



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH TRANSFORMATION INNOVATION FUNDS TO SUPPORT SHARED SERVICES PROJECT TO HELP COUNTIES STANDARDIZE PRACTICES AND IMPROVE COORDINATION

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) recently announced a \$500,000 award from the Governor’s Health Transformation Innovation Fund, which will be used to support an information technology (IT) infrastructure project to improve person-centered planning and shared services goals among county boards of developmental disabilities. Specifically, the project scope is to build a new information system allowing an 18-county collaborative to share administrative activities, standardize person-centered practices, and more efficiently support people in the developmental disabilities system.

“We’re working to provide a better technology platform as an important tool to ensure timely and relevant information is accessible for DODD, county boards, staff, and individuals. The project is driven by a collaborative of counties that are committed to creating and implementing simpler, more person-centered practices that do away with duplicative or burdensome processes,” said DODD Director John Martin.

The IT project is part of the Region V County Collaborative, an 18-county collaborative that has been working over the past couple years to identify opportunities for building more efficient person-centered practices that standardize processes across county borders without counties losing their local identities. Some of the counties’ goals are to change the way they interact with people and their families and create processes that reduce paperwork and the timeframe for determining eligibility, so they can free up more time to engage with people supported by the system. DODD and the collaborating counties have identified that a shared IT system where support coordination is digitally documented is a critical component of successfully standardizing practices while ensuring better customer service by making information more accessible and current.

“This is an idea that supports the best of sharing services among local governments,” said Randy Cole, Policy Advisor for the Office of Budget and Management. “These county boards of DD have it right. They are creating a shared IT system and sharing both leadership and staff resources to create opportunities where they reduce administrative processes so they can spend their time on the work they are meant to do.”

The 18 counties in the project are: Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Fairfield, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Holmes, Jefferson, Knox, Licking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Tuscarawas, and Washington.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is responsible for overseeing a statewide system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. Our mission is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

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