



**Redefining disability.
At work. At home. At play.**

Join us as we continue to celebrate "LEAP" Year through Advocacy!

On March 20, 31 members of the disability community and 23 elected officials and government staff came together to talk accessibility. This Town Hall event, co-hosted by LEAP and Disability Rights Ohio, provided a powerful opportunity for people with disabilities to be heard by legislators. The afternoon was both moving and impactful.

The Town Hall was structured around the key elements of LEAP's policy platform, with a local focus: accessible housing, accessible transportation, accessible public spaces, and accessible employment.



We made the case for concerted effort into these areas and provided both short- and long-term solutions to consider. During a discussion session, elected officials asked for advice and input, shared the successes of their towns, and listened to concerns about policies and programs that aren't working well. Community members spoke to the difficulties they have faced in finding accessible housing, using community recreation centers, and accessing equitable transportation.

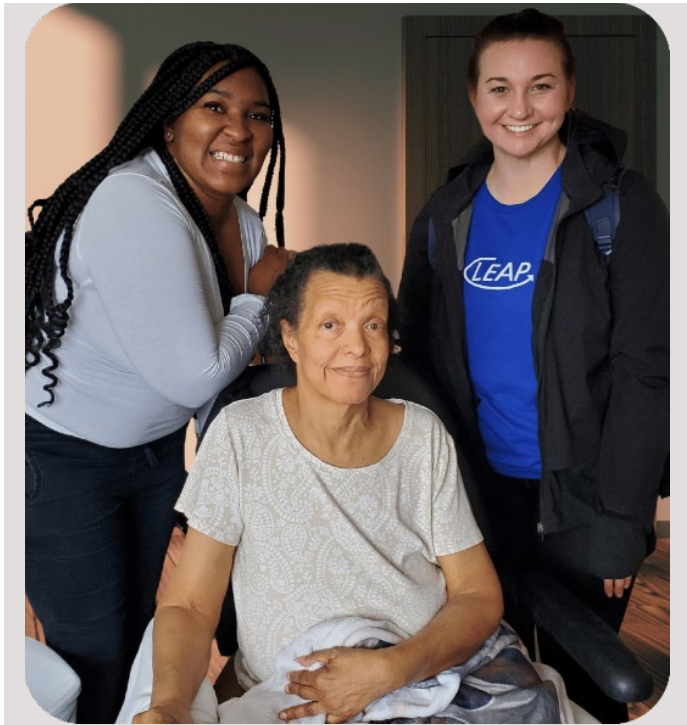
As one participant shared, the best part of the Town Hall was "hearing personal experiences from the disability community and connecting elected officials with the needs of the community." The only negative feedback we received? That the hour-long discussion session was too short!

We agree. This conversation was only the beginning. LEAP is planning to hold additional Town Halls, but first we're bringing back our advocacy group. This group is to be led by community members and driven by your needs. The kickoff meeting is on June 10, 2024, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm online. [Click here to learn more.](#)

We're also gearing up for community walk audits, to be held in Cleveland neighborhoods and suburbs this summer. These are being scheduled now and you can contact me at leapinfo@leapinfo.org for information or to get involved. Finally, we're excited to participate in Northeast Ohio Coalition of Disability Organization's third annual March for Access on September 21, 2024, at Public Square.

I hope to see you in advocacy soon!

Beth Glas
Executive Director



Picture: Jasmine (LEAP), Judah, and Kari (LEAP)

With LEAP's help, Judah gained the tools she needed to live independently in her home, and in her community.

Said Judah, “(LEAP) is very, very good helping and wrapping services around (people). Some places are doing for the agency and not the client. Thank God for you, guys. I had been trying for over a year for a bed. And I know if I don't hear anything; I can call LEAP.”

[Full Story](#)



Photo: A man wearing a suit, in a wheelchair lounging against a kitchen island.

People with disabilities want to be part of the community and the work of Centers for Independent Living (CIL) is the key to independent living success.

It gives consumers control of their lives.

As a CIL, LEAP provide services and advocacy in support of the Independent Living Movement.

[Learn More.](#)



Photo looking out of a Topgolf bay at course.

4th Annual Golf Benefit

Cleveland Topgolf * September 15th * 2-5pm
Good food, good times!

We hope you can join us for biggest fundraiser of the year. [Buy your tickets](#) today!



Photo: Caregiver wearing yellow lei, holding "Prom Queen" sign next to Larry wearing hat & glasses holding a "#VIP" sign from our 2023 Prom!

LEAP [Prom!](#) on May 31st

Our adult adaptive recreation program is excited to hold this year's Prom at DoubleTree Hotel in Independence.

There will be music, activities, and refreshments.

You can help support this and our other dance & party events through a sponsorship. If interested, please see our [special event sponsorship flyer](#) and contact us at Development@leapinfo.org.

Thank you!



Ohio Youth Leadership Forum

Image: 2 photos side-by-side with the 1st of a young woman smiling at the camera and the 2nd of 3 young men sitting and smiling at the camera.

LEAP expands Youth Leadership Forum

New this year is a program for Lorain County in addition to our Cuyahoga County location.

This event is for High School Sophomores through Seniors with a disability to improve their self-advocacy and leadership skills.

To apply for the **Lorain County location**, please visit our [website](#) for full eligibility, information, and the application. This location runs July 9th - 12th.



Blue puzzle piece w/advocacy in white 'popped' from background.

Smart Growth America, supported by the International Parking & Mobility Institute and the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund are...

"seeking to learn more about the needs and challenges people with disabilities meet when walking and rolling in their community. We are interested in what it looks, sounds, and feels like when a street serves walking, biking, and driving for all people, including people with disabilities."

More info on Smart Growth America's [website](#).

Donate today, thank you!