



Annual Plan

Metzenbaum Center
Geauga County Board Of
Developmental Disabilities

Geauga DD

Metzenbaum Center

Mission

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

Vision

Through a person-centered approach, we aim to help people of all ages to be Integrated, Accepted, and Achieving their full potential in:

Community Life:

Shopping, housing, recreation, giving back, and building relationships

Education:

Learning with peers, participating in extra-curricular activities, and successfully transitioning to adulthood

Employment:

Working with public, earning minimum wage +, and choosing an occupation



Overview of Annual Plan

The Geauga County Board of DD (Gauga DD) serves approximately 1,200 individuals with developmental disabilities, helping them live, learn, and work in our community. As a taxpayer-funded agency, Geauga DD provides support for people of all ages, from birth through end-of-life. We fund, coordinate, and deliver services in key areas, including:

- Behavior Supports
- Community Integration Programs
- Early Intervention Services
- Employment Supports
- Recreation Programs
- Residential Supports
- School-to-Work Transition
- Service and Support Administration
- Special Education Funding

Our mission is to help individuals integrate into the community as fully as possible. Guided by our Mission and Vision, we design services to turn these goals into reality, often in collaboration with partner agencies.

Thanks to an increase in Medicaid Waiver rates in 2024, the workforce shortage has improved. While there is still work to do in this area, we are optimistic that the worst days of direct care professional shortage are behind us.

We continue to prioritize employment as a pathway to greater independence for our clients and will actively monitor and address system needs or crises throughout 2025.

With limited resources, the Board must balance service delivery with long-term fiscal stability. This plan outlines our approach to meeting community needs while maintaining financial responsibility in 2025.

2025 Board Meeting Dates:

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| • January 15 | • April 16 | • July 16 | • October 15 |
| • February 19 | • May 21 | • August 20 | • November 19 |
| • March 19 | • June 18 | • September 17 | • December 10 |

Please Note:

The Board meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at 6 pm except December which is the second Wednesday. The meetings will take place in person at the Metzenbaum Center building in the Administrative Board Room, 8200 Cedar Rd., Chesterland, Ohio. Board members may attend some of the meetings remotely via electronic means as allowed by ORC and outlined in Board Policy 2.14.



2025 Service Provision

The Board plans to continue offering a wide range of services through partnerships with private providers and other entities. We remain committed to supporting the integration and employment of the individuals we serve.

Early Intervention and Help Me Grow

The Board will remain the primary provider of Early Intervention services in Geauga County, delivering support in children's natural environments. Referrals have leveled off over the past year, and while the total number of children served in this program has decreased compared to 2023/2024, we will continue to monitor these trends closely.



Education and Transition Support

We will maintain our partnership with local school districts to educate students in the least restrictive environment. These collaborations will continue to prioritize transitioning students to employment whenever possible. Our school age coordinator is an additional resource to maintain connection with districts and their students.

Employment, Transportation, and Adult Day Programming

Private providers will handle all employment, transportation, and adult day programming services. To address the fiscal challenges these providers face, the Board will support efforts to recruit and retain quality staff. Assistance with processes such as background checks and provider trainings continue to be offered.



Metzenbaum Residences

Operations of the Metzenbaum Residences (Intermediate Care Facility) have been transferred to Jewish Family Service Association, with 13 people presently receiving these services.

Ongoing Evaluation and Prioritization

The Board will continue to assess and adapt services to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. While external factors like rate changes and new regulations may impact the system, our priority remains delivering meaningful services to current recipients before funding new programs or serving new people. This ongoing balancing of needs is elaborated further in the Medicaid Waivers section on the next page.



Medicaid Waivers

Geauga DD is required to annually review the needs of people with developmental disabilities in Geauga County and as well as the available resources to meet those needs. Through that process, Geauga DD has determined that we will be able to support no more than 300 Medicaid Waivers in 2025.

As of this writing, Geauga DD supports 291 Medicaid waivers – 190 Individual Options waivers, 100 Level One waivers, and 1 SELF waiver, which means we will be able to enroll 9 additional people. Furthermore, this will reduce our waiting list, which consists of 12 people with current needs and no one with immediate needs.

**300 Medicaid
Waivers in 2025**



Once our enrollment target of 300 Medicaid Waivers is reached, we will continue to request replacement IO and Level One Waivers to fill vacancies due to people moving out of the county, moving into nursing homes, passing away, or otherwise vacating their waiver slots.

We will continue monitoring the waiting list, and if an immediate need arises, the Board will request an additional waiver to address that need only if the situation is an emergency. Otherwise, the individual will be placed on the waiting list until a waiver vacancy occurs.

The Board also uses local levy dollars to support 7 individuals with residential services who do not meet Level of Care or are not eligible for Medicaid. 43% of the Board's clients fall into the category of not eligible for Medicaid. All day programming and transportation costs for this category of client are covered by local levy funding.



Budget

The 2025 Budget below was approved by the Board in September 2024. Geauga DD continues to wisely manage revenue from the 2015 levy which will be expected to last through 2026.

Even though Geauga DD has historically attempted to minimize expenses while maximizing revenue, 2025 will mark our fifth consecutive year of deficit spending. This is due to a variety of factors including but not limited to: increased costs for client services, increased demand for services, and inflation generally impacting the cost of doing business. Over this same period, revenue has remained largely flat. As a result, a new levy will be needed by 2027.

Revenue Total	\$16,886,141
Tax Levy	\$13,369,644
Reimbursements	\$1,500,000
Federal Revenue	\$905,000
State Revenue	\$600,000
Fees & Services	\$246,371
Leases	\$198,626
Other	\$64,000
Donations	\$2,500

Revenue	\$16,886,141
Expenses	\$18,430,340
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(1,544,199)

Expense Total	\$18,430,340
Client Services	\$11,529,000
Salaries	\$3,871,000
Hospitalization	\$954,000
PERS	\$518,000
Service Contracts	\$488,772
Other	\$469,068
Supplies	\$180,250
Equipment	\$103,000
Travel & Training	\$77,250
Capital Services Contracts	\$75,000
Advertising & Printing	\$70,000
Medicare	\$57,000
STRS	\$21,000
Workers' Compensation	\$15,000
Unemployment	\$2,000





2025 Goals

During the Annual Planning Retreat, the 2024 Goals, the 2025 Vision Paper, and the imminent needs of Geauga DD were reviewed.

The Board acknowledges the good work and conscientious effort by all the employees and private providers who serve our clients. These initiatives assume the normal operation of each department will continue without being listed below. The following areas of concern were discussed as being the primary focus for 2025.

Goal	Who	When
Evaluate the table of organization and develop a plan to address current and future capacity needs.	Superintendent, Directors	January 2025
Develop a plan for public information to be shared in 2025 and beyond.	Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent	February 2025
Related to building use at the Metzenbaum Center, implement measures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve physical security by limiting after-hours public access to designated areas• Increase accessibility for people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices• Improve ease of use with navigational signage	Manager of Building/Grounds, Director of Business Operations	June 2025
Create a one-page document summarizing Geauga DD's operational and financial outlook through the year 2030.	Administrative Team	July 2025
Complete a data strategy assessment across the organization, then develop and implement a data strategy roadmap.	Assistant Superintendent	October 2025





Geauga County Board Of Developmental Disabilities

**Metzenbaum Center
8200 Cedar Road
Chesterland, OH 44026**

440.729.9406

GeaugaDD.org

