



ASHLAND COUNTY

Board of Developmental Disabilities

Live. Learn. Work. Play.

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention Department (EI) services support parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities or delays. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. That's why our local EI team, which includes a service coordinator and service providers, work with families in their home and the community.

Growth in Service: The number of children served in 2024 increased significantly compared to 2023, with 106 children on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), up from 90 the year before.

With the EI numbers being at an all-time high our department has still been able to provide high- quality services to our EI families and meet compliance standards from the state which are evident by the following accomplishments:

- **Positive State Evaluation:** Ashland County received the highest state rating of "Meets Requirement" for its SFY24 Annual Performance Report, which highlights the department's strong performance in meeting state standards since moving under the county board in 2021.

- **Compliance and Performance:** The department achieved 100% compliance with state standards in compliance indicators 45-day timeline and notification to the LEA and SEA.

Play Groups and Community Building: The EI department does a lot with the Wayne County EI team. Our playgroups are one of our biggest successes. EI has facilitated monthly playgroups for families, which have provided a valuable opportunity for social-emotional development and community-building among families. This is a great example of EI expanding its services beyond just direct interventions and fostering support networks.

What our families have said about EI:

- Having the support and help to keep our child's development on track. Learning all about the milestones and her needs to help her progress. Their help has been invaluable to us. With being new parents (& having moved away from family) to her coming 2 months early. It has all been very overwhelming and they've helped us so much by sorting everything out and getting us where we're able to help her development. She's come such a long way in a year because of their help. From getting her to sleep better during the night to finally getting her to eat solids independently.

- Our worker has been wonderful and very accommodating. She works around my schedule and always provides wonderful input to help my kid.

- I would highly recommend the Early intervention to any family that is having troubles getting their little ones to talk. It is a major help now that our daughter can voice to us what she wants and if she wants it or not makes us happy as parents, and I hope every family can get that level of happiness too.



DALE-ROY SCHOOL

School Age Services

Dale-Roy School currently has 6 school aged classrooms for students aged 5-22. Students receive instruction in academics, self-care skills, independent living skills, community skills, fine arts, and vocational skills and access all supports indicated in their IEPs. The Unique Learning Curriculum is utilized to support academics and address content standards. Students aged 14 and older participate in work experiences within the school and at community settings with the Dale-Roy School Job Trainer. Dale-Roy School has implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Plan which is a school wide system of behavioral expectations and methods of reinforcing positive behaviors. Dale-Roy School has a transition class for students close to graduation that focuses on independent living skills, community based skills, and employment skills.



We have added a position of Registered Behavior Technician (RBT). The RBT works closely with our contracted Behavior Specialist to help ensure fidelity of behavior plans and guidelines, provide behavior support and interventions, and help train new paraprofessionals. We switched to Handle With Care for the program for behavior de-escalation and physical management and have found that it works well in the school.



Dale-Roy School has been working to start to increase opportunities for family engagement. We offered a resource fair at Open House with information about community resources and have scheduled several school activities for parents/caregivers to attend through the school year.

Transportation

Safe and reliable transportation to and from Dale Roy School is an integral part of the educational program we provide for our students. In the past year, we have purchased a fifth transit van with a wheelchair lift. Updating our fleet has not only cut down on repairs but has increased the safety of the students.

Transportation currently has six routes. On average, we drive 75,780 miles a year. That does not include field trips, maintenance runs, and summer camp.

Our drivers get training four times a year on better driving habits, wheelchair lifts, emergency exits of vehicles, HWC training, CPR, IEP updates and Van Maintenance. All Van Drivers get a physical once a year.

We have updated our Transportation phone number so when any call goes to voice mail an email is sent to the front office, the Director of Education, and the Transportation Supervisor, who gets the correct information out to everyone.

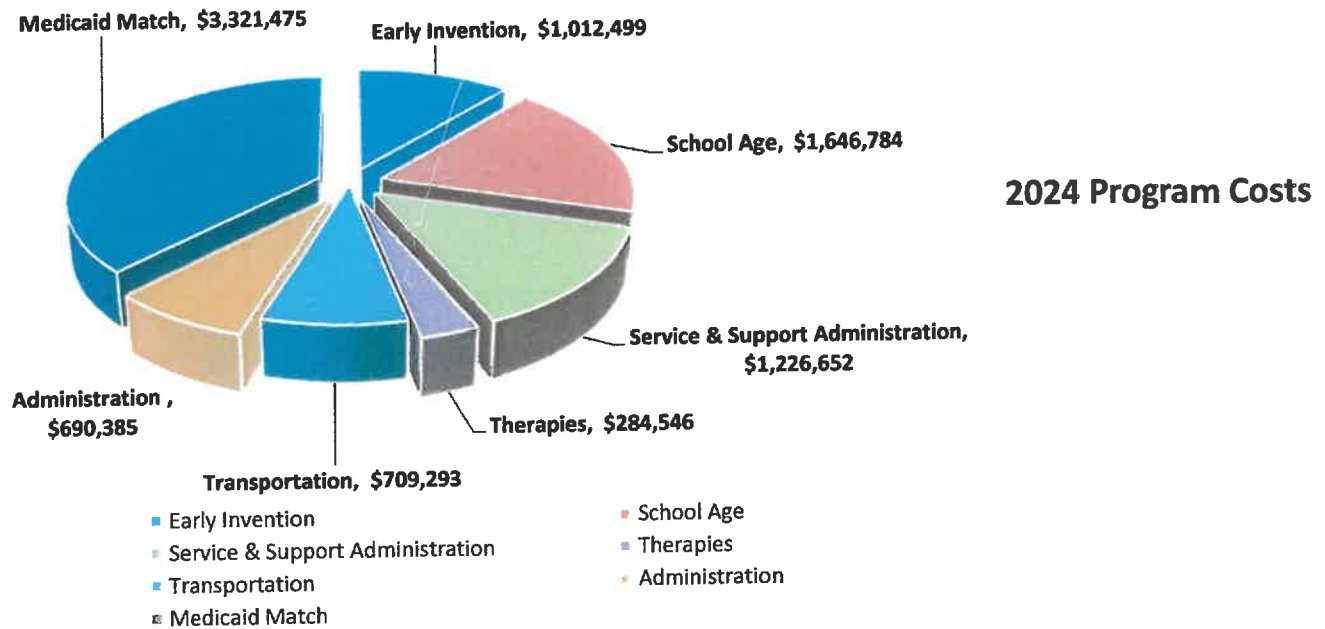
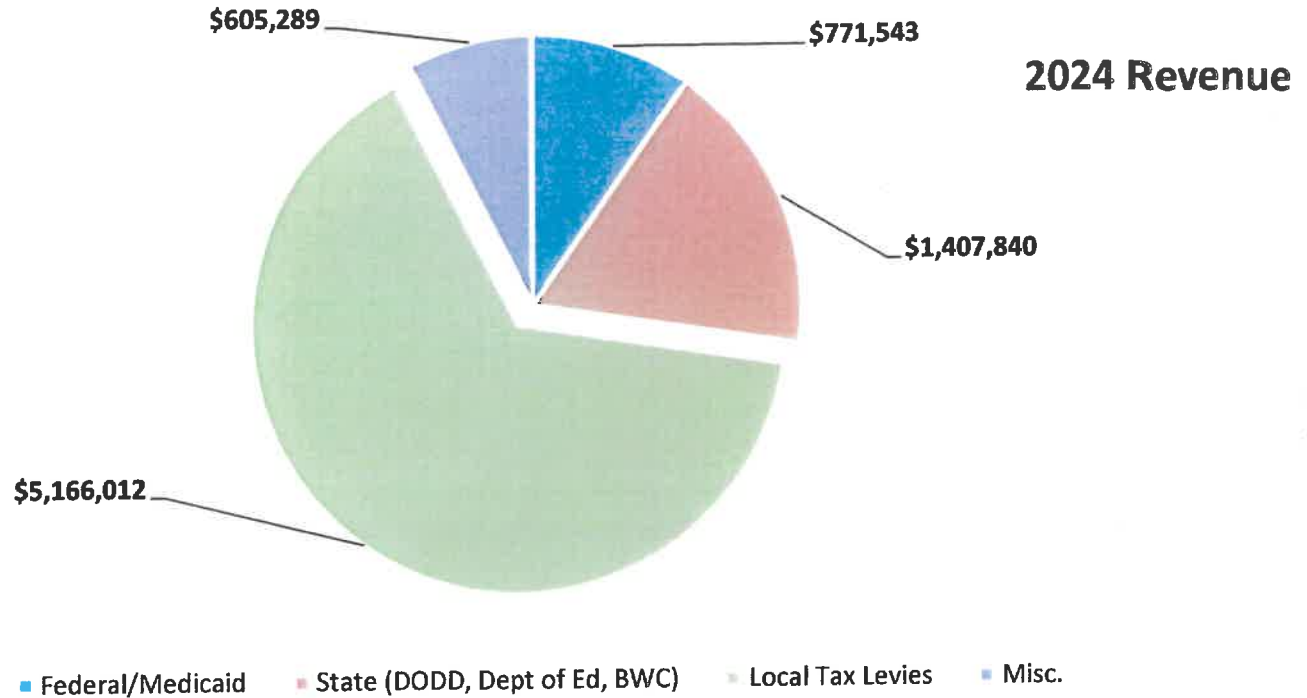
Service and Support Administration

The Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department provides ongoing support to individuals and families who receive services through the Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. SSAs are the main point of contact for families and serve as the point of coordination. The SSA staff work with individuals and families to assess needs, develop service plans, and connect people to resources within the community. New policies and procedures are currently being reviewed and updated to reflect current best practices and ensure alignment with regulatory requirements.

The department continues to improve the Ohio Individual Service Plan (OISP) to ensure each plan is person-centered and focused on the individual's assessed needs. This ongoing enhancement helps ensure that planning is tailored to the person's goals, preferences, and desired outcomes.

In addition, the department is fine-tuning the process for assessing individual needs and authorizing services. This targeted approach ensures that support remains focused on each person, addressing their specific needs and promoting a higher quality of life through responsive, individualized services.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	\$ 7,509,944	\$ 7,734,159	\$ 7,950,684
Expenditures	\$ 6,939,046	\$ 7,918,593	\$ 8,891,636
Net Margin	\$ 570,898	\$ (184,434)	\$ (940,952)