

Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Administrative Policy Manual

Policy: Accessibility

Board Approved: 2/96
Revised: 5/02, 7/04, 7/06, 12/18
Reviewed: 7/10, 11/14
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POLICY

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is committed to removing barriers that people with developmental disabilities face in their pursuit of a good life.

The Board's commitment to accessibility is evidenced through these commitments and activities:

1. The Board expects that eligibility determination and orientation to Board services and supports are conducted in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code so that people receive needed services and supports as quickly as possible. Designated staff are responsible for implementing the Board's waiting list policy. The Board intends that persons not be placed on a waiting list unless a current or immediate need is identified through completion of the waiting list assessment and there are no resources available to support the person. Persons determined ineligible for services will, if they agree, be referred for other services that they need and for which they might be eligible.
2. The Board is committed to using available and affordable media outlets to enhance the reputations of eligible persons and promote their assets. Board brochures and newsletters will use person centered language. The Board places a high priority on collaborating with other human service organizations and the business community in our efforts to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their respective communities.
3. The Board provides opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and their families to serve on various committees and participate in evaluating the Board's effectiveness and long range Plans. Section 5126.02 of the Ohio Revised Code requires three members of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities be family members of a person eligible for Board services.
4. The Board supports participation by staff, persons served, and families in community problem solving efforts. This includes membership on task forces and committees that address specific community issues, such as transportation and housing. Board staff and people we support are encouraged to provide service to the community by volunteering for other community organizations.
5. The Board is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in all respects. This includes reasonable accommodation for eligible staff and the design and implementation of services and supports funded with Board resources. The County completes an EEO-1 Report annually.
6. The Board's Safety Committee is responsible for assessing the physical accessibility of Board facilities annually. The results of these assessments are documented and

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incorporated into the Strategic Plan if corrections require capital improvements. Minor corrective action is addressed as quickly as possible with monitoring by the Safety Committee. The Board uses technology whenever possible to enhance accessibility. Community activities, events, and meetings sponsored by the Board are held in buildings that are accessible to all persons. In addition to technology, Board staff assesses and identifies informal and formal accommodations that address person specific needs and are financially feasible.

7. The Board provides consultation and support to contract agencies, certified providers of services, families, public schools, community employers, and others interested in providing architecturally and otherwise accessible environments for persons with disabilities. The Board also provides a variety of outreach and educational programs to help the community make their services more accessible in other ways to people with disabilities.