



Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**July 10, 2025
Provider Meeting**

WELCOME

to our team

 Ashtabula County Board
of Developmental Disabilities
WELCOME!



Jenna Vanek
Executive Assistant to Early Intervention/QCO

&

 Ashtabula County Board
of Developmental Disabilities
WELCOME!



Amanda Wawrowski
Service and Support Administrator



DSP of the Month!

Jacob Beal

Shelly Pyle

Theresa Shupp

Amazing!



Exceptional!



SSA Department



Linda Reigelman, Director
Service and Support Administration



Direct Line: 440-335-1556

Cell: 440-983-8313

On-call: 440-812-0553

Fax: 440-466-7047

Email: linda.reigelman@ashtabuladd.org

2505 South Ridge Road East
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

www.ashtabuladd.org



SSA Department

Access Rule and the OhioISP

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) "Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services" final rule became effective on July 9, 2024. The Access Rule applies to all state Medicaid programs and is a comprehensive approach to improving care across Medicaid programs.

Beginning in calendar year 2026, Ohio will be required to report certain information to CMS related to DODD's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers for the 2025 waiver program year.





SSA Department



 **Ann Simeone, Investigative Agent**
Investigative Services & Support



Office: 440-335-1589

Cell: 440-983-3744

Fax: 440-224-3696

After Hours Emergency: 440-812-0553

Email: ann.simeone@ashtabuladd.org

2505 South Ridge Road East
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

www.ashtabuladd.org

ISS Department



ISS Department

What is Card Skimming?

- Skimming involves using devices to illegally capture card information, including the magnetic stripe data and PIN, when a card is inserted or swiped.
- Criminals can then use this information to create counterfeit cards and make fraudulent purchases or withdraw cash.
- Digital skimming, where attackers compromise websites to steal payment information during online transactions, is also a growing concern.



ISS Department



Jim Kemmerle, Manager
Investigative Services & Support



Office: 440-335-1573
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Fax: 440-224-3696
After Hours Emergency: 440-812-0553
Email: james.kemmerle@ashtabuladd.org

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Sierra Taylor, Executive Assistant
Investigative Services & Support



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Email: sierra.taylor@ashtabuladd.org

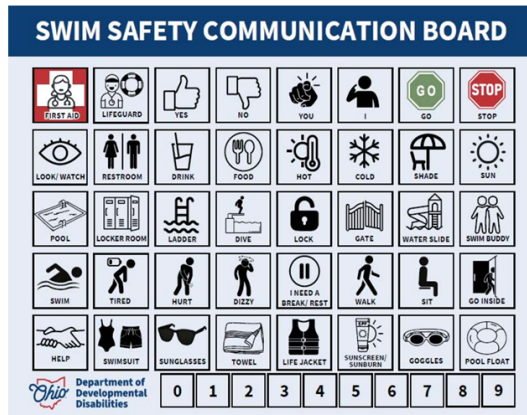
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Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 www.ashtabuladd.org



ISS Department

Health and Welfare Summer Safety #02-06-25

Communication Boards



- Dehydration
- Heat Stroke
- Sunburn Prevention
- Water safety
- Autism and Drowning
- Preventing Hot Car Deaths



chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/dodd.ohio.gov/Health%20and%20Welfare/Alerts/Summer Safety Health and Welfare Alert 6-17-25.pdf



ISS Department

Questions



Operations Updates



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2505 South Ridge Road East
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www.ashtabuladd.org



<https://dodd.ohio.gov/about-us/Budget>

Questions



??

Adam Gumpf

Public Affairs Liaison, STABLE Account

adam.gumpf@tos.ohio.gov

Alaina Bowers

External Affairs Manager, STABLE Account

alaina.bowers@tos.ohio.gov

QCO Department

 **Manda Jackson, Director**
Quality and Community Outreach



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 **Lesley Michelson, QAPR Specialist**
Quality and Community Outreach



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Email: lesley.michelson@ashtabuladd.org

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 **Andrea Klimko, QAPR Specialist**
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 **Haylee Mott, Community Outreach Specialist**
Quality and Community Outreach



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Email: haylee.mott@ashtabuladd.org

2505 South Ridge Road East
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 **Angela Thomas, Community Outreach Specialist**
Quality and Community Outreach



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Email: angela.thomas@ashtabuladd.org

2505 South Ridge Road East
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 www.ashtabuladd.org





Provider Support Grant

Proposals aligning with these priorities will receive special consideration, although all applications aimed at improving services and outcomes will be reviewed.

- Transportation – Expanding access to reliable, safe, and flexible transportation options.
- Employment – Increasing employment opportunities and supports for people with developmental disabilities.
- Retention and Development of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – Strengthening the DSP workforce through training, recruitment, and retention initiatives.

www.ashtabuladd.org

[Grant guidelines](#)

QCO Department

MUI New Rule Effective July 1, 2025

New MUI Rule Training Resources Available

- Updated [MyLearning](#) Modules are now live.
- You can also view the [June 3, 2025, webinar](#) and download the [Training Documentation Template](#) to keep for your records.
- [New MUI Rule Resources](#)

You do not need to submit proof of training to the department, but please have it available upon request.



QCO Department

MUI New Rule Effective July 1, 2025

Category C MUIs (law enforcement, unapproved behavioral support, and unanticipated hospitalization) require that the provider initiate an administrative review of the incident.

The review is to be done on an Administrative Review form and that form is to be submitted to the county board with the Brittco incident report.



Thank You!

- Ashtabula Aktion Club
- Threshold Residential Services
- Viaquest
- Greenlight Workforce, LLC
- THS- Remote Support Services
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ravenwood CME (OhioRise)
- Homesafe Inc.
- Accessible Home Services
- Achieving Dreams
- UH Conneaut & Geneva Medical Centers
- Active Day Ashtabula
- Stay Safe at Home
- Ashtabula County Special Olympics
- Life Bridge Remote Services
- Brighter Horizons Residential Services
- A Lasting Impression, LLC
- Grape Escape/ Clearwater Homes
- Goodwill Industries of Ashtabula



- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- Willing Hands
- Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County
- Signature Health Mobile Unit
- Safe Place Bedding, LLC
- Lake Area Recovery
- Doyle Medical
- Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)
- Help Me Grow
- Ashtabula County Community Action Agency
- Anew Behavioral Health
- AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio
- Beyond Healthcare
- Ashtabula County Health Department
- Safe in Home
- Camp Koinonia
- Take Another Chance
- Ashtabula County Board of Elections




Community Inclusion activities



Work of Heart

Monthly Art Program
Canvas size not to exceed 9x12

Ashtabula County Board of
Developmental Disabilities



Ashtabula County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Stroll and Roll Club

Every other Tuesday Morning in June
10:30am-11:00am




2025 Work of Heart

Ashtabula County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Register To Secure Your Copy Today!!

Here are just a few of the great photos in the calendar!



Ashtabula County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Stroll and Roll Club

Each Monday Evening in July
5:00-5:30pm



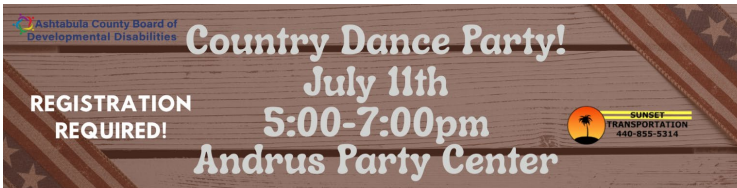
Ice Cream Pop-Ups coming near you!

Starting in late June!

Free cone!

Learn
about our
services!

Ashtabula County Board of
Developmental Disabilities



Ashtabula County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Country Dance Party!

July 11th
5:00-7:00pm
Andrus Party Center

REGISTRATION
REQUIRED!

SUNSET
TRANSPORTATION
440-855-5314



We are providing tickets for the Cleveland Zoo!

June 18th and July 19th



We have limited tickets available,
please register for a ticket on one of
the days before it is too late!

Fully accessible!

*Registration
required*



And So Much More!


 The Nature Conservancy 

SENSORY NATURE TOUR

3973 CALLENDER RD
ROCK CREEK, OH 44064

Gather round, young adventurers! It's time to embark on an unforgettable journey into the heart of nature.

JULY 23RD **1:30-3PM**

 Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Summer Craft
Thursday, July 24th
10:00am-1:00pm

Ashtabula County Fair
August 5th-August 10th, 2025
Fair Hours: 8:00am-10:00pm
Limited Tickets Available
Must Pre-Register

Cleveland Guardians Baseball Game
August 27th
10:30am
Registration opens July 7th at 4:00pm

 Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Ashtabula County
Kiwaniis
AKTION CLUB

When: Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Ashtabula County Board of DD
(2505 South Ridge Road East Kingsville, OH 44004)



 **VIDEO GAME & BOARD GAME NIGHT**

TUESDAY, JULY 29TH
5:00PM-7:00PM

PRE-REGISTER RECOMMENDED

 Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  KINGSVILLE

This is a visual cue that signifies this activity is inclusive AND open to everyone in the community.

 **SpongeBob the Musical Sensory Performance**
Thursday, August 7th
6:30pm
Presented by:
ASHTABULA  CENTER

Sponsored by:
 Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Registration Required**

Friday, August 8th, 2025 at 3:00pm

The Hearts of Gold Livestock show will showcase the talents of special needs youth and adults from Ashtabula County, as they pair up with a 4-H show buddy.

Participants will be matched with a 4-H mentor, have the opportunity to meet with them prior to the Fair, and receive free entry to the Fair on Friday to participate.

All participants are expected to be accompanied by a guardian/aid the day of the show.

 **Camp Koinonia**
Special Person's Camp
July 25th-July 27th

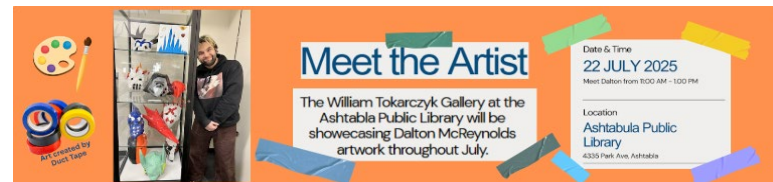
Limited Spots Available!!

Ashtabula County
 **People First of Ohio**

When: Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Where: Vitality Supported Living
471 Madison Street Conneaut, OH
(Parking lot and door on Route 20)

And Still So Much More!



Disability Pride Month Picnic



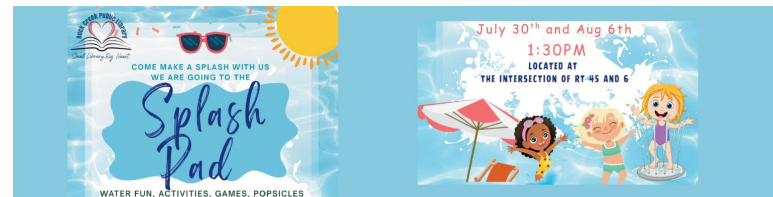
Please RSVP by Monday
July 7th
Contact 440-650-9483 via
call or text

Ashtabula County

Kiwanis
ACTION CLUB

When: Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Ashtabula County Board of DD
(2505 South Ridge Road East Kingsville, OH 44004)



Ashtabula County



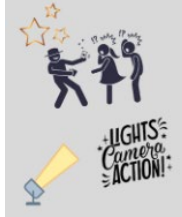
When: Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Where: Vitality Supported Living
471 Madison Street Conneaut, OH
(Parking lot and door on Route 20)

QCO Department



Advocacy Opportunities



Every Wednesday in September (3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th)
6:00 PM – 7:15 PM
Location: Ashtabula County Board of DD (2505 South Ridge Rd East)
Limited to 12 participants
Participants must commit to attending all 4 sessions.



Want to Help Create Positive Change for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities?

Join us for a special session with Rebecca Bates from the ODD Council
Thursday, July 31st 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
at the County Board Office

Discover what the DD Council does, how it supports advocacy and inclusion across the state, and how you can apply to be part of the Council's important work.



Friday, August 8th, 2025 at 3:00pm

The Hearts of Gold Livestock show will showcase the talents of special needs youth and adults from Ashtabula County, as they pair up with a 4-H show buddy.

Participants will be matched with a 4-H mentor, have the opportunity to meet with them prior to the Fair, and receive free entry to the Fair on Friday to participate.

All participants are expected to be accompanied by a guardian/aid the day of the show.



Training Offered

MUI Refresher Training- **July 22, 2025**
Initial Medication Certification Category 1- **July 28 & 29, 2025 (Full)**
Initial Provider Training- **September 10, 2025**
Annual Provider Training- **August 13, 2025**
CPR/First Aid Blended Learning- **September 2, 2025**
Initial Medication Administration Category 2 & 3- **August 18, 2025**
Renewal Medication Certification Category 1, 2 & 3 - **August 19, 2025**
AEGIS Crisis Prevention & De-Escalation- **September 9, 2025**
Provider Orientation- **August 26, 2025**
Provider Open Office Hours - **Monthly on the first Tuesday**

All classes listed above are open for registration on the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities website under the Provider support tab. <https://www.ashtabuladd.org/>





Toni Scurpa, Superintendent

Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Board Office: 440-335-1587

Direct Line: 440-335-1581

Cell: 440-650-4130

Email: toni.scurpa@ashtabuladd.org

2505 South Ridge Road East
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

www.ashtabuladd.org

Superintendent Updates



Questions or Additional Comments?



Thank You!
Next Provider Meeting

August 14, 2025





Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Nation-wide EBT skimming on the Rise

Skimming: The unauthorized capturing of credit or debit card information using devices like skimmers installed on ATMs, POS terminal, or fuel pumps. These skimmers illegally record card data and PIN entries, allowing criminals to create fake cards and make unauthorized purchases.



How to Recognize a Skimming Device

- Inspect for Signs of Tampering: Loose or off-alignment, the card reader may appear loose, crooked, or not properly aligned with the rest of the machine. Tampered security seals: At gas pumps, check for security seals or tape on the panel. A broken seal could indicate a skimmer has been installed. Mismatched colors or materials: If the card reader or keypad looks like a different color or material than the rest of the machine, it could be a fake device.
- Check for Security Features: Public view: Preferably use machines that are monitored by security cameras, Publicly viewed ATMs: Use ATMs in a well-lit area with a lot of foot traffic. Intact security seals: Verify that the security seal or tape on gas pump panels is intact.



- Compare to Other Machines: Similar card readers: If possible, compare the card reader to others in the area to make sure they are identical in appearance. No difference: If there are any significant difference in color, size, shape, or other features, it could be a sign of a skimmer.



What to do if you come across a skimming device.

- Do not use the machine: If you suspect a skimming device, do not insert your card or enter your PIN.
- Notify the owner: Inform the owner or manager where the device was found. They need to be aware of the situation to take appropriate action and prevent further incidents.
- Contact local law enforcement: Report the incident to the police. They can investigate and potentially apprehend the individuals responsible for placing the skimmer.
- Contact your bank/credit card issuer: They can take steps to protect your account, such as canceling your current card and issuing a new one.
- Monitor your accounts: Monitor you bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions. Report any suspicious activity immediately.
- Consider a fraud alert: You can place a fraud alert on you credit report with major credit bureaus. This will make it difficult for someone to open new accounts in your name using your stolen information.



Addressing Stolen Benefits

If your EBT card has been hacked or used without your permission

➤ Report the theft:

- contact your state's EBT customer service or local Job and Family Services (440) 998-1110. They will guide you on how to report the stolen benefits and request a replacement card.

➤ Change your PIN:

- Changing the PIN immediately will help prevent further unauthorized purchases.
- Set a new, PIN that is difficult to guess and avoid common PINs.

➤ Request a Replacement Card:

- This is important to prevent further unauthorized use of your stolen benefits.

➤ Check Your Account Regularly:

- Monitor your account frequently for any suspicious transactions.
- If you see any unauthorized charges, report them immediately.

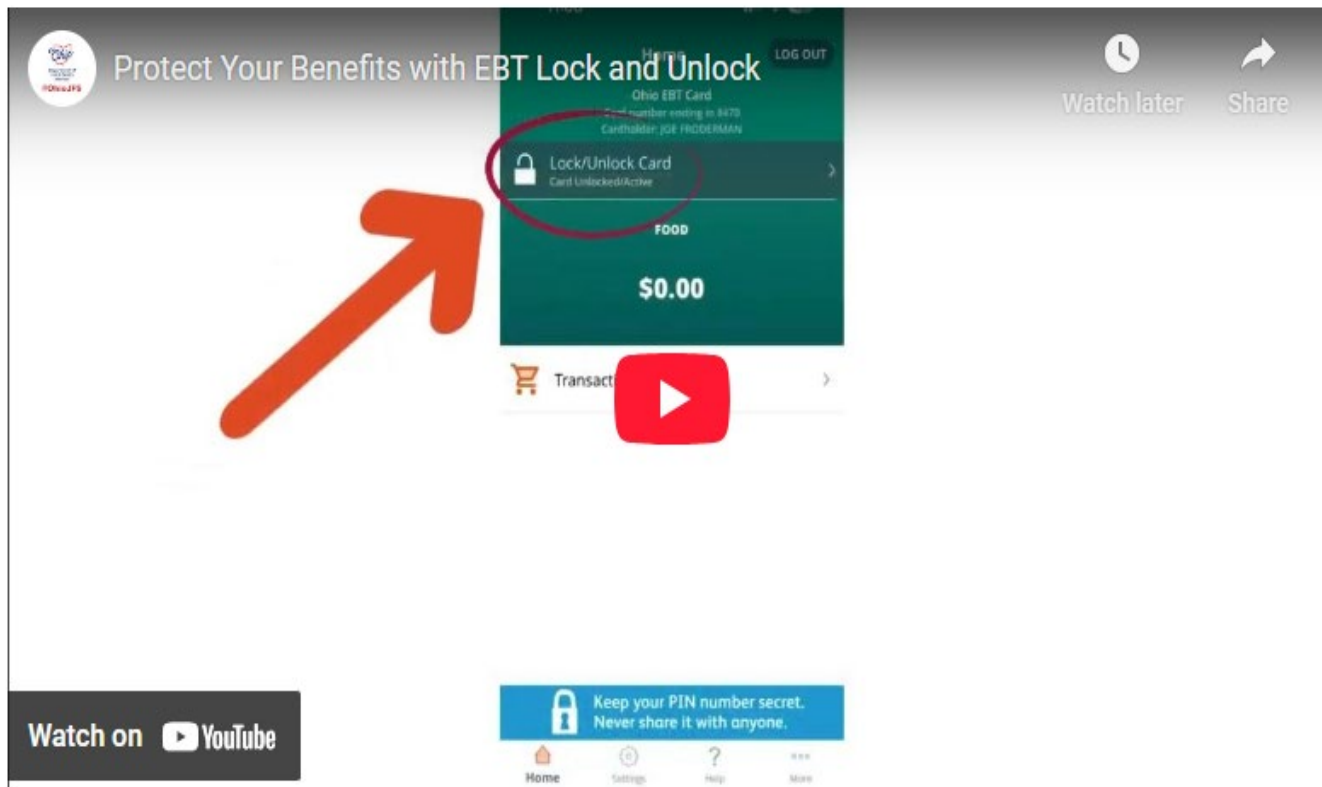


➤ Request a New Card:

➤ Other Protective Measure:

- Cover the keypad when entering you PIN on a machine
- Never share your PIN or card number with anyone.
- Change your PIN monthly.
- Consider Locking your EBT card through ConnectEBT or portal.

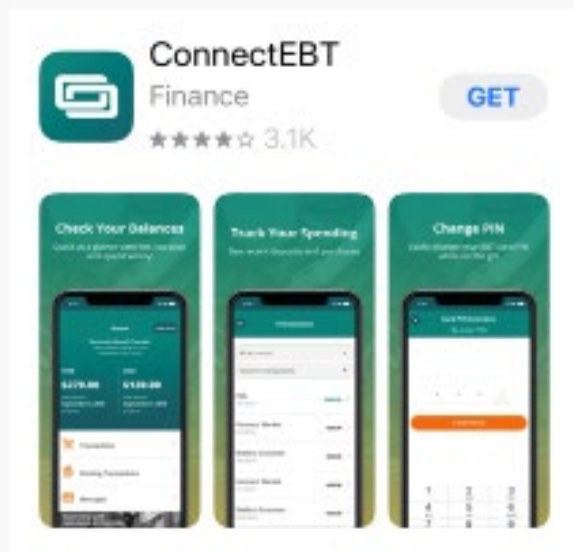




Locking your card is easy! Follow these four simple steps:



1. Download or open the ConnectEBT app on your mobile device.

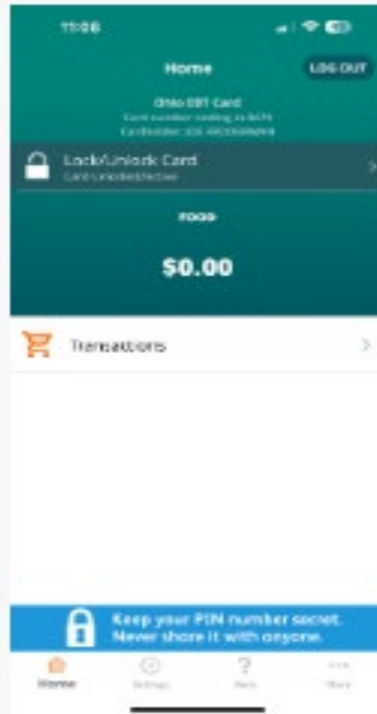


2. Securely log in to your account in the app.

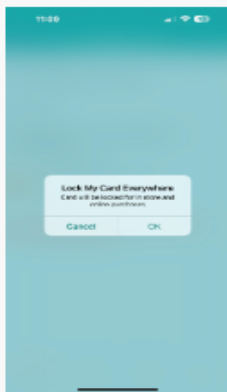


The screenshot shows the login interface of the ConnectEST app. At the top, the status bar displays the time 10:14, signal strength, and battery level at 100%. The app header includes the 'ConnectEST' logo and the text 'ESPAGOL'. Below the header is a dropdown menu labeled 'Choose'. The main form contains two input fields for 'User ID' and 'Password'. Below these are labels for 'Forgot User ID' and 'Forgot Password'. A 'Remember Me' checkbox is present, followed by a grey 'LOG IN' button. A small note below the button reads 'By logging in you agree to our Privacy Policy'. At the bottom of the screen is a dark green button labeled 'Create User Account'.

3. Tap the new "Lock/Unlock Card" icon on the home screen.



4. Select "Lock My Card Everywhere" and click OK."



Your card is now locked and your benefits are protected! Whenever you go shopping, use the ConnectEBT app to unlock your card and lock it again after you check out. It's that simple!

The ConnectEBT app by Conduent Inc. is available for free in both the Apple and Android app stores. Please avoid using third-party apps that offer coupons and require your login information. These may be fake apps used by criminals to steal your benefits!

You can also lock and unlock your card by using the [online portal](#).

If you suspect your EBT benefits card was accessed or used without your consent, click here to [report it online](#) or call Conduent Card Services at 1-866-386-3071.



Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at:

- ann.simeone@ashtabuladd.org



STABLE ACCOUNT

ADMINISTERED BY THE
OFFICE OF OHIO TREASURER ROBERT SPRAGUE



STABLEACCOUNT.COM

What is an **ABLE** Account?



An ABLE account is a tax-advantaged savings option for individuals with disabilities, allowing them to set aside money for disability-related expenses without affecting their eligibility for means-tested benefits such as SSI and Medicaid.

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (**ABLE**) Act of 2014 created savings and investment accounts for individuals living with disabilities



STABLE Account overview

STABLE is a national ABLE plan

Administered by the Ohio Treasurer's office

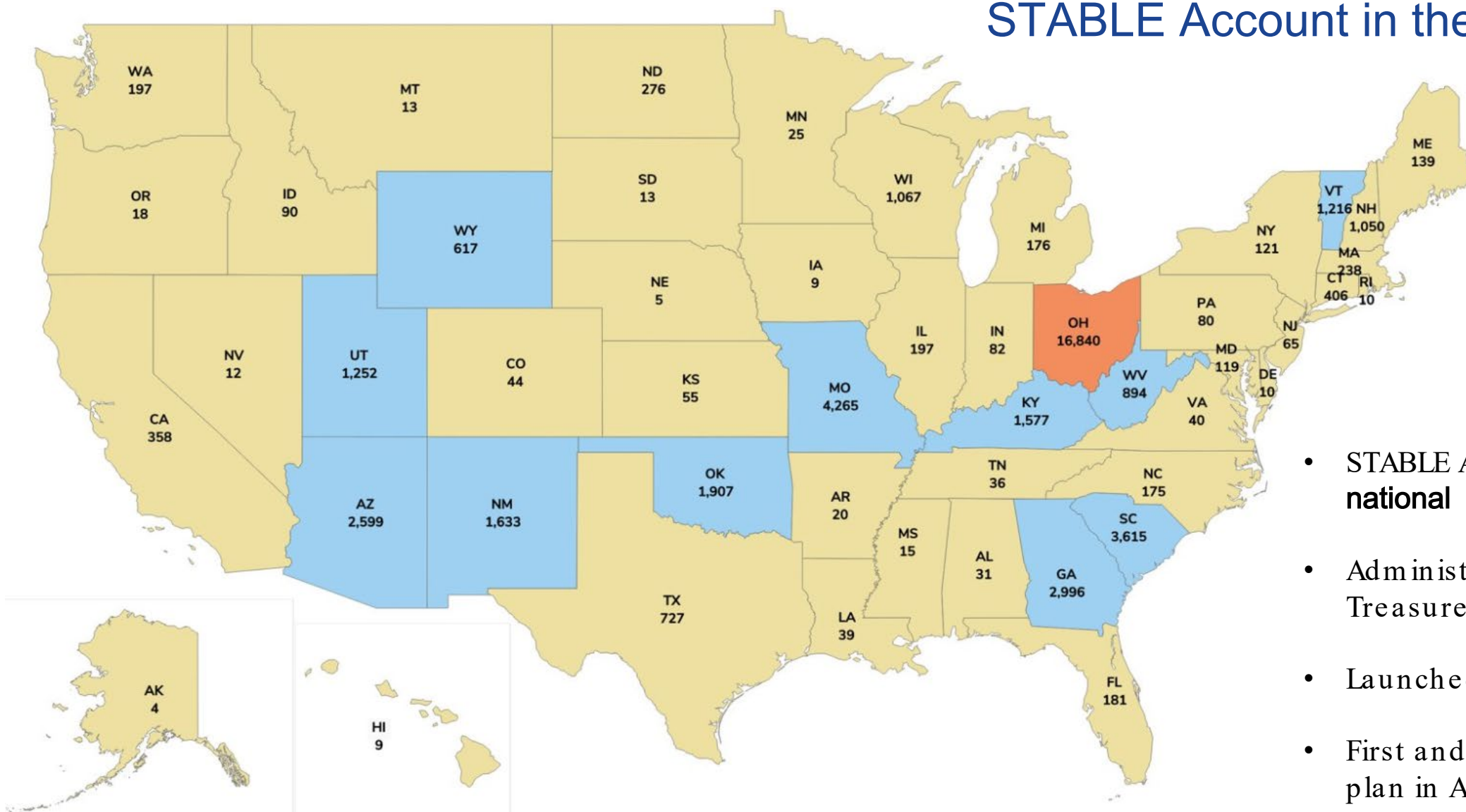
Launched June 1, 2016

First and most-used ABLE plan in America



STABLE Account in the community

**Data as of February 2025*



- STABLE Account is a **national** ABLÉ plan
- Administered by the Ohio Treasurer's office
- Launched June 1, 2016
- First and most-used ABLÉ plan in America

STABLE Account Outreach & Achievements

- Outreach campaigns and testimonial storytelling
- Education, advocacy and partnerships within Ohio
- As we celebrate our 9th anniversary, we have over 46,000 accountholders
- \$555 Million assets under management
- Operational enhancements



BENEFITS OF STABLE ACCOUNTS

OWNERSHIP & SELFESTEEM

- Helps families and individuals with financial planning and peace of mind
- Account is owned by the individual living with the disability

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

- Eliminate spend-down and increase the amount of short-term and / or long-term savings



Kyle McKay (Staff photographer & business owner) & Kari Jones (President & CEO) of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio

Financial Wellness with STABLE Account

Contributions by Family Members & others:

- **Gifts:** Parents, grandparents, siblings, guardians and many others can contribute to a STABLE account
- **529 College Savings Plan:** Up to \$19,000 from a 529 education savings account can be rolled over into a STABLE account if the beneficiary has a qualifying disability, offering flexibility in the use of these funds
- Many accountholders may have a Special Needs Trust or another type of Pooled Trust that can be used collaboratively with STABLE Account funds and financial goals

Tax Advantages:

- **Tax-Free Growth:** Income earned in a STABLE account grows tax-free as long as withdrawals are used for qualified disability expenses.
- **State Income Tax Deduction:** Contributions are deductible up to \$4,000 per year, per STABLE account, with unlimited carry forward.

STABLE Account in the workforce: a success

story

- As one of the earliest employer partners of STABLE Account, UCO Industries provides savings and investment opportunities for their employees.
- In 2018, UCO Industries launched an employee savings program that allows staff to choose between a 4% match in a 401(k) account or a 4% contribution to a STABLE Account, depending on which option aligns best with their long-term financial goals.
- This initiative, lead by **CEO Dave Amerine**, was groundbreaking, making **UCO Industries the first employer in the United States** to directly promote STABLE Account to employees with a company contribution.



Facts & Figures

- 70% of eligible associates have STABLE accounts. In 2024, UCO contributed \$19K to participants' accounts
- 39% of those participants made *additional* contributions totaling \$32K, ranging from 4% to 85% of their gross earnings
- Total STABLE contributions through UCO in 2024 were \$51K
- Since inception in 2018, a total of \$219K has been deposited into STABLE accounts under UCO's program

ELIGIBILITY

To see who qualifies for STABLE Account,
take our eligibility quiz at stableaccount.com

1. The individual must have developed their disability before the age of 26. This requirement does not exclude individuals diagnosed after turning 26, provided the condition or disability began prior to that age

***Starting January 2026, the eligibility age will increase to 46. This change will extend program eligibility to individuals who became disabled or received a diagnosis after turning 26.**

2. Plus one of the following:

- Eligible to receive SSI or SSDI due to disability; or
- Condition listed on SSA's "*List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions*," or
- Self-certification

ENROLLMENT

Can be completed by:

Individual
with a disability
(Accountholder)

OR

Authorized Legal Representative (ALR)

- ☐ Agent under a Power of Attorney
- ☐ Conservator / Legal Guardian
- ☐ Spouse
- ☐ Parent
- ☐ Sibling
- ☐ Grandparent
- ☐ Social Security Representative Payee

... in that order, and that there is no other willing and able person with a higher priority as listed above to establish the ABLÉ account.

ENROLLMENT

Free online enrollment at stableaccount.com

Quick & easy process with accessibility features

\$25 minimum opening deposit

ABLE CONTRIBUTION LIMITS & FUNDING

- **General Annual Contribution:**
\$19,000 from all sources per year
- **If the accountholder is employed:**
Can save up to \$34,060 per year
(\$19,000 + income up to an additional \$15,060)



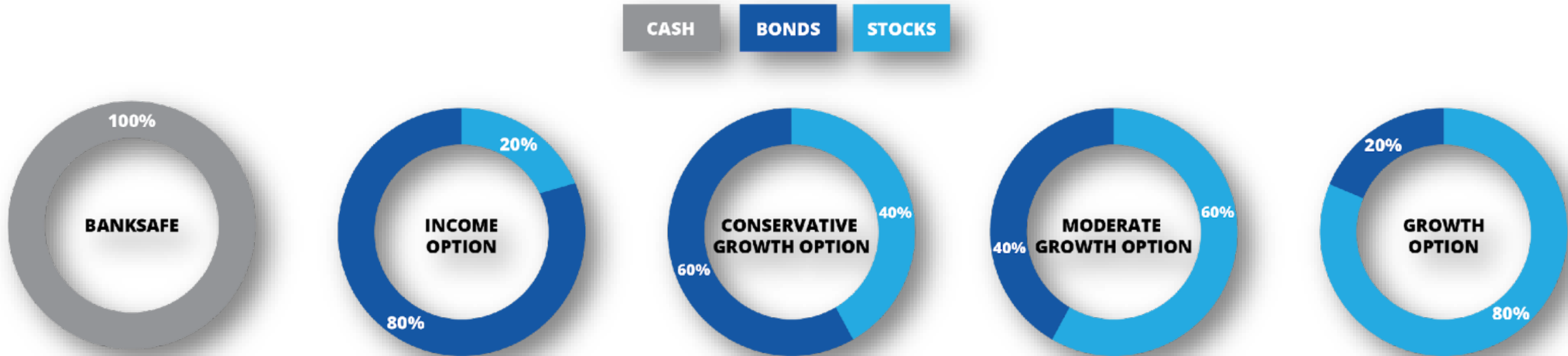
• EFFICIENT WAYS TO FUND YOUR ACCOUNT •

- Check
- Gifting Feature
- Payroll & SSA Direct Deposit
- EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)

INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Choose From

- Four Vanguard mutual funds ranging from aggressive to conservative
- One principal -protected FDIC -Insured option



SPENDING FROM YOUR ACCOUNT

CHECKING & SAVINGS

Transfer to personal
checking or savings

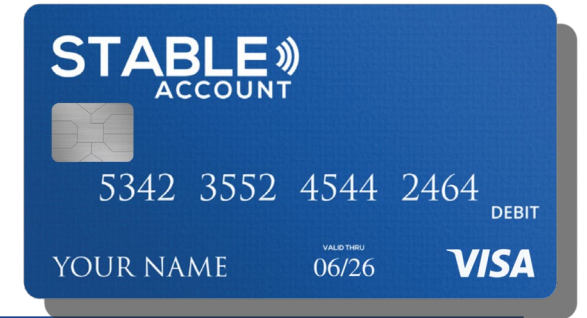
THIRD-PARTY

Pay with a
Third -Party Check

THE STABLE VISA CARD

Transfer onto
STABLE Visa Card

STABLE VISA CARD



The STABLE Visa Card is a loadable/prepaid card that can be used anywhere Visa is accepted

LOADABLE

Provides controlled access to spending

PROTECTIONS

No overdraft, no cash access, able to limit merchants and types of expenses

TRACKEXPENSES

Online spending records with ability to add notes

ALERTS

Notifications to monitor spending and low balances

SPENDING YOUR FUNDS

Withdrawals must be used on
“Qualified Disability Expenses”

Must relate to the disability
of life

+ help maintain or improve health, independence, or quality



Housing & Rent



Basic Living Expenses



Transportation



Education



Assistive Technology



Financial Management



Health & Wellness



Legal Fees

ACCOUNT COST

There is a minimal cost for owning a STABLEAccount

Maintenance Fees

Ohio Residents
\$15.00 per year
(\$3.75 charged to your account quarterly)

All other states
\$27.00 per year
(\$6.75 charged to your account quarterly)

Asset -Based Fees

Ohio Residents & Partner States
Between 0.19% and 0.33%

All other states
Between 0.45% and 0.59%

Videos



Learn more about STABLE Account



1-800-439-1653

Monday - Friday (9 am - 8 pm EST)



team@stableaccount.com



stableaccount.com

STABLE 
ACCOUNT



**EMPOWERING PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**



Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Total Budget Size

All-Funds:

- FY 2026: \$108.6 billion
- FY 2027: \$110.7 billion

General Revenue Fund (GRF):

- FY 2026: \$44.66 billion
- FY 2027: \$46.65 billion

Estimated revenues:

- FY 2026: \$45.45 billion
- FY 2027: \$46.91 billion



Statewide DD Funding Overview

General Revenue Fund (GRF) allocations for DD services:

- FY2026: \$1.17billion (up 12.2% from prior)
- FY2027: \$1.18billion (up 0.9 %)

All-Funds (GRF + other sources) for DD:

- FY2026: \$5.51billion (up 6.9 %)
- FY2027: \$5.75billion (up 4.4 %)

Other Funding Overview

- **Medicaid** (the largest portion)
- **IDEA funding** (for special education)
- **SNAP** (food assistance)
- **Housing or transportation block grants**

Local Government Fund (LGF) Increase

- **The state share of the LGF is boosted from 1.70 % to 1.75 % of GRF tax revenues**
- **estimated +\$15 million in SFY 2026 and +\$16 million in SFY 2027 flowing to counties, cities, and townships.**
- **Decreased in 2010 to 2011 from 3.68% to 1.66%**



Positive Outcomes from the State Budget Bill



GRF funding for Early Intervention Services

- \$30.6 million in FY 2026 and \$32.7 million in FY 2027
- Increases of 30.9% in FY 26 and 6.8% in FY 27
- \$46,202 in Additional Funding for Ashtabula DD

Services for Multi-system Youth

- An annual **\$5 million** allocation remains for supporting children involved with multiple systems (e.g., foster care, juvenile justice) who have developmental disabilities.
- These funds stay flat in FY 26 and FY 27

Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarships

- Increases the maximum amount of an Autism Scholarship and a JPSN Scholarship from \$32,445 to \$34,000
- Clearly states that a child is eligible under the Autism Scholarship if that child is at least 3 years of age and younger than 22



Waiver-Match Funding Increased by 21%

- County Boards receive a 21% boost in line-item state funding to help cover their non-federal share
- DODD is working on an equitable way to distribute this increase

DODD Innovative Pilot Projects

- Allows the DODD Director to authorize the continued implementation of innovative pilot projects that are likely to assist in promoting DODD and county board objectives
- Specifies five entities with whom the Director must consult: the Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Health Care Association/Ohio Centers for Intellectual Disabilities, the Values and Faith Alliance, and ARC of Ohio



Positive Exclusions from the State Budget Bill Specific to DD



- Removal of language that would empower county budget commissions to reduce the amount of a voter-approved levy if deemed necessary or appropriate
- Removal of language that would prohibit the levying of a replacement tax levy after January 1, 2026
- Removal of language around Electronic Visit Verification
- Removal of a provision increasing the Personal Needs Allowance for people living in nursing homes or intermediate care facilities



Property Tax: County Budget Commission Authority & Procedure

- This item gives county budget commissions the authority to unilaterally reduce a levy passed by voters for a school district or other taxing authority under certain circumstances
- This breaches the approval of such millage by the voters
- Requires, rather than offers the option for a review of tax necessity

Establish a Legislative Committee on the Sustainability of the Developmental Disabilities Service System

- Comprised of legislators and supported by state agencies, individuals with developmental disabilities, families of individuals with developmental disabilities, service providers, and other stakeholders
- The committee shall develop a System Efficiency and Sustainability Plan to guide the modernization and long-term viability of Ohio's developmental disability service system.



Property Tax Levy Restrictions

- This item eliminates the authority for political subdivisions to levy replacement property tax levies
- This item eliminates the authority for school districts to levy fixed-sum emergency, substitute emergency levies, and combined school district income tax and fixed-sum property tax levies
- Establishes a working group that will include legislators, agency officials, school officials, community members, and property tax experts to ensure this critical topic is given the attention deserved. Therefore, the veto of this item is in the public interest



Electronic Visit Verification

- This item would require the Ohio Department of Medicaid and managed care plans to pay Medicaid claims without credible information to verify the claim at the time of payment
- The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires Medicaid to implement an Electronic Visit Verification system to determine specified information prior to payment, subject to federal financial penalties for noncompliance
- This language would hinder Medicaid's work to meet federal standards and significantly diminish Ohio's ability to combat fraud, waste, and abuse, thereby risking significant financial impacts to Ohio. Therefore, a veto of this item is in the public interest



Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance

- This item relates to the increase, from \$50 to \$75 per month, in personal needs allowance for individuals residing in nursing homes and intermediate care facilities
- This change was planned for in the budget and intended to take effect in the fiscal year 2026-2027 biennium; however, the technical language changes could inadvertently be interpreted to retroactively apply this increase back to 2016
- Governor DeWine has directed the Ohio Department of Medicaid to implement this increase through the rule-making process, as they are authorized to do under current law



Positive Exclusions from the State Budget Bill Specific to School and County Funding



Cash Balance Carry-Over

- This item would require county budget commissions to reduce rates on current school district expense levies in certain circumstances where a district's carry-over balance is more than 40% of its general fund expenditures in the prior year
- The budget commission would be mandated to reduce rates on current expense levies until the carry-over balance is decreased to below the 40% threshold

Lodging Tax: Ashtabula County Convention Facility

- This item requires only Ashtabula County to repeal a 2% special lodging tax used to fund the costs of a convention center as approved by voters



20-Mill Floor Calculation

- This item requires that emergency and substitute tax levies, incremental growth levies, conversion levies, and the property tax portion of combined income tax and property tax levies be included in the 20-mill floor calculation for school funding purposes



Financial Concerns and Updates



Veto Override Process in Ohio

- Ohio legislators have vowed that many of these exclusions will be reviewed in an attempt to override the governor's veto
- The Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate each must vote to override the veto

Ohio House: 60 out of 99 votes

- A three-fifths majority is required in both chambers

Ohio Senate: 20 out of 33 votes

- If both chambers approve the override, the bill becomes law despite the governor's veto



House Bill 355 - Increase levy threshold to at least 60% approval of voters

- Ohio House lawmakers have introduced House Bill 355, which would require a 60% supermajority—instead of the current simple majority—to pass local property tax levies for essential services
- Current Threshold: Local levies (for police, fire, EMS, public schools, libraries, etc.)
- Rationale: Proponents argue it ensures “broader support” and prevents a small group of property owners from imposing levies on an entire district



Citizen-led Initiative - Abolishment of Taxes on Real Property

- The proposed amendment is intended to be added to Article XII, Section 14, but it's not law yet
- Organizers now must collect approximately 413,000 valid signatures from at least 44 of the 88 counties
- Organizers missed the July 2, 2025, to qualify for the November ballot
- Prohibits all real property taxation (land, buildings, etc.) in Ohio
- Supporters frame it as justice for families and seniors priced out by exploded property values. Critics warn it would devastate local services like schools, emergency services, and infrastructure unless replacement funding is found



How Can I Help?



Contact your Legislators

- Ohio Senate – District 32**Sen. Sandra O'Brien (R)**Represents all of Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties in the State Senate. Office: Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215 Phone: (614) 466-7182
- District 64 (part of Trumbull County)**Rep. Nick Santucci (R)** – Niles/Howland Twp. Statehouse Office: 77 S. High St, 13th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215 Phone: (614) 466-5441
- District 65 (covers Ashtabula & parts of Trumbull)Rep. David Thomas (R) – Jefferson Township/Ashtabula & Trumbull Statehouse Office: 77 S. High St, 13th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215 Phone: (614) 466-3488



Raising Awareness – Action Steps

Host Community Meetings or Town Halls

- Invite local officials, school leaders, and residents to discuss the impact.

Create and Share Informational Flyers & Social Media Posts

- Use simple language and real-life examples (e.g., school cuts, fire department delays).

Partner with Local Organizations

- Collaborate with teachers' unions, first responders, parent-teacher associations, or senior advocacy groups.

Write Letters to the Editor or Op-eds

- Share concerns in local newspapers and community newsletters.

Start a Petition

- Use platforms like Change.org or paper petitions to show public opposition.

Tell Personal Stories

- Highlight how cuts would affect real families, seniors, teachers, and students.

Use Data Wisely

- Show how much funding could be lost and what programs/services are at risk.

Engage Local Media

- Invite reporters to events and provide press releases.



Provider Meeting Agenda

July 10, 2025

1:00PM-3:00PM

Welcome

DSP of the Month

County Board Updates

A. SSA Department

- a) Access Rule Update

B. ISS Department

- a) Card Skimming (Ann Simeone)
- b) Health and Welfare Alert, Summer Safety (Sierra Taylor)
- c) MUI rule (forms)

C. Operations

- a) State Budget Update (Brittani Ball)

D. Quality & Community Outreach Department

- a) Stable account presentation (Alaina Bowers & Adam Gumpf)
- b) Provider Support Grant Update (Manda Jackson)
- c) MUI Rule Training
- d) DSP Appreciation Event
- e) Resource and Technology Fair
- f) Community Inclusion Activities
- g) Upcoming Training Available

E. Superintendent Updates

- a) Run, Walk & Roll
- b) County Fair

Open Mic/Questions

