

GREAT PROVIDER SERIES

PWD Add-On | State Budget Process | Year of Progress

State Budget Process: Key Steps & Dates

Ohio's budget process determines how the state allocates resources to fund essential services. Here's an overview of the steps, general dates, and important terminology to help you follow the process.

Executive Budget (Jan/Feb):

The Governor prepares and submits the **Executive Budget**, detailing the administration's fiscal priorities. We expect the bill no later than February 3, 2025.

House of Representatives (Feb - May/June):

The Legislative Service Commission (LSC) converts the Executive Budget into the first legislative draft, called the **"As Introduced" version** of the bill.

- **Committees and Hearings:**

The House Finance Committee and subcommittees conduct hearings and propose changes based on testimony and analysis.

- **Substitute Bill:** A revised version reflecting House priorities is created and voted on by the full House. (Continued)



Invest in Your Workforce: Act Now to Capture the ICF PWD Add-On

Ohio's Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Professional Workforce Development (PWD) add-on is a vital resource designed to strengthen and support the backbone of ICF care: direct care. This funding, currently set at 20.81% of an ICF's allowable per-Medicaid-day direct care costs, provides a unique opportunity to invest directly in the hardworking staff who deliver critical care every day.

However, time is running out to make the most of this add-on. The PWD is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2025, and without legislative or budgetary action, this add-on will not continue.

Invest In Your Workforce Now

To ensure these funds achieve their intended impact, ICFs must allocate payments to direct care staff before December 31, 2024, so they are captured in CY2024 cost reports. This is critical because future reimbursement rates will be based on these reports. Missing this deadline means providers risk



A Year of Progress

As 2024 comes to a close, it's worth pausing to reflect on a historic year for our field. Thanks to the investments secured in the last budget, we have seen much-needed stability in our system. These investments have translated into real, tangible results:

Historic Increases in Wages:

Providers have been able to raise direct care wages, ensuring that DSPs are compensated more fairly for their critical work.

Growing Workforce: With increased wages, we're seeing more applicants, fewer vacancies, and a stronger pool of talent.

Relief for Teams: Many providers report reductions in overtime and burnout among staff.

This is what's possible when we work together.

As we prepare for 2025, let's carry this momentum forward. The progress we've made is a foundation—not the finish line. I look forward to continuing this important work with you in the year ahead.

Pete Moore, *President & CEO*

losing the opportunity to reflect these investments in their future rates.

More Than Compliance

This not just about meeting deadlines—it's about strengthening our workforce and demonstrating a commitment to those who make quality care possible. By passing these funds on to staff now, ICFs can show that they value their teams and are dedicated to building a professional, well-compensated workforce.

Take Action Today

To ensure that every dollar from the PWD add-on goes where it matters most: into the hands of the direct care professionals who sustain our system. Together, we can create a lasting impact for our workforce and the individuals we serve.

For more information about ICFs or the PWD, contact [Rachel Hayes](#), Director of Residential Resources.

Budget Process (continued)

Senate (March - May/June):

The Senate begins reviewing the budget while it is still in the House, holding its own hearings through the Senate Finance Committee.

- **Senate Substitute Bill:** The Senate crafts its version of the budget, reflecting any changes or amendments before sending it to a vote.

Conference Committee (May - June):

Differences between the House and Senate versions are reconciled in a **Conference Committee**, which drafts the final budget.

Governor's Action (June):

Once the final version is passed by the House and Senate, it goes to the Governor for approval.

- **Line-Item Veto:** The Governor can strike out specific budget items.
- **Override:** The General Assembly can override vetoes with a 3/5 majority in each chamber.

Key Deadline: The budget must be signed into law by **July 1**, the start of Ohio's fiscal year.

The budget process is not just a series of deadlines—it's an opportunity to advocate for policies that impact providers and the individuals they support. Joining OPRA now ensures your voice is part of this critical conversation. Strengthen our advocacy efforts and make your priorities heard!

To join OPRA, contact [Sonya Summers](#), Member Communication Manager.