



Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential

2023-2025 Advocacy Priorities & Issue Areas

LEAP advocates for systems change to promote Independent Living for all people who live with disabilities. Our policy agenda drives our advocacy and service efforts. LEAP works in coalitions and independently to monitor, improve, and educate consumers, stakeholders and decision makers about policies that impact Independent Living.

PROMOTE ACCESS, QUALITY AND SCOPE OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS)

- Improve **ACCESS and QUALITY and EXPAND SCOPE** of Medicaid services, particularly home and community-based services (HCBS)
 - Provide input and recommendations to The Administration for Community Living (ACL) regarding policies related to persons with disabilities
 - Participate in coalitions in Northeast Ohio and statewide for stronger advocacy and coordinated education of policymakers and consumers on important issues such as: Disability Benefits Coordination, Employment, Community Inclusion, Community Coaching, Disability Community Advocate, Non-Medical Transportation, Community Transition, Assistive/Adaptive Technology
 - Monitor and seek improvements to Ohio's Medicaid managed care Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs), particularly the use of person-centered planning, self-direction, care coordination and choice of provider

PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Improve opportunity and access to competitive integrated employment (CEI) for persons with disabilities
 - Provide input and recommendations to The Administration for Community Living (ACL) regarding funding for programs that provide direct employment support services to people with disabilities and advocate for policies and practices that prioritize and support CIE as a key element of community living
 - Promote inclusion of adults with disabilities, including transitioning youth, in Ohio's workforce by supporting employers in their efforts to provide an equitable, accessible, and inclusive environment for employees with disabilities, including consultation on accessible information technologies and reasonable accommodations.

PROMOTE ACCESS TO BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

- Advocate for the utilization of subject matter experts in State and Local policy to ensure that individuals have the necessary and accurate information to make the right benefits decisions
- Participate in coalitions in Northeast Ohio and statewide for stronger advocacy and coordinated education of policymakers and consumers on barriers to community inclusion including Housing, Transportation and Voting

EQUITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION

- Support policies and actions that advance the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the *Olmstead* Decision in all community rights
- Cultivate and leverage legislative relationships with local, state and federal officials to shape, expand, and protect a strong public policy role that provides vital benefits, services, and supports and assures civil rights for persons with disabilities