



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

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES OVERVIEW

Serving Cuyahoga, Lorain, Erie, Medina, Lake and Geauga Counties

LEAP provides Independent Living Services that promote the independent living philosophy of consumer control, self-help & self-advocacy, development of peer role models, & equal access to society & all services, programs, activities, resources, & facilities for people w/ disabilities.

LEAP is a Center for Independent Living (CIL):

As a CIL, LEAP is a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential, nonprofit agency promoting the philosophy of independent living. LEAP is funded in part by the U.S. Depart. of Education under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. CILs provide core services of independent living skills development, peer support, information & referral, transition from nursing homes, youth transition, & public policy & advocacy.

GOAL: To facilitate the development and achievement of independent living goals selected by individuals with significant disabilities to assist them in functioning more independently in family, work, & community settings.

- **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. LEAP's advocacy priorities address barriers to community participation including access to housing, transportation, health care, income supports, assistive technology, and personal care assistance.
- **Independent Living Skills Training** provides a variety of life skills assessments, classes, & trainings to help people w/disabilities improve ability to live more independently & 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 the 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 speakers addressing a range of disability-related topics for businesses, providers, public officials, advocates, families and individuals w/disabilities. LEAP's community activities and enrichment program, Quantum LEAP, provides socialization and recreational opportunities for people w/disabilities in partnership with local agencies. A variety of activities & classes are offered including: yoga, relaxation methods, arts-based programs, communication skill-building, and pre-employment instruction.

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