



OUR MISSION

To represent the Ohio adult care facilities industry; to continue to improve the quality of service and care; and to provide technology and advocacy for this purpose.

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Increased Financial Support for Adult Care Facilities and Adult Foster Homes in FY 16-17!

EXCITING NEWS!

As you know, the Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association (OACFA) has spent years begging the state to increase the financial support given to ACF and AFoH operators. We have been desperate to help home operators improve the quality of life for the individuals residing in these homes ... and our cries have finally been heard.

Positive changes have been made in terms of cash assistance for individuals with severe mental illness (**RSS**) and ALSO to the financial resources available to the operators (**ACF Incentive Program**).

Residential State Supplement (RSS)

Goal: To provide financial assistance to adults who have increased needs due to a disability that is not severe enough to require long term care in an institution, such as a nursing home or hospital. Individuals use RSS, which *supplements* their income, to pay the monthly allowable fee (or "rent") for accommodations, supervision, and personal care services at eligible living arrangements in the community.

Changes:

- **FY 2015 RSS Budget doubled to \$15 million!!**
- Proposed Rule changes effective January 1, 2016:
- An increase in the **Allowable Fee from \$877 (Adult Group Homes) and \$774 (Adult Foster and Family Homes) to \$1,100** for all RSS-eligible living arrangements
- An increase in individuals' **Personal Needs Allowances to \$200** regardless of income type (Social Security, SSI, or SSDI)

What These Rule Changes Mean for You and Your Residents:

- The new Financial Need Standard will be \$1,300 ... so if an individual has personal income of \$1,300 or less, they may be eligible for RSS

- This will GREATLY increase the number of those that will be eligible to receive RSS

Where to locate RSS Program Information and Enrollment Forms:

<http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=201#2612965-how-do-i-apply-for-rss>

Who to Contact with Questions:

Deena Mavromatis, Mental Health Administrator

Phone: 614-752-9316

Fax: 614-485-9747

Email: RSS@mha.ohio.gov or Deena.Mavromatis@mha.ohio.gov

ACF Incentive Program

New Goal: To provide resources to operators to enhance the quality of care of licensed homes which provide housing and supports to individuals with mental health or substance use disorders and to support their efforts towards meeting Home and Community-Based Settings requirements.

Changes and What This Means for Home Operators:

- Quarterly payments increased from \$72 to \$105 per BED
- Note: Beds do NOT need to be filled in order to count in your numbers for this program

Where to Find Applications:

<http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=572#2092432-what-is-the-application-process>

Who to Contact with Questions:

Theresa Rohrbaugh

Phone: 614-466-4061

Fax: 614-485-9747

Email: Theresa.Rohrbaugh@mha.ohio.gov

OACFA to Help FILL YOUR VACANCIES!!

In an effort to improve the transition process for individuals in need of housing and increase community awareness of the resources available to them, OACFA is working on the two following projects:

1. Housing Locator Project:

As most of you already know, NAMI Ohio and OACFA are working to update the housing locator that currently resides on the Ohio Department of Aging's (ODA) website at (<http://ltc.ohio.gov/FacilitySearch.aspx>).

What this Means for Home Operators:

- This will create a one-stop-shop for those looking for ACFs or AFoHs in their area.
- Residents, family members, discharge planners, etc. will be able to easily retrieve updated information on housing options.
- Information included on this site will include location, contact information, amenities, financial information, type of housing, photos, etc.

2. Peer Review Project:

OACFA is in the process of creating an **OACFA Preferred Home** database and referral source.

What this Means for Home Operators:

- A trained peer and/or NAMI member will visit your home and conduct a brief survey in order to ensure your home meets the OACFA certification criteria as determined by the OACFA Peer Review Committee
- If selected, your home will be listed on our website as an **OACFA Preferred Home**
- You will then be on our "go to" list for callers; this means we will be able to confidently recommend and refer to your home when we receive calls from consumers, family members, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.

Further details on how to apply to become
an OACFA Preferred Home to come...
STAY TUNED!

Partners IN PROTECTION

Disability Rights Ohio is the agency designated under state and federal law to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities in Ohio. See R.C. § 5123.60, 42 U.S.C. §10801 et seq. Under this statutory authority, we have access to facilities that provide care and treatment for individuals with mental illness. 42 C.F.R. § 51.2. See also R.C. § 5123.601 and O.A.C. 5122-33-06. Our authority includes access to all areas of the facility that are used by residents, for the purpose of providing information and training to residents about their rights, monitoring compliance with respect to the rights and safety of residents, and inspecting, viewing, and photographing all areas of the facility that are used by or accessible to residents. 42 C.F.R. §51.42(c).

Please also note that Disability Rights Ohio (formerly Ohio Legal Rights) staff have access to Adult Group Homes also based on OAC 5122-33-06 (2)(B), "The following persons may enter any adult care facility at any time: (5) Employees designated by the director of the Ohio legal rights services."

Our site visits are by no means meant to disrupt the lives and home of the residents, nor disrupt the work of the staff. We take our role very seriously as the state designated protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities in Ohio and therefore plan to continue to advocate in Adult Group Homes when called to do so.



Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association
P.O. Box 133
West Jefferson, OH 43162

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR OACFA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

If we are to make a significant impact with our legislators and with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, we must represent as many ACFs as possible. It is our goal to increase the funds available to ACFs and the quality of care provided.

WHY JOIN OACFA?

- We advocate for additional resources that will enable you to provide enhanced quality of care
- We can intervene and mediate when conflicts occur at the local and state level
- We can help build new partnerships between your home and Ohio's community MH system
- We can help find resources for and provide technical assistance on capital grants, zoning issues, and other licensing requirements
- We can keep you updated on issues of importance to the industry
- We can provide guidance and ideas from those who really know through peer consultation and support
- We can assist in resolving licensing issues
- We can help you find residents to fill your vacancies



- New Members will receive a decorative wall plaque to display in your home.
- Existing Members will receive a new plate (including the year) to add to their current plaque.

Please fill out the enclosed Membership Application today!
Feel free to contact OACFA with any questions at 614-800-7863