



Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential

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

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**Transcript:**

April 04, 2019

LEAP Executive Director, Melanie Hogan

Ohio House Finance Sub-Committee on Health and Human Services

Testimony for reinstatement of funding for Centers for Independent Living

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Melanie:

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West and Members of the Finance Subcommittee:

My name is Melanie Hogan. I am the Executive Director of Linking Employment Abilities, and Potential called LEAP, a Center for Independent Living in Cleveland, where I have worked for 25 years.

While disability costs in Ohio's healthcare expenditures are over \$19 billion a year (as reported by the CDC), Ohio's investment in the Centers for Independent Living, to provide supportive and preventative services, has been flatlined, at \$252,000 since the year 2000. As described in the document in your packet, Ohio's support of the CILs is the lowest, by far, in all of our region.



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Centers support the work of The Department of Developmental Disabilities, The Department of Medicaid, the Department of Aging, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and integrated health entities, which result in positive home and community-based outcomes for individuals with disabilities. This in turn produces significant cost-savings for our state.

**We respectfully request that the CIL line item (415-520) for the Centers for Independent Living be reinstated.** Currently the GRF dollars allocated to Independent Living are used to draw down federal match and they go to the Statewide Independent Living Council. These funds leverage \$3.69 for every state dollar. Other GRF dollars draw down the Federal Part B funds for the Centers at a 9:1 match. Beyond those two streams there are no other GRF dollars supporting Centers for Independent Living.

Reinstating and funding our line item with 1.8 million for the biennium will improve the Centers' ability to deliver an increased level of independent living services to under-served and unserved persons with disabilities in a time of increased need, and to expand the availability of independent living services to more Ohioans throughout our existing service area.



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Ultimately Ohio's investment in independent living services benefits all Ohioans through increased fiscal responsibility and decreased dependence on public assistance, increased savings through community-based living and increased employment and tax revenues.

**In summary, the Independent Living is an Efficient Use of State Resources.**

**Funding provided:**

- Will support the State's improved quality and cost savings agenda,
- Will help keep individuals out of nursing homes and institutions, by providing services that support safe and healthy living in the community,
- Will help youth with disabilities transition to the world of work, and
- Will help people with disabilities work safely in the community by providing the necessary training and supports.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your thoughtful consideration of increasing the availability of the invaluable and extremely cost-effective services that CILs provide.

I will be happy to take any questions.



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Chairman Romanchuk:

Thank you for your testimony. Are there questions of the panel? Representative Roemer.

Representative Roemer:

Thank you so much chairman. Thank you for coming in to testify. Just one real brief question. You had testified I believe, that \$3.69 savings for every dollar of GRF and I think, Mr. Ballard testified a \$40,000 saving for those moved out of institutions. Do you have an estimate of the total savings for the 19 independent living centers that may have generated based upon those numbers?

Melanie Hogan:

We have numbers based upon the number of transitions, not necessarily in all of the impact of the diversion work that we have. The amount that we predict that we've saved as result of the transitions that all of the centers have done has been over 101 million dollars.

Representative Roemer:

Just a quick follow-up, is that one year or is that over a course of ...?



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Melanie Hogan:

No... That is in the past ten years.

Representative Roemer:

Thank you. I have no follow-up.

Chairman Romanchuk:

Any other further questions? Seeing none, thank you so much for the great work that you do and thank you for coming today.

Melanie Hogan:

Thank you very much.

Representative Roemer:

Thank you.

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