

In My Own Words

Myth Busting: Children and Youth with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities

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OhioRISE is committed to supporting Ohio's youth with dual diagnoses of Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability (I/DD) and behavioral health challenges to thrive and live fully in their communities. OhioRISE connects them with the resources that support their need to live a positive and fulfilled life. At OhioRISE, we believe in advocating and supporting Ohio's youth and families, thus dispelling myths around mental health is critical for promoting understanding. According to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, there are more than 55,000 youth 21 and under who are served within the developmental disabilities system statewide.

The I/DD population faces barriers that may hinder their inclusion in society. These myths can stem from a lack of understanding from people outside the I/DD community.



MYTH 1: All I/DD conditions are the same.

FACT: There are a wide variety of I/DD that require varying levels and types of support. Here at OhioRISE, we are committed to connecting our members to proper services such as robust wraparound care coordination, intensive home-based treatment, behavioral health respite and more to best assist them in achieving their goals. Our approach was created with the knowledge that I/DD are different in every person. Thus, we operate with the individual in mind, helping them to be better equipped to positively engage with their community.



MYTH 2: Individuals within the I/DD population are unable to live independently.

FACT: Many intellectually and/or developmentally disabled people are more than capable of living independently. At OhioRISE, we offer multiple services to help our members prepare for independent living. Our care coordinators live and work within our members' communities. This means they are well connected to community partners such as their local County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Together, the care coordinator and board members can provide access to programs such as "Employment First," which helps people with I/DD access employment opportunities and assistance with housing.



MYTH 3: People who have an I/DD condition are unable to be involved in their communities.

FACT: People with I/DD conditions are vital members of their communities, and, thus, they are more than capable of not only participating but also thriving within the community. OhioRISE has a variety of programs that can help support this involvement including flex funds. Our care coordinators can help our members gain access to extra funds that allow them to purchase items that can increase community involvement, including funding for goods and supports needed for young people to succeed in therapy, school and/or social interactions.