

Pathways to Justice Ohio

Improving the Relationships of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Professionals and Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Family Members in Ohio



The University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD) is proud to lead a project targeted on **improving the relationship of professionals from law enforcement and the criminal justice system with individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their family members**. We are excited to bring the [National Arc's Pathways To Justice Program](#) to Ohio!

Project Background:

- People with intellectual, cognitive or developmental disabilities get involved as both victims and suspects/offenders with law enforcement and with the criminal justice system.
- Individuals with this disability constitute a small, but nonetheless growing percentage of suspects/offenders within the criminal justice system.
- While those with intellectual disability comprise 2% to 3% of the general population, they represent 4% to 10% of the prison population, with an even greater number of those in juvenile facilities and in jails.

Pathways to Justice:

The purpose of this project is to evaluate implementation of strategic plan goals, objectives and activities in each region of the project, increase in new partnerships and connections of Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice System and the Developmental Disabilities system as well as individuals with DD and their family members, increase in knowledge and the sustainability of the plans beyond the project period.

Lead Disability Response Teams in NE, NW, SW, and Central Ohio will work within a larger Regional Disability Response Teams to address issues specific to their areas. Teams consist of family members, victim services providers, attorneys, law enforcement officers, and other criminal justice professionals. These teams create a strategic plan for their specific area of the state that outlines goals, objectives and activities to improve relationships between the criminal justice system and the developmental disabilities community.

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