



# Maintain General Assistance to Support Ohioans in Need

For low income Ohioans with disabilities who do not qualify for other public assistance benefits, Ohio's Disability Financial Assistance (DFA) Program provides a modest monthly payment while they await an eligibility determination from Social Security. Ineligibility for other federal or state aid, inability to work due to incapacity or disability, and long federal determination wait periods leaves Ohio's DFA Program as the only cash assistance available to Ohioans who qualify.

## Disability Financial Assistance



Ohio's Disability Financial Assistance (DFA) Program provides monthly cash payments to individuals who are unemployable due to physical or mental impairment and ineligible for other public assistance programs funded at least in part with federal dollars. Eligible Ohioans have annual incomes up to 12% of the Federal Poverty Level or about \$1,447 for an individual and \$1,949 for a two-person household. The maximum monthly payment for an individual receiving DFA is \$115 and \$159 for a two-person assistance group. Once enrolled in Social Security, individuals no longer receive DFA payments. As of February 2017, 6,217 individuals a month were accessing the cash grant. Though the number of Ohioans granted assistance through DFA is small, without an alternate benefit source the program phase out will leave Ohioans in need behind.

**Maintain current support for low-income Ohioans with disabilities who do not meet all the eligibility requirements for other federal or state programs through Ohio's Disability Financial Assistance Program.**

- Line item 600-511 is funded at \$4.1 million in FY 2018, a 63.2% decrease from FY 2017, and provides no funding in FY 2019 as the program is phased out.
- Continued support is needed for Ohioans with disabilities who are unable to work or otherwise ineligible for other public assistance programs to help maintain health and meet basic needs.



## Strong communities depend on the well-being of all Ohioans.