advancing advocacy

Disability Rights Ohio is a nonprofit corporation with a mission of empowering people with disabilities to advance rights, access, and equity.

Throughout 2025, our team worked in communities across Ohio to bring our vision closer to reality. Inspired by our mission to advance advocacy all across Ohio, we're proud to share with you some highlights of what we accomplished last year.

3,096 • Total number of service • requests received in 2025.

In 2025, our team fielded more than 3,000 calls for service... dealing with barriers in education, housing, employment, abuse, neglect, and many other issues. We worked to connect Ohioans with disabilities with positions of power, elevating their voices and empowering their advocacy.

Informed and inspired by the lived experiences of Ohioans with disabilities, we're proud of what we accomplished in 2025.

"The thread that connects all of the things we do to bring our vision into reality is simple: Empowering the communities we serve. Through the dedication of our team, the support of our allies, and the steady leadership of our Board of Directors, we will continue to grow our advocacy and expand our reach all across Ohio."

-Kerstin Sjoberg, *President and CEO*



Saying Hello: *A New Introduction*

Last year we launched a new series of introductory videos, informed and shaped by feedback from the communities we serve. After extensive meetings with diverse, underserved populations across Ohio, these animated videos were created to help increase awareness and understanding of our organization and the work we do. Available in eight different languages, these videos have been viewed more than 800,000 times!

Sharing Lived Experiences: *Washington, D.C. Visits*



In September, DRO leadership and board members joined a group of over 40 representatives from disability groups around Ohio joined together in DC to meet face-to-face with Congressional offices. Throughout these visits, we shared the important work that we all do and highlighted personal, lived experiences to show the importance of home and community-based supports that are funded by Medicaid, IDEA, along with job training supports funded by federal grants.

We used this opportunity to share our appreciation for the support of disability programs in the recent Senate and House appropriation committee reports. Funding from Congress helps DRO serve 3,745 individuals annually and work on systemic policy issues impacting over 2 million Ohioans with disabilities.

Throughout 2025 we continued to partner with the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities and AW Law to host free monthly legal clinics. Covering topics like IEP concerns, transition planning, Medicaid waivers, and early intervention, these clinics also offer opportunities for group discussion and one-on-one counseling at no cost.

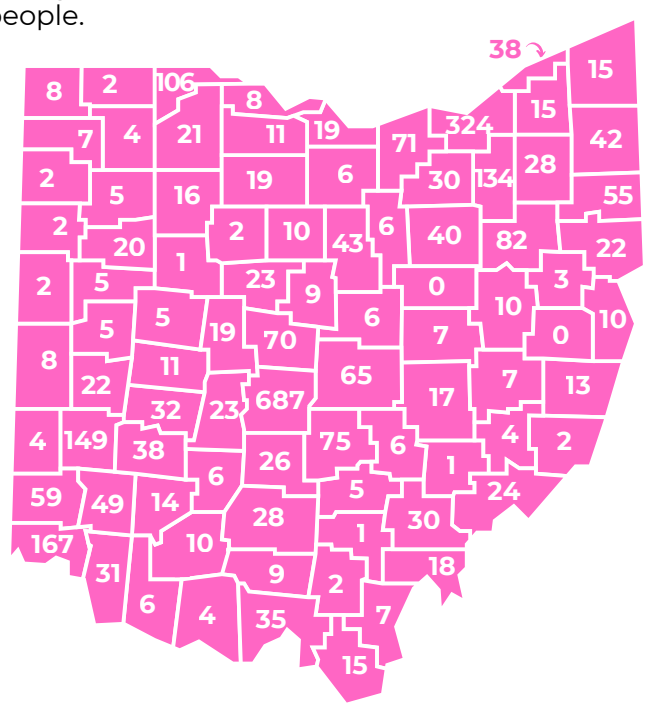
Last year, these events averaged over 100 registered attendees each!

Our Work: *By The Numbers*

68 monitoring visits of facilities serving over 4,000 individuals.

13 unique investigations impacting more than 250 people.

In 2025, Disability Rights Ohio received service requests from 86 of Ohio's 88 counties:



Disability Rights Ohio is authorized by federal law to protect the human, legal, and civil rights of people with disabilities in Ohio.

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For a complete list of programs, visit: **www.disabilityrightsohio.org/programs**

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