

ODP News

February 2019



Governor Wolf's Proposed 2019-20 Budget Includes Waiting List Expansion

Governor Wolf's 2019-20 proposed Executive Budget includes initiatives to serve more people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Specifically, it includes a proposed \$15 million in state funds dedicated to serving 765 individuals on the waiting list (through the Community Living Waiver and targeting those with no service beyond supports coordination) and 100 people experiencing unanticipated emergencies or transferring from intermediate care facilities (through the Consolidated Waiver).

This current year's budget includes funding for 2019

graduates and, with existing capacity, ODP will serve the 2020 graduates.

Gov. Wolf also proposes \$1.6 million in state funds to increase the frequency of licensing inspections in residential and day programs, allowing for hiring 30 additional licensing staff.

Additionally, his initiative to invest \$2 million to provide support for the Medical Assistance disability advocacy program will help individuals in applying for Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, or help them with an appeal.

Everyday Lives In Action: Cafeteria Employee: 'I Like the Paycheck'

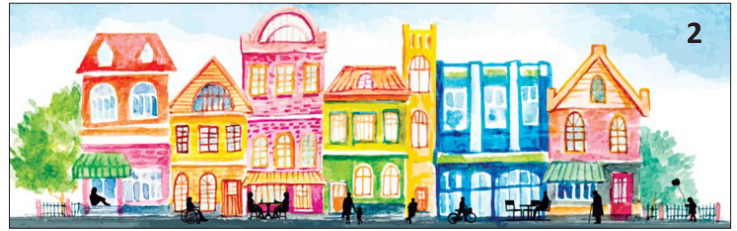
To the students at Dallastown Intermediate School, Cindi is a familiar face. She arrives via public transport around 10 a.m. each school day to begin her cafeteria shift at Dallastown Intermediate School.

Through lunchtime, hundreds of cafeteria trays rapidly come down the line, waiting to be washed. Cindi maintains a cheerful disposition, which her coworkers and supervisor say is an asset. "Her laughter is contagious," her coworker, Kevin, says. With her positive attitude, she keeps things moving through the industrial-sized dish-washing equipment.

Cindi receives job support through Shadowfax Corporation, a non-profit human services agency that supports individuals with disabilities.



Cindi enjoys interacting with the students at Dallastown Intermediate School, as well as her co-workers in the school's cafeteria.



From Ukraine Orphanage to Her Own Apartment

(Story provided by Penn Foundation)

Olesia T. was born in the Ukraine where she grew up in a boarding school/ orphanage. At the age of 16, she was adopted by an American family and moved to Bucks County, Pa. Adjusting to a completely new culture and way of life was very challenging. She needed to learn how to function within a family unit, having suddenly gained two parents and six siblings. Olesia worked hard to learn English and develop a social network. Although it was a major life change, Olesia slowly adjusted and as her confidence grew, she began to envision new possibilities for her future.

Olesia set goals for herself:

- Find a job in the community
- Live in her own apartment

She obtained vocational skill training through the Bucks Co. Intermediate Unit 22 WOW (We're Outstanding Workers) program, and soon achieved her first goal, when she secured a part-time job at a doggie daycare.

Olesia was enrolled in the Community Living waiver right around the time that she was aging out of the educational system. This meant that funding would be available to provide ongoing employment supports to assist her in maintaining employment beyond age 21, when Intermediate Unit supports were no longer available to her.

Olesia knew she would need to further develop her money management and independent living skills in order to be successful living in her own apartment, so her Supports Coordinator from Penn Foundation began the search for a Lifesharing provider and Olesia eventually decided on LifePath as the provider agency.



Olesia has discovered a passion for cooking.

She was able to meet another young woman, who became her housemate and Lifesharing provider, assisting Olesia in developing these skills. Olesia moved into her new living arrangement in July 2018.

She is budgeting and learning to cook, something she developed a passion for while in the WOW program. The Community Living waiver has opened many doors for Olesia and it will be exciting to see what the future holds for her.

Cafeteria Employee: 'I Like the Paycheck'

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"I like the people I work with," Cindi says. "They're nice."

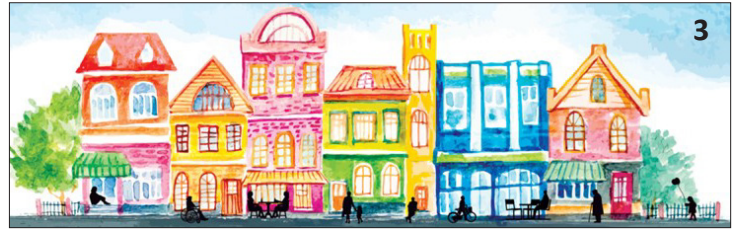
Doanique, the employment specialist who assisted

Cindi in obtaining employments, says that Cindi is going well and loves her job.

"I like the paycheck," Cindi adds. She saved some of her earnings to pay for a recent trip to Nashville.

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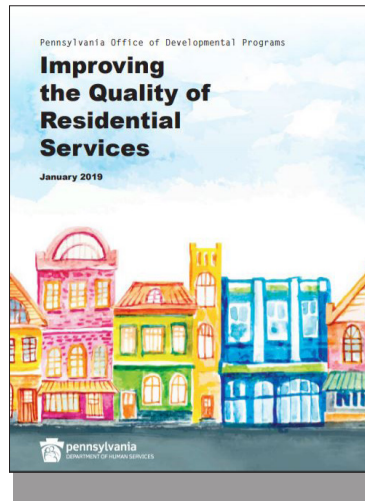
February 2019
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Available: ODP's Improving the Quality Of Residential Services Report and the 2018 Annual ISAC Report

The Office of Developmental Programs recently released two significant reports, which are now available on MyODP.

The [Improving the Quality of Residential Services](#) report outlines ODP's efforts to improve the quality of residential services, particularly in the area of risk management. The purpose of this report is to share with stakeholders ODP's commitment to improved service quality to maintain the health and well-being of individuals residing in community homes.



Everyday Lives: Values in Action
Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC)
Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures



2018

Now On [MyODP](#)

The [2018 Information Sharing and Advisory Committee \(ISAC\) Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures report](#). With its commitment to continuous quality improvement, the ISAC reviewed 2018 accomplishments and performance data for each of the [Everyday Lives](#) recommendations, and announces additional areas of focus for 2019 Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures report.

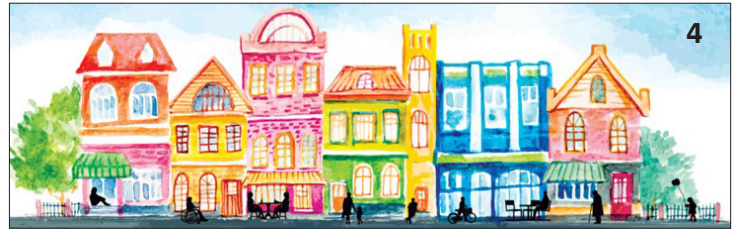
Project to Build Capacity of Health Care Professionals

The Arc of the United States' National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability received a grant from the Working for Inclusive and Transformative (WITH) Foundation to continue and expand its initiative [Talk About Sexual Violence \(TASV\)](#).

Its goal is to educate healthcare professionals on how to talk to their patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities about sexual violence. The expanded initiative includes male survivors of abuse, recognizing the unique barriers they face in disclosing or reporting sexual violence. Men have few resources to

support them and according to research 14% of men with disabilities will experience violent victimization compared to 4% of men without disabilities. They are also less likely than women to disclose an assault, and often men with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities face additional challenges they face if they do speak out.

The project focuses its efforts in California, but the initiative itself will have national reach and impact. If you want to share information, please email Mark Starford at mark@brcenter.org.



FringeArts presents 'A Fierce Kind of Love'

FringeArts, 140 N. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, will present "[A Fierce Kind of Love](#)," by Suli Holu, March 1-3 at FringeArts, 140 N. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia. Directed by David Bradley and produced by the Institute on Disabilities, Temple University, the play is part of the High Pressure Service Festival.

"A Fierce Kind of Love" tells the stories of Pennsylvania's Intellectual Disability Rights Movement. With words, movement, and song, the play explores a remarkable (and largely untold) history and celebrates the activism and fierce love that fuel the desire for dignity. Performed by a cast of artists with and without disabilities, it is for anyone who has ever wanted to be accepted or be loved for who they are.



For tickets, call 215-413-1318. All performances are fully accessible, offering ASL Interpretation, Audio description, CART captioning, companion seating and sensory friendly seating.

Lifesharing Provider Spotlight: Central Region

ODP News highlights winners of the Excellence in Lifesharing Awards, featuring providers from our four regions. This month we highlight Darline Dunn, a Lifesharing provider with Skills of Central PA for 18 years. Through the years, she has shared her home with several people with intellectual disabilities, and presently cares for two individuals, Bertha Kephart and John McCartney.

Her nomination states, "Darline is very committed to the people that live with her, doing whatever is necessary to ensure their health and safety. Darline puts the people she cares for above her own needs. She is one of those people who gives a lot and expects little in return. Darline is definitely deserving of an award of excellence as she is the model that we wish everyone could be like."



From left in front, Bertha Kephart, Sherry Gongloff, Darline Dunn, Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens, and John McCartney.



Employment/Training Innovation Grant Recipients

Harrisburg, PA – Department of Human Services (DHS) Secretary Teresa Miller announced a more than \$1 million investment to strengthen existing employment and training programs across the Commonwealth by supporting solutions that address barriers to employment and help program participants as they find and maintain meaningful, family-sustaining jobs.

The grants were awarded to seven employment and training programs across the Commonwealth and address barriers identified through feedback from past program participants and staff. The program improvements will expand services to more than 1,100 individuals, helping them overcome barriers to sustaining employment such as transportation and child care.

Funding for these projects comes from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF is a federally funded program that assists families with children when parents or other responsible relatives struggle to make ends meet and provide for the family's basic needs. DHS is dispersing a total of \$1,028,757 for the innovation grants that will provide greater support to people using locally run Employment, Advancement, and Retention Network (EARN) programs. [Learn more about the grant recipients and the programs the funding supports.](#)

Information, Upcoming Events, & Training

NPR Highlights Unique Cafe

NPR reports on a [Connecticut cafe that provides jobs for adults with disabilities](#). Co-owner Kim Morrison not only wants the cafe to employ people with disabilities, but also hopes it becomes a gathering place for the community.

Dating Resources for Those with Autism

ASERT offers resources, information, and tips developed for [individuals with autism on topics related to dating](#):

- 15 Tips for a Successful Date
- How to Ask Someone on a Date
- Online Dating

Social Security Resources Online

Learn about Social Security for people with disabilities through these online resources:

- [Complete guide to supplemental security income](#)
- [Applying for benefits](#)

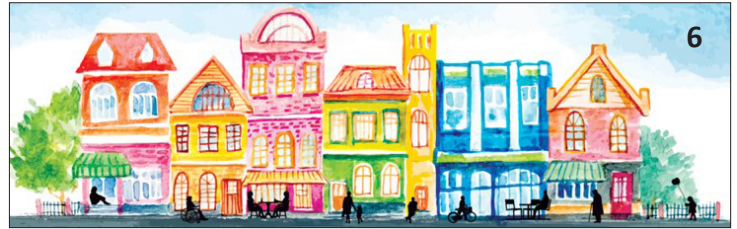
LEADing to Employment Brief on Financial Empowerment Strategies

Employment is often considered the first step towards a better financial future. However, financial empowerment skills can be an important component of seeking and obtaining employment for job seekers with and without disabilities. LEAD Center has created [several resources](#) to support the integration of financial empowerment strategies within employment services.

Waiver Workshop Slated

Learn about the new waiver changes and the Life-Course Framework Feb. 12 in DuBois, Clearfield County, 10 am-1 pm. RSVP is not required, but appreciated. For questions and/or to RSVP, call 1-844-PAFAMILY or email PAFamilyNetwork@visionforequality.org.

Another workshop, "Creating a Vision for Life After High School," will take place Feb. 15 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, noon-2 pm., hosted by The Arc of Dauphin County. RSVP to Barb Bressler at 717-920-2727.



Summary of ODP Communications Issued January 2019, With Links



1. ODP 19-001: [2017 ODP Quality Management \(QM\) Certificate Holders Now Due For Recertification by Dec. 31, 2019](#)
2. ODP 19-002: [Office of Developmental Programs' Virtual Training Offerings January, February, & March 2019 UPDATE](#)
3. ODP 19-003 : [New Process for Residential Habilitation Vacancies](#)
4. ODP 19-004: [Registration Now Open for Spring 2019 ODP Quality Management \(QM\) Certification Classes](#)
5. ODP 19-005: [Initial Certified Investigator Course Available For Spring 2019](#)
6. [ODP Providers & CHC Fact Sheet](#)
7. ODP 19-006 UPDATE: [Medication Administration Manual, Student Course, and Practicum Observer Access is Now Available](#)
8. ODP 19-007: [Improving the Quality of Residential Services Report Available](#)
9. ODP 19-008: [Social Security Administration Announces 2019 Cost of Living Adjustment](#)
10. ODP 19-009: [ACRE Basic Certification Training for Providers of Supported Employment](#)
11. ODP 19-010: [The Office of Developmental Programs \(ODP\) Provides Written Notice of Provider Re-qualification Requirements](#)
12. [ODP-19-011: 2018 Everyday Lives: Values In Action--Information Sharing and Advisory Committee Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures Now Available on MyODP.org](#)
13. [ODP 19-012: New Documentation Requirements for Individual Support Plans \(ISPs\) Within the Consolidated Waiver](#)
14. [ODP Health Alert: Extreme Cold Weather](#)

Help Pennsylvanians Get the Food They Need

Every day, families turn to local food banks to help meet their unmet food needs. Following the partial federal government shutdown, more people are in need of food this February. Additionally, DHS had to dispense February's SNAP benefits early on Jan. 16 and 17, rather than the typical issue date within the first ten business days of the month. Following the early benefit payment, DHS received calls from SNAP recipients asking about rumors that benefits had to be spent by the end of January or they would expire. This was not true, but SNAP spending over January shows that the early payments were spent very quickly, and SNAP recipients may soon run out of funds for February. With the large influx of demand, many food banks are struggling to keep up with the growing need for resources. Governor Wolf encourages all Pennsylvanians to support local food banks in any way they can. [Find a charitable food organization in your community.](#)