

2024

Annual  
Report

# Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Mission Statement

To offer programs and coordinate available services so that the people we serve may realize their dreams and actively contribute to their community.

## Vision Statement

To empower people to be the best version of themselves.

## Values

Teamwork,  
Dedication, Respect,  
and Integrity



Fayette County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities



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1330 Robinson Road  
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160  
Phone: (740) 335-7453  
Fax: (740) 335-2185

The Starting Gate  
Fayette Progressive Preschool  
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Phone: (740) 335-1391  
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Website: [fayettetdd.com](http://fayettetdd.com)  
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Instagram: [fayette\\_county24](https://www.instagram.com/fayette_county24)

## From the Desk of Superintendent Larry Gray



Welcome to our 2024 Annual Report. I want to start with introducing myself. My name is Larry Gray, and I am the new Superintendent. I started in January of 2024. I previously worked as the operations director for nine years before leaving to accept a position with another organization for two years. I consider it an honor to serve as the next superintendent for the Fayette County Board of DD.

Our annual report this year celebrates many successes. Our accomplishments, including Early Intervention success stories, new technology, and work with community partners for the development of new homes, allow individuals we serve to live and access more opportunities in our communities. These accomplishments align with our mission, vision and values for those we serve. We hope you enjoy reading our report as we look forward to what the new year brings.

Thank You,

Larry Gray  
Superintendent

# Service and Support Administration

The Service and Support Administration (SSA) provided case management services to 122 people, along with serving others in our community with information and referral services, and other follow-up services. SSA also provided intake and eligibility services. SSA serves people starting at age 3 through adulthood, by providing person-centered planning, assessment, information and referrals, payment authorization, monitoring, and crisis intervention.

We had another successful year with the Strong Families and Safe Communities Grant (DODD, MHADS) with the Pickaway County Board of DD. As the coordinator of the grant, which focuses on families with children and young adults with a developmental disability and or mental health needs that are in crisis or at-risk of family separation, we brought in more than \$70,000 to our community. Grant funds went toward multiple projects and services that included, Suicide Coalition and Prevention, Rose Avenue Community Center, and general funds for In-home sustainability with the Fayette County Family and Children First Council.

The continued focus in the developmental disabilities system is for people to have full community access in the least intrusive and most meaningful manner. In working with their SSA, several people chose supports that involved technology and remote support staff to assist them in their home, going to places in our community and helping them use public transportation. People continued to learn skills through job training programs, gained employment and secured volunteer opportunities. One of the most important community connections is for people to live in their own home, whether they are moving out of their family home or a facility-based living. We were able to assist two of men to get a home and connecting them with the supports that they need.

As SSAs worked with people through a person-centered approach, many exciting accomplishments were made this year. Here are some successes:



Joel, a 16-year-old sophomore at Washington Court House City Schools was able to get his bathroom renovated to be completely accessible, allowing him to do more tasks on his own. In 2024, he also earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place with his market goat project at the Fayette County Fair, earning a chance to participate in the final drive. To wrap up the summer, Joel was featured in a news story on TV for his participation in the Breaking Boundaries Hog Show at the Ohio State Fair. Joel was the top showman, earning a banner and lots of swag. Joel had a huge fan following who also spoke on his behalf while on the news.



Jeremy and Tyler moved into their new home. They have supports to help them out within their home and getting around their community.



# Service and Support Administration



**Stephanie obtained a job at Copper Knoll Nursing Facility in the maintenance department, and then moved into the position of Activities Coordinator.**

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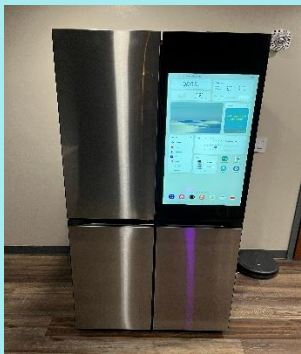
**Kyler continued to expand on his community involvement and did volunteering at Second Chance and is now spending time at Copper Knoll Nursing Facility, helping in a variety of ways.**



**Dalton began job training with Goodwill Industries where he gained new employment and social skills. His new skills have also helped him enjoy leisure activities with his friends and family.**



# Empowering Through Technology: A Tech Room for Developmental Disabilities



In today's digital age, technology has the potential to bridge gaps and create opportunities for everyone, including individuals with developmental disabilities. A tech room specifically designed for this purpose can be a game-changer, providing a supportive environment where technology meets accessibility. That is why we have created our very own tech room in Fayette County. Below is a breakdown of details on the sensory room along with key points as to why this is so important.

1. **Purpose and Vision** – The primary goal of the tech room for developmental disabilities is to foster independence, enhance learning and improve the quality of life for individuals with various developmental challenges.

## 2. **Key Features**

- a. **Assistive Devices:** The room is equipped with a range of assistive devices such as speech-to-text software, screen readers, and adaptive keyboards. These tools can help individuals with communication difficulties and other impairments interact with technology more effectively.
- b. **Sensory-Friendly Environment:** Creating a sensory-friendly environment is crucial. This includes adjustable lighting, soundproofing, and tactile materials that cater to sensory sensitivities. Our tech room features adaptive lighting with more to come.
- c. **Accessible Furniture:** Ergonomically designed furniture that is adjustable and accessible for wheelchair users ensures comfort and usability for all individuals. We currently have a power sofa with more plans for adding furniture in the future.
- d. **Interactive Learning Tools:** Incorporating interactive whiteboards, touch-screen tablets, and educational software can make learning more engaging and accessible. Our room is equipped with an iPad, smartwatch, and Alexa devices.

## 3. **Benefits**

- a. **Enhanced Learning:** Technology can provide personalized learning experiences, helping individuals with developmental disabilities grasp concepts at their own pace. Interactive tools and software can make learning more engaging and effective.
- b. **Improved Communication:** Assistive communication devices can help people who do not use words to communicate, express themselves, fostering better social interactions and reducing frustration.
- c. **Increased Independence:** By using adaptive technologies, individuals can perform tasks independently, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.
- d. **Social Inclusion:** A tech room can serve as a community hub where individuals with developmental disabilities can connect, collaborate, and socialize, promoting a sense of belonging and inclusion.

## 4. **Implementation and Support**

- a. **Training and Support:** We will be providing training for both users and caregivers. This ensures that everyone can effectively use the technology and maximize its benefit.
- b. **Continuous Updates:** Technology is constantly evolving, so it is important to keep the tech room updated with the latest advancements.
- c. **Collaboration with Experts:** Partnering with occupational therapists, special educators and technology experts can help in designing and maintaining an effective tech room.



**Conclusion:** A tech room for developmental disabilities is more than just a space filled with gadgets; it's a gateway to independence, learning, and social inclusion. By thoughtfully integrating technology and accessibility, we can create an environment where individuals with developmental disabilities can thrive and reach their full potential.

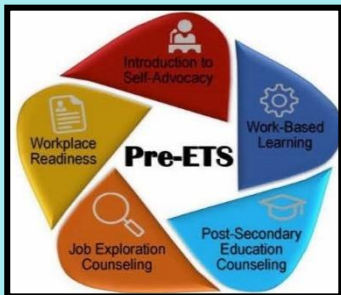


# Community First

During 2024, Fayette County served eleven students in the Pre-Employment Transition Program (Pre-ETS), as they continue to build their job skills that enhance their knowledge for work at competitive jobs.

The Pre-ETS program is open to students ages 14-22 while enrolled in education. Students must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 through their local school district and must receive services with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Referrals are made by the local school district or directly through the Community First Department at FCBDD. Most students receive Pre-ETS services during their school day at school.

We are excited to have our first Summer Youth program during the summer of 2025. Plans are in the works for this exciting opportunity for our transitioning youth.



Slade had a lot of accomplishments in 2024. Slade participated in softball for the first time in four years. In the past, his anxiety hindered him from playing. Since he had been feeling better, Slade decided he wanted to play softball this year and he had a great year! He was the catcher on the coach pitch team. He caught numerous foul balls and was one of the leading hitters. He also decided to play basketball in October. He is doing very well and enjoys playing sports with his peers.

Slade participated in the Pre-ETS program as well. Slade worked in the summer youth work program through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) for two summers. In October he decided he wanted to get a part-time job. He entered the OOD job development program and got a job working at KFC. According to the manager and his job coaches he is doing awesome!

When asked why he wanted to work at KFC he said, "because I love chicken!" He gets 50% off and eats chicken everyday he works. He is in paradise!







# Fayette County Special Olympics

The Fayette County Dragons had a busy and successful year. There were seventy-one athletes who participated in track, softball, flag football, basketball, and bowling. The Dragons football team was crowned State Champions for the sixth straight year.

The basketball team had eighteen athletes who participated.

There were sixty-four athletes that participated in bowling, which was double the amount for last year. We had a wonderful turn out for bowling!

Track and Field saw thirteen athletes, with nine competing in the Summer Games.

There were two softball teams, coach pitch and unified, and both won the state championships in their respective divisions.

We are proud of our athletes and their accomplishments throughout 2024.







## Fayette Progressive Preschool



Falkyn began preschool as an affectionate young boy who enjoyed occasional adult attention and solitary play. He would often engage in sensory-seeking opportunities but was hesitant to join the group for activities, whole group learning, or center-based play. During his time at Fayette Progressive, Falkyn has shown tremendous growth! Falkyn can now be observed in the classroom sitting with his class for circle time, playing alongside peers, and successfully following the classroom routine! Falkyn's vocabulary has greatly expanded with the support of the educational and therapy teams. He is also thriving as he can identify a variety of emotions and concepts! We are so proud of Falkyn's progress and cannot wait to see how he continues to thrive after graduation!

Falkyn is one of sixty-four students enrolled at Fayette Progressive Preschool for the 2024-2025 school year. Fayette Progressive Preschool is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed special needs inclusion preschool program that seeks to nurture the growth of all students in embracing and serving exceptionalities, developing a spectrum of skills, and encouraging the development of a lifelong love of learning. In 2024, we served forty-one students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for development in academics, social interaction, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Shared experiences between these students and our twenty-three typically developing pals allow for simultaneous learning and friendship building for all members of our school community.

Fayette Progressive Preschool transports twenty-eight students by bus daily, split over two separate session routes.





# Early Intervention



Addy is one of our EI superstars! She will be turning three this Spring but has shared her incredible journey with our EI team since she has been discharged from Nationwide Children's as an infant. She has had multiple medical complications and surgeries since birth, but she has overcome and fought through every one of them to achieve great progress in all developmental areas. Addy has Achondroplasia which is the most common form of short-limbed dwarfism. She has amazed the medical team, her family, and our EI team as she has conquered one milestone after another. Today Addy can walk independently, sing, dance, eat and carry on a full conversation with signs and words. We all celebrate her achievements!!

A quick update on Miss Ivy, our EI star from last year's annual report. Ivy continues to grow and meet new developmental milestones on her EI journey. This year she has started walking with her new walker! She continues to amaze everyone with her hard work and progress and can now walk around the house and follow her mom all by herself! She is also talking up a storm and telling us what she thinks about life. We are thankful to get to work with Ivy and her mom twice a month and cheer her on to bigger and better goals along the way!



Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated early intervention services to parents of eligible children birth to age three with developmental delays or disabilities. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Every family served in EI will have a team that consists of a service coordinator, service providers, and the family. The team works in your home or other places you and your family spend time to develop a coordinated plan called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). You and your team will work through your IFSP plan to use your existing supports and resources, family routines, everyday learning opportunities—and build upon them—to enhance your child's learning and development.

Fayette County Early Intervention provided services to 135 families in 2024. This is over 700 visits to children and families in homes and through virtual visits. Your Early Intervention team will work with your family to ensure there is a plan in place when your child turns 3 and graduates from the Early Intervention program. Early Intervention graduated 30 kids from the EI program as they turned three. The EI team consists of Service Coordinators, Autism Coordinator, Nursing, Developmental Specialists, Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapist. Fayette County Early Intervention celebrates a continued partnership with ABC pediatrics, offering Autism diagnostics to the families participating in Early Intervention services.



Department of  
Children & Youth

Help Me Grow Early Intervention



# Early Intervention

Our Early Intervention program provides robust supports for young children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Sylvia Call, Autism Program Manager and Tommie Mitchell of Highland County, Licensed PLAY Project Autism Therapist offered two different meetings for families of children who received a diagnosis of autism through our ADEP Program. These meetings invited families to spend time with Sylvia and Tommie as they shared resources, insights, and fostered time to build community and connection. The ADEP (Autism Diagnosis Education Project) Program is made possible through the continued partnership between our Early Intervention Program and Dr. Lenora Fitton of ABC Pediatrics. The program, which has been offered since 2022, provides families with a comprehensive evaluation process, and participants are able to complete the full diagnostic process in a matter of months versus the two-year average wait time at other diagnostic sites across the state. To date, more than 65 children from Fayette County and 60 from Highland County have been evaluated for Autism Spectrum Disorder by Sylvia. Of the 125 children evaluated, 68 children have received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder from Dr. Fitton and have been supported with available resources, offered parent meetings and educational trainings, and ongoing support from the team of Early Intervention professionals. Providing families with an appropriate diagnosis for their child at a young age is an integral piece in ensuring that these children receive appropriate supports and therapies to support their unique developmental needs. Our EI team also sponsored the regional training this year from OCALI. We were happy to host Maggie Gons, SLP and pediatrician, Dr. Foster from Akron Children's. They have been with the ADEP program since its inception several decades ago. We continue to value their mentorship!



# Operations

Operations staff made several improvements to the Starting Gate Building and the Caryl Center in 2024.

Several older HVAC units were replaced at Starting Gate and the Caryl Center, concluding the process that began in 2022 with a total of twenty-three HVAC units replaced.

- **At the Starting Gate building:**
  - The front area that was formerly the day care space was fully remodeled into a conference room.
  - A new door and card reader was installed for entry to the new conference room.
  - The Innovation (tech) Room was completed with new flooring, paint, and décor.
  - Cleaning supply closet was added, with the former daycare restroom converted into a storage area.
  - Protective window film and window armor was added to all classroom windows and doors and to all windows, doors, and entryways throughout the building by professional installers.
- **At the Caryl Center**
  - A new retrofit roof of over 16,000 square feet was installed. This was a massive project over several weeks. We appreciate our staff's patience with the work being done.
  - Older landscaping was prepped in the back area of the property for new landscaping in 2025.



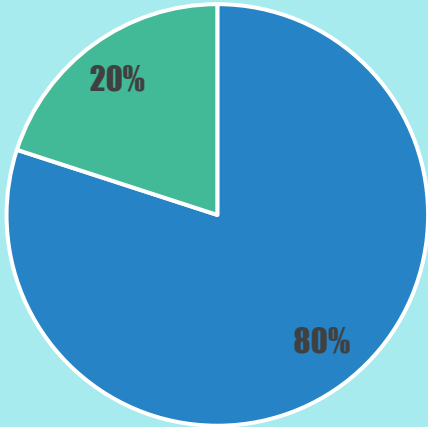
# 2024 Statement of Activities

## Revenues

**\$3,907,882.**

### Local and Federal/State

- \*1.75 mill Tax Levy
- \*1.5 mill Tax Levy
- \*.75 mill Tax Levy
- \*Grants
- \*ODE Funding
- \*Medicaid Administrative Claiming
- \*Title XX
- \*Waiver Reconciliation
- \*Targeted Case Management



■ Levies   ■ Federal/State

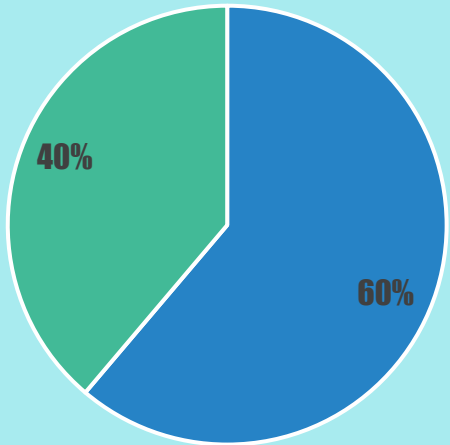
## Expenditures

### Supports and Services

- \*Residential
- \*Employment
- \*Early Intervention
- \*Preschool
- \*Service and Support Administration
- \*Vocational Habilitation
- \*Preschool Transportation
- \*Family Support
- \*Nursing Support
- \*Provider Support
- \*Medicaid Coordination
- \*Employment Coordination
- \*Home Purchases
- \*Quality Assurance
- \*Community Outreach
- \*Home Repairs

### Administrative Support

- \*Facility Maintenance
- \*Supplies
- \*Overhead
- \*Personnel
- \*Utilities
- \*Equipment
- \*General Expenses



■ Supports and Services  
■ Administrative Support

**2024 Board Members**

David Sanders, President

Nicholas Miller, Vice President

Ben Snodgrass, Secretary

Mark Heiny

Mitchell Kirby

Constance Buffy Enochs

Betty Hoppes

**2024 Administrative Staff**

Larry Gray, Superintendent

Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant

Erin Walters, Education Director

Lori Moore, Business Director

Renee Guess, Service and Support Director

Elizabeth Brennfleck, Human Resource Director

Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director

Jan Cobb, Nurse

Chad Blakeley, Community First Specialist/Special Olympics Coordinator

Clint Wharton, Operations Manager

Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent

Brady Scott, IT Manager



**Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

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**Fayette Progressive Preschool**

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