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**LEAP's mission is to advance a society of equal opportunity for all persons, regardless of disability.**

## AGENCY OVERVIEW

Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) offers a broad array of Home and Community Based Services that maximize individual choice and assist people with disabilities to live, work and remain active in the community, with the necessary benefits, supports, and resources to do so.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

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- **Advocacy** efforts work to support the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. We work on behalf of individuals as well as helping people find their voice. Advocacy supports an individual's ability to effectively communicate, convey, negotiate or assert his or her own interests, desires, needs, and rights.
- **Independent Living Skills Training** provides a variety of life skills assessments, classes, and training sessions that help people with disabilities improve their ability to live more independently and participate more fully in community life.
- **Peer Support** provides education and assistance to individuals with disabilities by helping them make informed and independent choices, setting and achieving personal goals, addressing multiple barriers, identifying options, and creating solutions. Services are provided by individuals with disabilities, allowing for a shared perspective of barriers and opportunities.
- **Nursing Home Transition Services** assist people who wish to move from long-term care facilities back into the community.
- **Community Education and Activities** provides Community Education speakers addressing a range of disability-related topics for businesses, providers, public officials, advocates, families and individuals with disabilities. LEAP's community activities and enrichment program, Quantum LEAP, provides socialization and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities in partnership with local agencies.

## ACCESS TO BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

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- **Information and Assistance** is a help line that connects callers to information, resources, services and programs helping to make it easier for persons with disabilities, family members, caregivers, and friends to get the support they need. Supports include access to accessible housing and transportation, income supports, assistive technology, adequate health care, and other basic needs that are barriers to independent living and employment.



- **Benefits Navigation and Assistance** helps individuals navigate the maze of public benefits, and provides information and education about disability determination and benefits eligibility. *Disability Benefits Application, Enrollment, and Appeals Assistance* helps people with disabilities apply for and enroll in various benefits programs and provides information and assistance with Social Security reconsideration appeals. *Disability Benefits Analysis* provides one-on-one consultation to Social Security beneficiaries and their families.

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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- **Business Services** are offered to companies to proactively strengthen and diversify their workforce by engaging the largest untapped labor pool in the country. LEAP assists businesses in gaining greater insight into the economic advances that can be achieved by hiring people with disabilities. LEAP also assists companies in complying with the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other federal regulations.
- **Competitive Employment Services** assist people with disabilities in preparing for, obtaining, and retaining employment. Competitive Employment services includes Planning, Assessment, and Training as well as Job Development, Placement and Retention services
- **Youth Transition** services help young adults with disabilities master skills needed for success in adulthood. The school-to-work transition program has been recognized by the National Youth Employment Coalition, operates in two Cleveland city schools and helps students make a successful transition from high school to employment and adult community life.

## PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIPS

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LEAP advocates for legislation and policy changes to support the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

The Community Education service provides speakers who can address a range of disability-related topics for businesses, providers, public officials, advocates, families and individuals with disabilities.

LEAP develops partnerships with entities working in Home and Community Based Services addressing the social determinants of health.

LEAP efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities include a focus on income disparities, employment opportunities, education, affordable, accessible housing options, equal access to health services, social supports, and healthy behaviors.

**Eligibility, funding, availability, wait time and duration of these services vary by program. Please call for more information.**