



**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**

Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

Fact Sheet

A. Who's behind this lawsuit?

1. Disability Rights Ohio and out-of-state lawyers have filed a completely unnecessary lawsuit in order to circumvent the public policy choices made by the Kasich Administration and the Ohio Legislature.
2. Disability Rights Ohio is an unelected, federally-funded law firm, that is not responsible to, nor does it represent, the interests of the vast majority of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.
3. Disability Rights Ohio has not met with the Department Developmental Disabilities for approximately one-year to discuss their demands, instead they've decided to sue Ohio.

B. Making a difference in the lives of Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities

- a. Less than one year ago, the Kasich Administration and the Ohio Legislature made the most significant financial investment in the history of the Department of Developmental Disabilities; almost \$300 million new dollars.
- b. Rather than allow the Department of Developmental Disabilities the time to implement budget changes negotiated with providers, county boards of DD representatives, and family members, they've decided to subject Ohioans with developmental disabilities to their singular vision of what is best for them.

C. Wrong time, wrong way

- a. Disability Rights Ohio, is late to the game, and now wants to stall Ohio's progress by diverting the Department's financial resources away from much needed services, in order for it to fight out of state lawyers.
- b. Instead of becoming embroiled in a useless lawsuit, the Department of Developmental Disabilities wants to focus its efforts in implementing the

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Ohio Legislature's policy direction. That means:

- A. Creating 3,000 new waivers to provide waiting list relief and to give Ohioans with disabilities more choice.
 - B. Preventing persons on the waiver waiting list from being forced to live in an institution, if that is not their choice.
 - C. Making sure that individuals that want to leave an institution can do so.
 - D. Working to encourage large institutions to get smaller, in a responsible way that doesn't disrupt people's lives or jeopardize their health and safety.
 - E. Strengthening our employment services, so that Ohioans with disabilities that want jobs have the opportunity to work.
- c. Now is the wrong time to expect families, anxious about the many changes in the DD system, to be receptive to more change. Families want a sense of certainty, not hollow promises.



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Community Integration Fact Sheet

Less than one year ago, Ohio made the most significant financial investment in the history of the Department of Developmental Disabilities; nearly \$300 million were committed to expand community-based options for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

- 3,000 new waivers were created to provide Ohioans community-based options.
- Ohioans with developmental disabilities living in institutions can now leave to live in a supported community environment.
- Ohioans with developmental disabilities, who otherwise would be forced to live in an institution, can now choose to live in the community.
- Large institutions have been encouraged to get smaller, and more community based, in a responsible way that does not disrupt people's lives or jeopardize their health and safety.
- Ohioans who want to work in the community now can; sheltered employment is not the only option.
- Supported employment (community employment) increased by 18 percent since June 2012.
- 23 grants have been awarded to providers and boards of developmental disabilities to transform institutionally-based day programs to community-based day programs.
- Direct support staff, the front-line workers who engage with individuals with developmental disabilities, were provided a six percent salary increase.
- Because waivers don't cover rent, rental assistance has been made available to individuals with developmental disabilities who need community-based housing.
- 116 community capital projects have been funded since July 1, 2014 to provide additional assistance, including housing.

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The Department of Developmental Disabilities remains committed to implementing improvements already passed in Ohio's budget, to ensure that Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities who want to live and work in the community can do so.