

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Governor Kasich Recognizes Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP)**

**(Oct. 18, 2016) Cleveland, OH-** Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP), a Northeast Ohio non-profit organization serving people with disabilities, will receive the 2016 Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) Award from Ohio Governor John Kasich at the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesday, Oct. 18 in Columbus. The award will be accepted on behalf of LEAP by Executive Director Melanie Hogan.

The Advocacy Award recognizes individuals or groups who demonstrate outstanding contributions to one or more of the populations served by the GCPD. The Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) serves as an advisory council for the Governor and General Assembly on statewide disability issues. The Council strives to promote the value of diversity, dignity and the quality of life for people with disabilities in Ohio by seeking out, and advocating for, partnerships at the local, state and national level, promoting equality of access and independence, and fostering the development of employment opportunities. GCPD’s vision is to be a catalyst for systemic change to promote awareness of disability-related issues that will ultimately benefit all citizens of Ohio.

LEAP is a federally recognized Center for Independent Living (CIL). CILs are non-residential places of action and coalition where persons with disabilities learn and develop necessary skills, empowering them to make their own life choices. In addition, LEAP is accredited by CARF International, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, which is the major international accrediting agency for health and human service providers. To learn more about the many programs and services provided by LEAP to persons with disabilities, visit LEAP: Facebook, [www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org) or call 216.696.2716.

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### **About LEAP**

Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) is an agent of positive change, working to advance participation and equality in society for people with disabilities in Northeast Ohio. Founded more than 30 years ago by people with disabilities, LEAP serves over 1,700 individuals annually, and works to promote social change to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities. The majority of staff and board members at LEAP are people with disabilities themselves. Through its comprehensive services, LEAP assists people with disabilities in living independently in their own homes, participating in community life, and finding and maintaining employment.