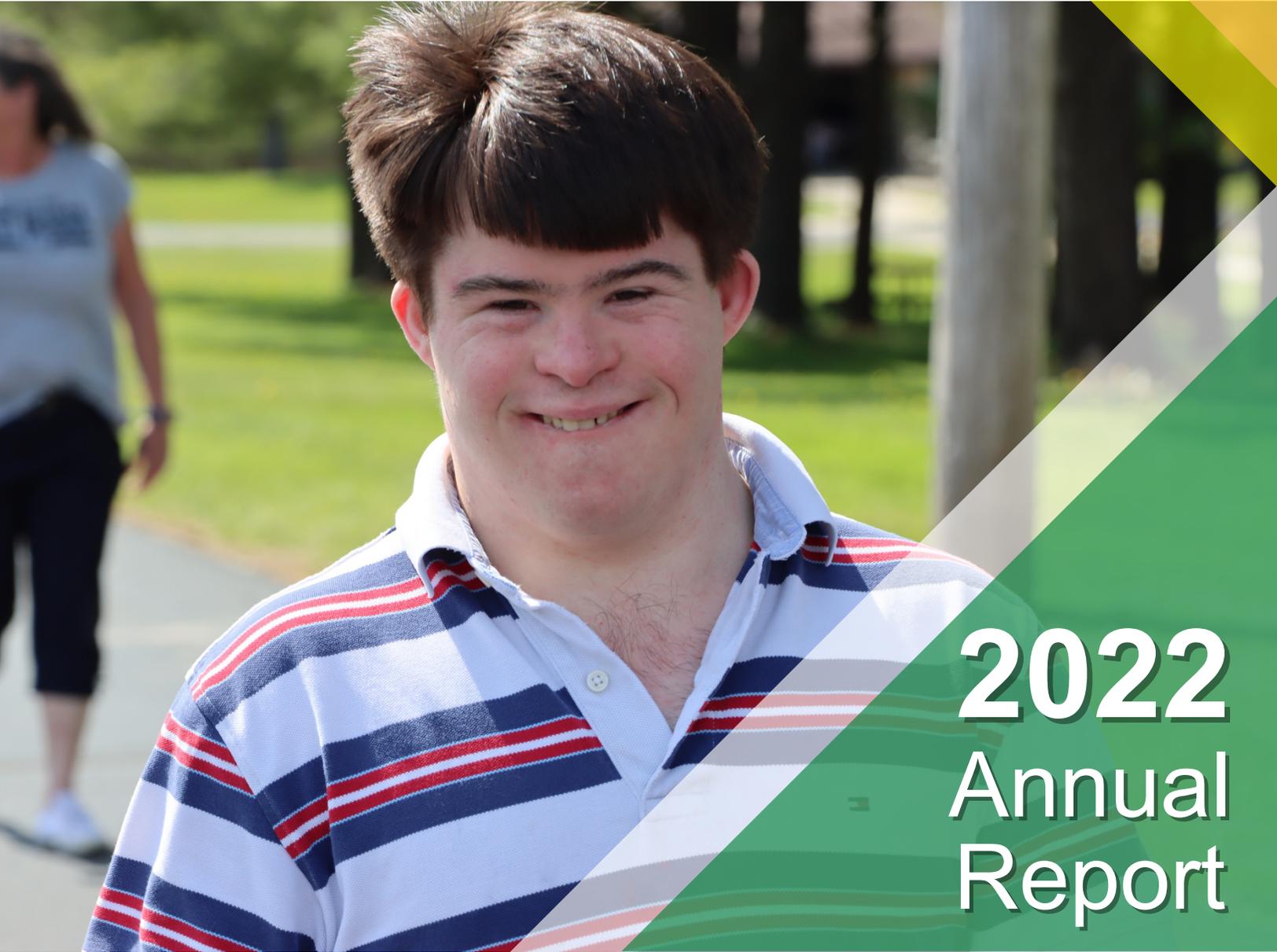


Metzenbaum Center

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities



2022
Annual
Report



Helping people Live, Learn,
and Earn in our community.

2022 

From the Superintendent

Hi Everyone,
2022 was a busy year as we got back to normal following the COVID disruption. We accomplished several improvements and faced our biggest threat to the Developmental Disabilities (DD) system.



Community Living

We increased and improved the housing stock in the county for those that need residential supports. Maple Leaf Community Residences (MLCR) now has 25 houses with 2 additional houses planned for construction in 2023. MLCR also completed major updates to several of their houses in 2022 as a result of grants we awarded.

Transportation

We awarded 3 grants to purchase new vehicles for our provider partners, and awarded an additional 10 grants to help with increased fuel costs.

Inclusivity

We supported several new inclusive activities with provider partners like The Metzenbaum Foundation, RockAbility, Empower Sports, and Adaptive CrossFit.

Improvements

We began a major update to our playground at the Metzenbaum Center that allows people of all abilities to enjoy the space and play together. The project was finished in Spring '23.

The biggest threat we face in the DD system is a lack of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Our provider partners employ DSPs to help people with DD live, learn, and earn in our community. This means **DSPs are truly essential** to our mission and our system as a whole. We are doing all we can to help our provider partners retain DSP employees. At a time when Walmart, Amazon, and even McDonald's are paying \$16+/hour, DSPs are paid around \$13/hour. We are lobbying our legislators to increase the Medicaid rates, which would make DSP rates competitive with Walmart, etc. Our other efforts in 2022 to assist DSPs included grants for gift cards, quarterly appreciation awards, and a summertime family event. Please join me in expressing appreciation to the DSP staff that work with you or your family members. We continue to encourage novel ideas and efforts that help people to Live, Learn, and Earn in our community. If you have any questions, please contact me at (440) 729-9406.

Don Rice, Superintendent, Geauga DD

Community Support Services

2022 

The Community Support Services Department is comprised of:
Intake and Eligibility
Investigative Agent
Provider Support and Compliance
Service and Support Administration (SSA)

In 2022, our department served over 668 individuals. We partnered with 284 private providers and coordinated services for 311 individuals on Home and Community Based Service Waivers (HCBS).

HCBS Waivers pay for needed services through a combination of Local, State, and Federal funding. HCBS Waivers are important because they allow us to leverage Medicaid funding which means we can serve more people with fewer resources.

SSAs plan in a person-centered fashion to assess needs and desired outcomes for the people they support. They also coordinate and authorize funding for services so that people can live, learn, and earn in their community.



668

Individuals supported
by SSAs

284

Provider Partners

311

Individuals used
Waiver services

Early Intervention

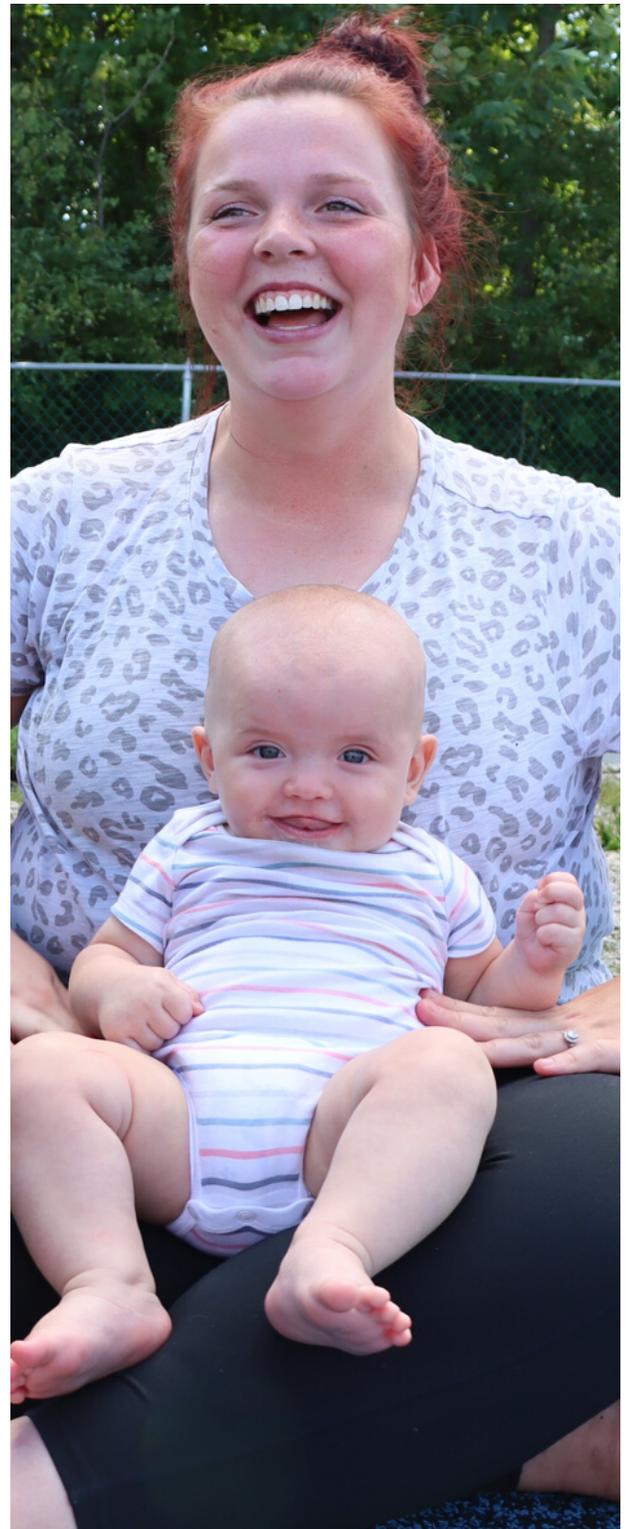
Eligible children under the age of three and their parents receive coordinated Early Intervention (EI) services from Geauga DD. We believe young children learn best from people they know in places they know. For that reason, EI services occur in the child's home or other familiar places where the child is comfortable. EI builds on existing supports and resources so that parents are empowered to best assist their child.

Research shows Early Intervention helps reduce the need for further intervention.

Our goal is to reach as many families as possible. Throughout 2022, we continued targeted outreach with doctor's offices, day cares, and the Amish population. EI offers a variety of inclusive playgroups held at the Metzenbaum Center and out in the community that are designed to encourage development in socialization, play, listening, attention span, and preschool readiness. The playgroups offer an opportunity for our children and caregivers to connect and support one another.

275

Children received services



Employment Services

2022 

Geauga DD's employment services are designed to help people find what is best for them as individuals. In partnership with private providers, we help people identify their interests, strengths, and preferences, then match them with opportunities aligned with their personal and career goals. Community employment is a goal for many of the individuals we serve because it means greater independence, more money, improved social skills, better self-esteem, and increased personal satisfaction.

Geauga DD supports Employment First, which is the national movement that encourages employment as the first and preferred option for people with disabilities. All adults we serve are given the chance to think about what having a job could mean for them.

Providers help people with their career goals through:

- Job development (help to find jobs)
- Job coaching (help to learn and carry out job duties)
- Follow along services (checking in with employer/employee)

572

Adults received services

185

Individuals competitively employed



Geauga DD coordinates transportation services for roughly 400 people. Currently, we are partnering with 28 private providers to help meet the needs of transporting individuals to their jobs in the community or attending their day programs.

Transportation continues to be in high demand, so in response, we created a bonus structure to encourage more private providers to start offering transportation. As a result, there are more choices available as well as greater responsiveness to needs. Geauga DD remains committed to continuing provider development in this area and growing more provider relationships.

400

People received transportation services

28

Transportation Private Providers

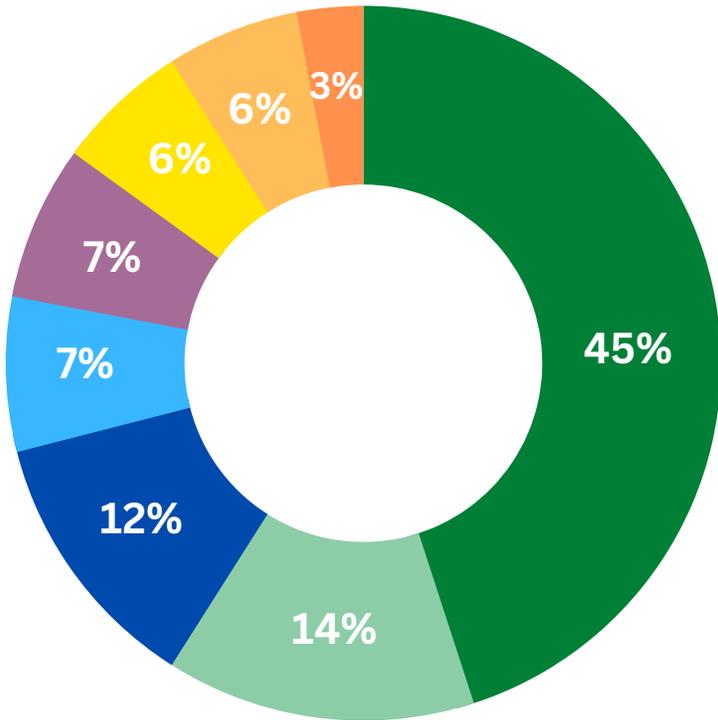


Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

The goal of this program is to provide needed care to the people we serve as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, community inclusion and improved quality of life. The ICF currently serves 13 individuals ranging in age from 31 to 75. In 2019, we began a partnership with the Jewish Family Service Association, and in 2020, they took over as the operator of the ICF.

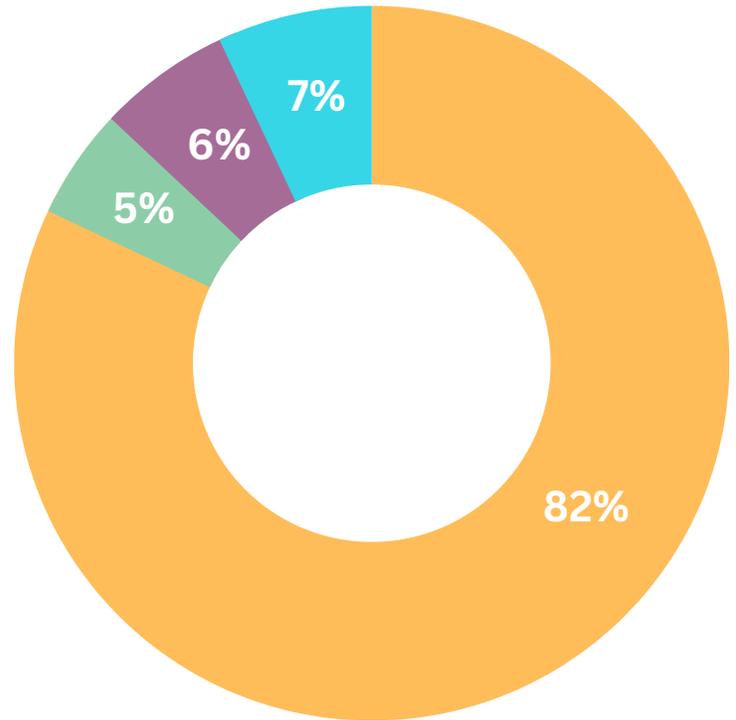
2022 Financials

2022 



- 45% Residential
- 14% Case Management
- 12% Children Services
- 7% Building & Grounds
- 7% Transportation
- 6% Adult Services
- 6% Administration
- 3% Recreation

\$16,692,262
Total Expense



- 82% Levy
- 5% State
- 6% Federal
- 7% Other

\$15,414,007
Total Revenue

1,160
People Served
in 2022

We continue to wisely manage the income from our 2015 levy which is expected to last until at least 2025. While we always try to maximize revenues and limit expenditures, 2022 was a bit different. We engaged in planned deficit spending, due to a budget surplus of approximately \$2.5 million as a result of COVID. As a result, we gave back \$600,000+ in revenue to the taxpayers of Geauga County through a voluntary levy rollback. Projects that were previously on hold were also fast-tracked and completed in 2022, such as making needed improvements to our housing stock.



METZENBAUM CENTER

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Of Developmental Disabilities



Contact us:

440-729-9406

GeaugaDD.org

**8200 Cedar Rd
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**Building a caring
community where
individuals are
Integrated, Accepted,
and Achieving.**