public discussion of the topics important to the blueprint group as their work evolves through time.

Working with multiple partners, stakeholders, vendors, and people with IDD using assistive technology, DODD created a new look for the Technology First initiative website, with easier-to-find resources and information about technology supports in Ohio. This new web page provides the public with links to remote support services and vendors, as well as a virtual home walk-through with information about technology lending libraries so users can try the technology presented first before purchasing.

The website also highlights the technology programs Ohio has initiated to accomplish the goals laid out by the Ohio Technology First Council. DODD is using videos, information guides, and social media posts to explain and promote the use of technology throughout the state to support people with IDD.

The Employment Framework

Member states enlist the support of a wide variety of key informants to participate in discussions and workgroups to determine a state's course of action. A direct member benefit is access to guidance that can lead states to a better understanding of priorities while setting that course. The Framework for Employment, developed through extensive experience and research conducted within states, is used to guide the SELN's strategy for system improvements. The elements represent practices and outcomes known to be effective at enabling states to develop and sustain high-performing integrated employment systems.

Elements of a High-Performing Employment System

This graphic demonstrates the factors that, when working together, can lead to better integrated employment outcomes. It is the dynamic interplay of all the elements that can lead to long-term systems change.

Leadership.

Clear and unambiguous commitment to employment in individual community jobs at all levels in the system.

Strategic Goals and Operating Policies.

Employment is supported by program goals and operating practices.

Financing and Contracting Methods.

State resource allocation formulas, reimbursement methods, and rate-setting practices support integrated employment.

Training and Technical Assistance.

Investment in the development and maintenance of a strong, competent workforce.

Interagency Collaboration and Partnership.

Building relationships to remove barriers to employment supports.

Services and Service Innovation.

Service definitions and support strategies are structured and aligned to facilitate the delivery of employment supports.

Performance Measurement and Data Management.

Comprehensive data systems are used to measure progress, benchmark performance, and document outcomes.

