

Helpful Terms

Day habilitation (also known as “day hab” or “adult day”) consists of a variety of services that can be offered out in the community or in a facility. The activities are designed to support learning and assistance in the areas of self-care, sensory/motor development, socialization, daily living skills, communication, community living and social skills.

Vocational habilitation (also known as “voc hab”) is a service which provides learning and work experiences, including volunteer work, that help to develop general skills that can lead to integrated community employment in a job that matches the person's interests, strengths, priorities, and abilities.

Intentional communities allow individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play among peers. It affords people the opportunity to spend time and socialize with people with similar interests and skill levels and to develop friendships and social skills. Being in proximity with others who are generally of similar ages and are going through similar life experiences helps build a sense of community just as it does for anyone else.

Sources

Developmental Disabilities Institute:

https://www.ddiny.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1144441&type=d&pREC_ID=1407307

Family Resource Network:

<https://familyrn.org/resources/disability-related-acronyms>

National Education Association:

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/important-disability-terminology-acronyms-and-definitions>

Ohio Department of Medicaid

<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/families-and-individuals/citizen-programs-and-initiatives/hcbs>

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council:

<https://ddc.ohio.gov/resources-and-publications/clear-language/alphabet-soup>



ACT Council for the Seneca County Opportunity Center (SCOC) is a non-profit organization and works to support the Opportunity Center. The group is similar to a “booster club” and is made up of family members, advocates and friends of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are no dues to join and membership is open to any adult who has a desire to help enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

Understanding the Language of the World of Disabilities





When traveling abroad, it can be useful to know some basic words and phrases in the local language to help you understand some of what you may see and hear. Similarly, understanding and speaking the language of the developmental disabilities services network is crucial for individuals and their families. Many people who work in disability-related fields are so accustomed to all the acronyms and terminology that they sometimes forget that, as parents, we may not speak or understand that language.

This booklet offers a list of some of the most common acronyms and terms you are likely to encounter. Hopefully it will help you understand more easily and communicate more comfortably in the future.

OISP - Ohio Individual Service Plan (In other states it's called an **ISP**.)

This is a person-centered assessment and planning tool that is used across the state of Ohio with all individuals who receive developmental disability services. The OISP is developed based on input from the person with intellectual or developmental disabilities as they explain what's important to them, what they enjoy, as well as their dreams, wishes and personal preferences. It also contains information about medical history and current concerns. This document enables everyone involved in supporting the individual to be aware of and focus on those areas. An OISP is for people who are 18 or older or on a waiver. To learn more, visit: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/compliance/oisp>



OOD - Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities is a government agency that can help connect individuals with resources to help them find jobs as well as vocational rehabilitation services and supports to help them prepare for employment. OOD can also help people with disabilities find out if they might qualify for disability insurance or supplemental income. The agency is funded by grants from federal and state governments. To learn more, visit: <https://ood.ohio.gov>



OPRA - Ohio Provider Resource Association

OPRA is a statewide association of service providers who serve the needs of people with developmental disabilities in the state of Ohio. They offer training and professional development for their members organizations and are a strong voice in Columbus.

P&A - Protection and Advocacy

The Protection and Advocacy network was created by the Congress in 1975 to provide legal representation and other advocacy services to every person with disabilities. Ohio's designated P&A agency is Disability Rights Ohio.

SSA - Service and Support Administrator

An SSA is a person trained to help guide an individual through the person-centered planning process. SSAs have expertise in navigating the complex and sometimes confusing network of services a person may need. When a family contacts the Opportunity Center and their loved one qualifies for services, they are automatically assigned an SSA who becomes the primary point of contact for the person with disabilities and their family.

SSDI - Social Security Disability Insurance

A person may receive financial benefits through SSDI if they are disabled and have a qualifying work history, either through their own employment or a family member (spouse/parent).

SSI - Supplemental Security Income

SSI provides minimum financial benefits to individuals with disabilities who have very limited income and resources. Federal SSI benefits are often supplemented by state programs.

ICF - Intermediate Care Facility

An Intermediate Care Facility is a place where people with intellectual disabilities can live and receive services that they need. An ICF is staffed 24 hours a day. Care is focused on maintenance, not rehabilitation.

I/DD - Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

I/DD is a broad term that includes a number of disorders that begin in childhood and last through a person's lifetime. They can impact a person's physical, intellectual and emotional development. An individual with I/DD may have difficulty learning, reasoning and problem-solving and can struggle to develop social skills and life skills.

IEP - Individualized Educational Program (or Plan)

An IEP is a legal document that lays out the special education instruction, supports and services a student needs to be successful in school. IEPs are part of the pre-K-12 educational program in public schools. IEPs are reviewed and updated annually.

Note: An IEP means that the student is entitled to specialized instruction and services to support their success in school. However, for students who do not need specialized instruction, a **504 Plan** prescribes and guarantees that they receive appropriate accommodations to ensure their success in traditional classrooms in school.

ISP - See OISP

MUI - Major Unusual Incident

An MUI is an alleged, suspected or actual incident where there is reason to believe that the health and welfare of a person may have been adversely affected or that the person was at risk or harm. By law, an MUI must be reported so that an appropriate investigation can be conducted.

An **unusual incident (UI)** is when something occurs that's not consistent with the routine or the procedures for a person's care plan. Though a UI is not as serious as a major unusual incident, it is still documented and investigated.

OACB - Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

The OACB is a non-profit organization that serves all 88 of Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities providing them advocacy, communications, professional development and technical assistance.

ODE - Ohio Department of Education

ODJFS - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (sometimes JFS)

ODJFS is a government office that coordinates a number of services, including Medicaid, for which individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities may qualify.

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

Enacted in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities when it comes to things like employment, education, transportation, communications, and access to government programs and services. Under the ADA, people can request and expect reasonable accommodations like physical changes to a facility, adjustments in a work schedule, modifications to equipment, training programs, etc. To learn more, visit: <https://adata.org/learn-about-ada>



ADD - Attention Deficit Disorder

ADD is a disorder that's considered to be a type of ADHD, but without all the physical activity. A child with ADD may appear to be daydreaming or just not paying attention, but they are generally not disruptive in class. Their desk or book bag may be messy and they may turn in incomplete work or even lose the assignments.

ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ADHD is a common disorder that usually appears in childhood and may last into adulthood. A person with ADHD may have difficulty focusing and paying attention, may display uncontrolled impulsive behaviors and may be very active physically.

CHIP - Children's Health Insurance Program

CHIP provides affordable insurance coverage for children whose families earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to buy private insurance. The programs are administered through the states. To learn more, visit: <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/childrens-health-insurance-program>



CMS - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

In addition to overseeing and regulating many of the programs and services which help individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, CMS is also the major funding source, so they are critically important for much of what the Opportunity Center does. Funding for waivers and many services as well as policies and regulations come from CMS.

COG - Council of Governments

The Clearwater Council of Governments was formed by an agreement between the County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in these seven counties: Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa and Seneca. The COG offers a variety of services that member organizations may use if and when they wish. Each member organization pays an annual membership fee to the COG for the privilege of having access to the services. To learn more, visit: <https://clearwatercog.org>



DC - Developmental Center

A developmental center offers temporary residential placement for adults with developmental disabilities who cannot be served in the community in

their county of residence because they are in crisis. They are referred to the DC by the county board where they reside. The eight DCs in Ohio are located in Cambridge, Columbus, Gallipolis, Highland Hills, Mount Vernon, Toledo, Batavia and Tiffin.

DD - Developmental Disabilities

Developmental Disabilities is a term that refers to a broad group of conditions that impact a person's physical and/or intellectual abilities.

DODD - Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

DODD is the state agency that oversees a system designed to support, protect and ensure the well-being of Ohio residents with developmental disabilities and to help them live a meaningful life. To learn more, visit: <https://dodd.ohio.gov>



DRO - Disability Rights Ohio

The Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system was created by Congress to provide legal representation and other advocacy services to all people with disabilities. The Governor has the power to designate the P&A for Ohio. Ohio's current P&A agent is Disability Rights Ohio. The agency has lost favor with many families and organizations in Ohio due to alleged bias shown in the way it selects which individuals/groups to represent. In 2023 DRO was severely criticized by the Joint Committee to Examine the Activities of Ohio's Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program.

DSP - Direct Support Professional

A Direct Support Professional is someone who works with people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to help them live their best life. A DSP helps an individual become more independent and often plays many roles—a caregiver, mentor, teacher and life coach.

EI - Early Intervention

Early Intervention is a statewide program that provides services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. Children up to 3 years of age are eligible. To learn more, visit: <https://ohioearlyintervention.org>



HCBS - Home- and Community-Based Waiver Services

Home- and Community-Based Services make it possible for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities to receive services in their own home or community instead of in long-term care facilities, hospitals, intermediate care facilities or other isolated settings. These services are made possible through Medicaid waivers which allow the federal government to "waive" rules that would normally apply to Medicaid such as having to go to a long-term care institution to receive certain services. Medicaid waivers give individuals more control over their care and allow them to remain more active in their community. There are three types of waivers available.

Individual Options waiver (IO waiver)

The IO waiver is very comprehensive and is a good choice for people who need a lot of assistance in their home or who need many different services. To learn more, visit: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/waivers/0-io-waiver>



Level One waiver

This waiver is most appropriate for people who don't need a large number of paid services. To learn more, visit: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/waivers/2-level-one-waiver>



Self Empowered Life Funding waiver (SELF Waiver)

The SELF waiver allows a person to manage some of their services, hire and train people who provide their services and manage their services budget. To learn more, visit: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/waivers/1-self-waiver>



HCBS Settings Rule

In March 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule. The Settings Rule provides the framework for aging adults and persons with physical and developmental disabilities to be included in their communities as an alternative to institutional care.

Here are the requirements of the Settings Rule.

- A setting should be integrated in and support full access to the greater community.
- A setting should be selected by the individual from among setting options.
- A setting should ensure individual rights of privacy, dignity and respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint.
- A setting should optimize autonomy and independence in making life choices.
- A setting should facilitate choice regarding services and who provides them.

For individuals who receive waiver funding, the setting where they receive residential or day services (including employment) must comply with the Settings Rule as interpreted by each state.

HHS - Health and Human Services

This is the shortened name for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HPC - Homemaker/Personal Care

Homemaker/Personal Care is the name of a category of services available to a person using a Level One or Individual Options waiver. To learn more, visit: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/services/homemaker-personal-care>

