

News Release
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Summit DD Grant Provides Needed Relief to Local Disability Agencies

(Tallmadge, Ohio) – In a continued effort to support local disability providers, Summit DD created a grant opportunity in September to help day program and transportation service agencies in Summit County.

More than \$420,000 was shared by nearly 40 local day program and transportation service providers. Providers ranged from small organizations serving less than ten people, to larger agencies who serve more than 300 people. Grants ranged in size from \$500 to \$80,000 each.

This grant money will help offset continued expenses such as rent, insurance or vehicle payments, in a time when disability organizations were forced to close or drastically reduce service offerings. In addition, these funds can help pay for additional operating costs associated with the pandemic, including modifications to physical spaces or additional supplies needed.

Summit DD's Director of Community Supports and Development, Drew Williams explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability of providers to deliver services across Summit County. "There was never a question that providers would meet the challenges of this current time," he said. "However, we recognize it has not been easy and has put a serious strain on their organizations."

[Louisa Ridge](#) was one of the many organizations who applied for and received grant money.

"We plan to allot the funds to rent and vehicle payments," shared Director of Finance, Aricka Walker of Louisa Ridge. "Our day program has been altered significantly due to COVID19." Walker explained that like many providers, they are currently making a concerted effort to limit the number of people attending their day program and using their transportation services to ensure the health and welfare of participants during the pandemic.

"We appreciate the continued commitment that the day program and transportation providers have shown in the face of the pandemic challenges," expressed Williams. "Thanks to these organizations, people with disabilities have had the opportunity to safely resume daily activities and access the transportation needed to get there."

Summit DD is the community resource that makes meaningful connections for more than 5,000 adults and children with developmental disabilities and their families. It is the Agency's mission to help people of all abilities reach their full potential, one person at a time. More information regarding the Agency is available online at SummitDD.org.

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