

The Ohio Disability and Health Program (ODHP) has been awarded a 1.5 million dollar grant that will be funded over the next 5 years (2016-2021) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), titled *“Improving the Health of People with Mobility Limitations and Intellectual Disabilities through State-based Public Health Programs”* (DD16-1603), which will work to improve the inclusion and accessibility to public health programs and reduce health disparities for people with mobility limitation and intellectual disabilities in the state of Ohio.

The Ohio Disability and Health Program (ODHP), a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded program is comprised of the Ohio State University Nisonger Center, The Ohio Department of Health, the University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio College of Medicine Government Resource Center, and the Disability Advisory Committee. Our Disability Advisory Committee is composed of representatives from 43 different state agencies and disability focused organizations throughout Ohio. They provide invaluable feedback and guidance on all ODHP program activities and also provide an avenue through which we can reach out to the community and disseminate information pertinent to disability and health in our state.

Over the next 5 years, ODHP will work to substantially improve the health and quality of life of over 2 million Ohioans with disabilities through the adaptation and implantation of evidence-based strategies with four main activities that include physical activity, nutrition intervention, tobacco cessation, and training and education. ODHP recognizes these activities as an integral component of our five-year strategy to reduce the disparities in cardiovascular disease and diabetes among people with disabilities in the state of Ohio.

To carry out our physical activity initiatives ODHP will partner with the Creating Healthy Communities Leadership team at the Ohio Department of Health to support several statewide physical activity initiatives. Further ODHP will work with the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability to provide education and in-person training to Creating Healthy Community members.

ODHP will collaborate with Local Matters, and Franklin County Residential Services to carry out nutrition intervention initiatives for people with intellectual disabilities. Local Matters is a non-profit organization that works to provide food education to decrease food insecurity and diet-related diseases. ODHP will work with Local Matters to adapt and demonstrate their Cooking Matters program, a 6-week course that aids individuals in cooking healthy meals on a limited budget to people with intellectual disabilities and their direct support staff members.

Further, ODHP will partner with Centers for Independent Living to implement the Living Independent from Tobacco program. This is an 8-session tobacco cessation program adapted for people with disabilities that will be implemented across the state. The program embodies a behavioral counseling approach toward educating consumers on the benefits of quitting and methods of managing cravings and lifestyle changes.

Lastly, ODHP will establish a consensus on the disability competencies required for health care

providers to provide quality care to patients with disabilities. ODHP will collaborate with the Alliance on Disability in Health Care Education to carry out this initiative. ODHP will work with accrediting and licensure bodies in medicine, nursing, and allied health professions to integrate disability competencies into requirements for program accreditation and provider licensure. ODHP will also train health care providers to provide quality health screenings and assessments to patients with disabilities.