



PRESS RELEASE

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The Arc of Ohio Supports Proposed Improvements to Waiting List Statute

To better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities, we have started the process of simplifying the waiting list for home and community-based waiver services as well as improving access to resources and services for individuals and families throughout Ohio. Together, The Arc of Ohio and stakeholders representing individuals and their family members, guardians, providers, county boards of developmental disabilities and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities are proposing changes to Ohio's waiting list statute that will allow this important work to move forward.

We hear the frustration from individuals and families as they tell us how the current waiting list system is too complex and difficult to navigate. The local number assigned to an individual on the current waiting list is constantly adjusted due to relocations and status changes. In addition, many people on the current waiting list already receive some type of service and some individuals are on more than one local waiting list which has artificially inflated the number of people on Ohio's statewide waiting list to approximately 48,000.

The proposed statute changes introduced this week to Ohio House Bill 49 will require the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to adopt new rules regarding the operation of waiting lists. These new rules are being developed in consultation with individuals with developmental disabilities, the associations representing individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, provider organizations, and the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

The Arc of Ohio strongly supports the proposed statute and is looking forward to working with other stakeholders to improve the waiting list system for individuals and families across Ohio.