

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



METZENBAUM CENTER
The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities



Helping people Live, Learn,
and Earn in our community.

From the Superintendent

2021 

2021 was a year of getting around the COVID virus limitations and moving forward. The global supply chain shortages have slowed us down, but we continue to improve.



Projects at the Metzenbaum Center have been going well. A new pavilion was built in the playground area with new sidewalks. In 2022-23, the old playground equipment will be replaced with more inclusive and accessible options. The front lobby is being developed into a welcoming entrance with three conference rooms directly off the foyer. Other rooms in the building are being remodeled and modernized.

Several new providers are offering programming. NPower Services have a variety of inclusive opportunities like volunteer options, adaptive physical activities, and many other interests. Empower Sports offers inclusive recreation options in the areas of basketball, softball, and integrated fitness classes. Also new, the Metzenbaum Foundation hired Bonnie and Michelle and assumed the operation of the recreation programs.

We continue to encourage novel ideas and efforts that help people to Live, Learn, and Earn in our community.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (440) 729-9406.

Don Rice, Superintendent, Geauga DD



Community & Residential Services

2021 

The Community Support Services Department is comprised of Intake and Eligibility, Investigative Agent, Provider Support and Compliance, and Service and Support Administration (Case Management). In 2021, we served over 652 individuals. We partnered with 150 private providers and coordinated services for 306 individuals on Home and Community Based Service Waivers.

HCBS Waivers are how a person pays for needed services throughout the year. Currently, Ohio offers three types of waivers: Individual Option (IO), Level 1 (L1) and SELF. Each waiver has a different level of funding ranges and services. These funds follow a person as long as they live in Ohio. Once a person receives a waiver, it is guaranteed funding for their lifetime as long as they maintain eligibility. The Waivers help the County Board to pay for individualized services by drawing down Medicaid dollars called "match." In 2021, the amount of match we paid was reduced to 30% from 37% due to Federal COVID funding.



652

Individuals were supported by SSA services

306

Individuals used Waiver services

150

Provider Partners

Early Intervention

2021 

Eligible children under the age of three and their parents receive coordinated Early Intervention (EI) services from Geauga DD. We believe young children learn best from people they know in places they know. For that reason, EI services occur in the child's home or other familiar places where the child is comfortable. EI builds on existing supports and resources so that parents are empowered to best assist their child.

Research shows Early Intervention helps reduce the need for further intervention.

Our goal is to reach as many families as possible. Throughout 2021, we continued targeted outreach with doctor's offices, day cares, and the Amish population. EI offers a variety of inclusive playgroups held at the Metzenbaum Center and out in the community that are designed to encourage development in socialization, play, listening, attention span, and preschool readiness. The playgroups offer an opportunity for our children and caregivers to connect and support one another.



252

Children received services

Employment Services

2021 

Geauga DD's employment services are designed to help people find what is best for them as individuals. In partnership with private providers, we help people identify their interests, strengths, and preferences, then match them with opportunities aligned with their personal and career goals. Community employment is a goal for many of the individuals we serve because it means greater independence, more money, improved social skills, better self-esteem, and increased personal satisfaction.

Geauga DD supports Employment First, which is the national movement that encourages employment as the first and preferred option for people with disabilities. All adults we serve are given the chance to think about what having a job could mean for them.

Providers help people with their career goals through:

- Job development (help to find jobs)
- Job coaching (help to learn and carry out job duties)
- Follow along services (checking in with employer/employee)



565

Adults received services

165

Individuals competitively employed

Transportation

2021 

Geauga DD coordinates transportation services for roughly 400 people. Currently, we are partnering with twenty-two private providers to help meet the needs of transporting individuals to their jobs in the community or attending their day programs.

Transportation continues to be in high demand, so in response we created a bonus structure to encourage more private providers to start offering transportation. As a result, there are more choices available as well as greater responsiveness to needs. Geauga DD remains committed to continuing provider development in this area and growing more provider relationships.



400

People received transportation services

22

Transportation Private Providers

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)



The goal of this program is to provide needed care to the people we serve as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, community inclusion and improved quality of life. The ICF currently serves 15 individuals ranging in ages from 30 to 74. In 2019, we began a partnership with the Jewish Family Service Association, and in 2020, they took over as the operator of the ICF.

The Metzenbaum Foundation (TMF) is continuously working to bring funding and programming to the developmentally disabled population through grants from their endowment and through a partnership with and specific funding from Geauga DD. **TMF's vision is to combine resources and build relationships with our neighbors to nourish the lives of all individuals in this friendly place we call home.**

In 2021, TMF awarded over \$19,000 in grants to developmentally disabled clients for one time specific needs such as: adaptive housing modifications, adaptive equipment, educational tools, respite care and therapies. TMF also provided over \$22,000 to groups who serve developmentally disabled individuals for special projects and emergency requests.

TMF added three employees to their team in 2021. Michelle Avram and Bonnie Veleba joined the team in August and are responsible for the Recreation, Special Olympics and Outreach Programs. Marsha Marin joined the team in October, she is responsible for the Community Connections Program and Personal Relations.

While 2021 was challenging when bringing groups of people together safely, most of our activities and classes resumed in-person by the fourth quarter. Clients, providers and families were thrilled to participate in sports, movie night, bingo, yoga class, art class and more. The Metzenbaum Foundation is proud to serve, support and celebrate developmentally disabled individuals in our community.

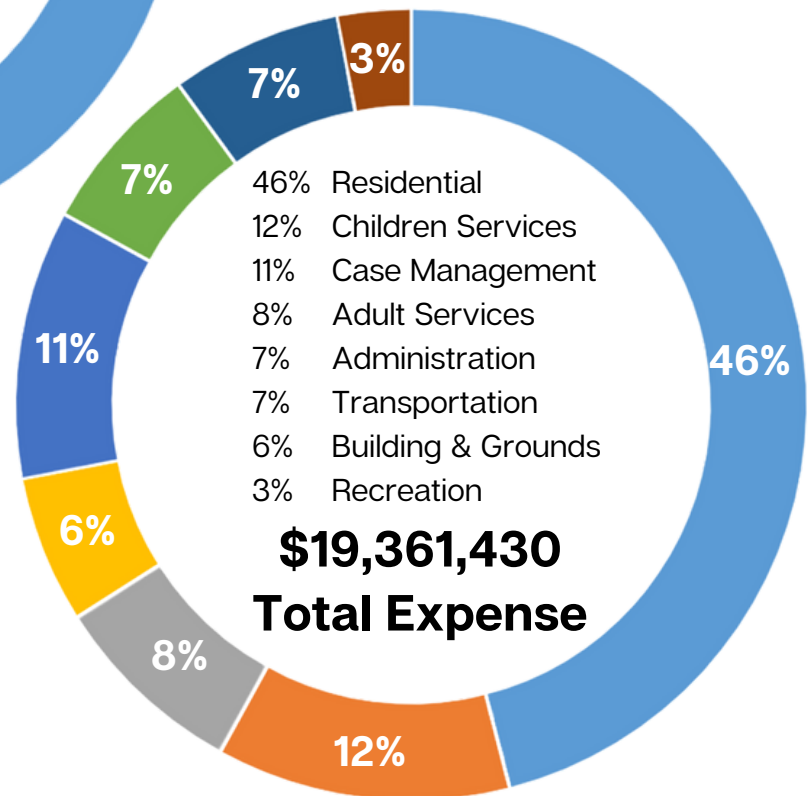
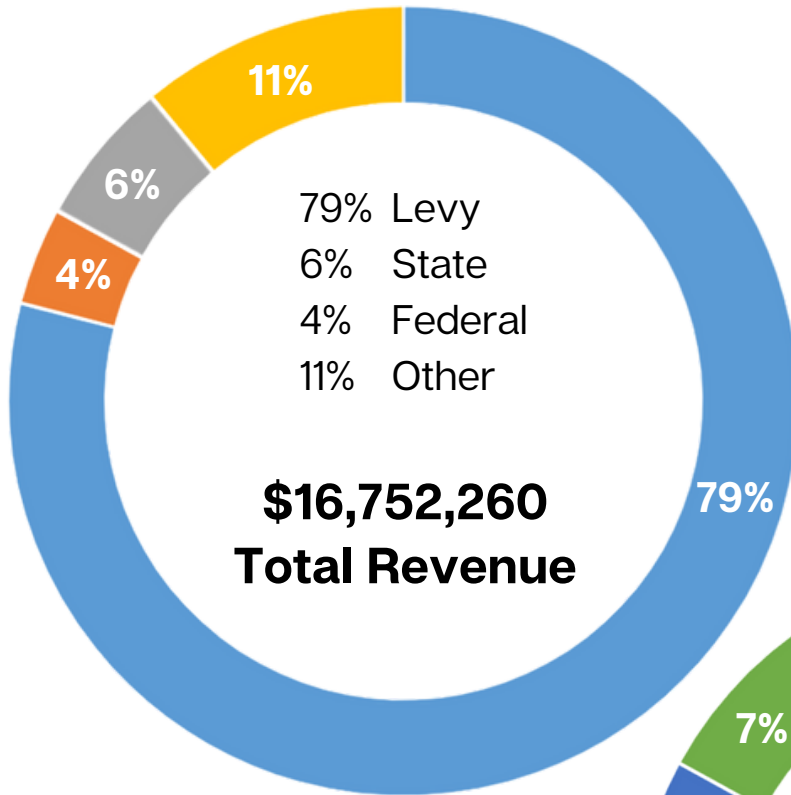


TMF received grants to construct raised Therapeutic Garden Beds at four group homes. With some help, the residents built the beds and planted gardens. The hope is to expand to other group homes in 2022.



2021 Financials

2021 



1,004

**People Served
in 2021**

Service Areas

- Adult Services
- Case Management
- Early Intervention
- Employment
- Recreation
- Residential
- School Age
- Transportation

Questions?
Contact us.

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geaugadd.org

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METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities



Building a caring community where individuals
are Integrated, Accepted, and Achieving.