

# LAWRENCE COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who exactly qualifies for these services?

Individuals residing in Lawrence County that have a diagnosis of a developmental disability (i.e. Intellectual Disability, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, etc.) prior to the age of 22, that is likely to continue throughout the life span; AND has been assessed to have developmental delays or functional limitations in daily living.

### How are they chosen to receive these services?

LCDD does not choose who it serves. The majority of LCDD services are provided to eligible individuals within a strict set of timelines determined by the state. We do have a waiting list for Medicaid Waivers, and Open Door School. However, individuals can still receive other services while being on a waiting list.

### Is LCDD being ran properly & efficiently?

Yes, the program is being operated properly and efficiently. The LCDD received a three-year accreditation from the Ohio Department of Disabilities in 2018. This is the highest award that can be obtained. In addition to increased Board oversight, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities increased its oversight of all DD programs through the requirement of a 5 year forecast to be submitted annually.

We have spent the last two years revamping policies, procedures and the table of organization to assure the agency operates as efficiently as possible. We also updated our vision, mission and values statements, developed at three-year strategic plan, published an annual report, and improved communications and transparency.

### If not, should that be taken care of first?

Again, a lot of work has been done over the past two years to reduce the budget before going back to the tax payers. We have cut around 30% out of the budget since 2018, and made other changes to improve our efficiency.

### Who will be taxed...everyone or just landowners?

This levy is a property tax, so landowners will be taxed. The LCDD realizes that additional property taxes can be a burden on landowners, and as stated above, we have worked hard to reduce our expenditures over the last two years.

### How, exactly, will the additional monies be used?

If the levy passes, the additional funding will start in 2021. About half of the new funding will be needed to continue the current level of services by that time. The remaining funds will be used to address our waiting list, and allow us to serve more people in the community, including services to infants and adolescents preparing for life after school.

### Show an 'easy to understand' breakdown of the monies.

- The majority of our revenue comes from our local tax levy. We also receive state and federal funds.
- The majority of our annual budget -**85%**- goes to services for people with developmental disabilities – either through our program staff or through community based providers and contractors. The remaining 15% goes towards overhead and administration.
- Several of our staff members, including the Superintendent, participate in federal programs to draw down funding that offsets part of their salaries.
  - We are projected to have a deficit of over (\$700,000) in 2020; and that deficit will continue to increase.

	Revenue
Tax Levy	\$2,610,007
Federal/State	\$2,295,283
Misc. (donations, etc.)	\$260,209
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,165,499</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,873,608</b>
Difference	(\$708,109)

(Please go to [www.lawrence.org](http://www.lawrence.org) and click on the voter information tab for a complete budget breakdown).

### What is the total amount people will be paying for this issue?

The amount people will pay is based on their "assessed home valuation".

The assessed valuation is 35% of the market home value. The ballot language just says "valuation" – as that is what the Ohio Revised Code requires. However, the assessed valuation is significantly lower than the market valuation. A home with a market value of \$100,000 would pay an additional \$61.25 annually, or \$5.10 per month. (Please go to our website at [www.lawrence.org](http://www.lawrence.org) and click on the voter information tab for a complete breakdown).

### Is there any other possible way to get funding?

There are other ways to obtain funding, and we are maximizing those sources to their fullest potential. These include grants and through our participation in certain federal and state programs. However, as with all county boards in Ohio, local tax funding is our primary source of revenue.

### What will happen at the end of the tax period if things have not improved?

The LCDD has no plans to ask the tax payers at the end of the five year levy for additional funding. Our goal is to provide services in such a way over the next five years that taxpayers see the fruits of their investment in Lawrence County DD.

Also, there is misinformation on social media. One of those issues is about our intent to ask for more funding later. A portion of our meeting minutes from our February 2019 Board meeting were shared, however the entire section was not shown. The Board decided to phase out of preschool services – because budget projections showed that if we kept it, we would be in a deficit within a few years even with the additional funding. LCDD worked with the school districts to assure those services continued in the county. The information is being presented as if our levy request will not be enough to sustain us as we are now, and that is not correct.