



NEWS, VIEWS & NOTES

December 2025

What's Next?

As we look ahead, we are talking with County officials about when we might go on the ballot for another levy. In the meantime, we will continue to be thoughtful in our spending, reducing expenses where we can. We will continue to prioritize services for people with disabilities.

We will continue to communicate with you – the people and families we serve – as we know more.

Our work does not change. We continue to support and empower people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work, and play in the community. You play an important role in sharing the good work we do with the community.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Coming Up

Cuyahoga DD Board Meetings

Thursday, December 18

Thursday, January 23

Thursday, February 26*

*Pending board approval in January
Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.

Agenda and meeting information
can be found on our website:
www.CuyahogaDD.org

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends of Cuyahoga DD:

When we passed our last levy in 2005, Cuyahoga DD hoped it would fund services for 10 years, until 2015.



By responsibly managing these funds, that levy has supported Cuyahoga County residents with developmental disabilities for over 20 years.

Our current financial projections show that we are approaching the end of the life cycle for our levy, and that we will need an additional source of funding in order to provide services by the end of 2028.

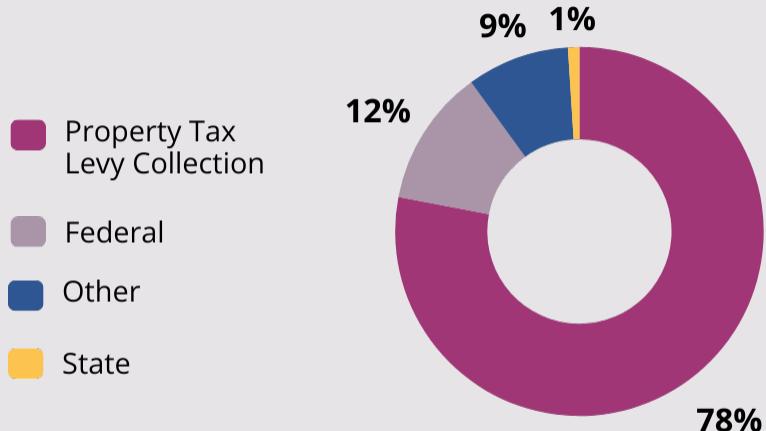
As we look ahead to what future funding looks like for Cuyahoga DD, I want to make sure you understand some of the issues we face.

Amber C. Giffes
Superintendent & CEO

How Cuyahoga DD is Funded

Cuyahoga DD has four sources of revenue: Cuyahoga County property tax levy funds, Federal funds, State of Ohio funds, and other funds*.

Cuyahoga DD 2026 Projected Revenue



* Other funds include a number of revenue sources, including contracted services, rent for building use, etc.

This is all the money we have to support the 15,000 people in Cuyahoga County who receive Cuyahoga DD services. As you can see in the chart, 78 percent of the money we bring in comes from our levy.

The amount of money Cuyahoga DD brings in from the levy is fixed and will never exceed the amount we collected in 2005.

What Cuyahoga DD Spends Money On

Every year, Cuyahoga DD's biggest expense is the Medicaid Waiver Match. Medicaid waivers are one way that we help people with DD live the lives they want.

The Federal government pays approximately 60 percent of Medicaid waiver expenses, and County Boards use property tax dollars to pay the other 40 percent.

Between Medicaid waivers and our other local property tax-funded programs, Cuyahoga DD:

- Provides early intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental delays.
- Supports students with special needs in schools and at home.
- Connects adults with developmental disabilities to job training and employment.
- Funds housing, transportation, and independent living services.
- Promotes inclusion and advocacy in every corner of the community.



Why Expenses Are Increasing

While Cuyahoga DD's levy funding has remained the same since 2005, expenses have continued to increase. There are a number of reasons for this:

- The cost of goods and services is higher in 2025 than it was in 2005 (See chart below). This includes DD services.
- Cuyahoga DD serves 20 percent more people in 2025 than in 2005.
- The number of people we serve with complex needs has increased, and so has the cost associated with supporting them.

Cost of Living

	2005	2025
	\$703	\$1,255
Rent - 2 Bedroom*		
	\$2.54/lb	\$6.63/lb
Ground Beef**		
	\$5.31	\$18.65
Childcare (hourly)***		

*https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2025_code/2025summary.odn

**<https://www.bls.gov/charts/consumer-price-index/consumer-price-index-average-price-data.htm>

***<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-is-the-market-price-of-daycare-and-preschool/#:~:text=The%20results%20are%20analyzed%20by,for%20four%2Dyear%2Dolds>

<https://www.care.com/cost/child-care/cleveland-oh>