
OACFA UPDATE

Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association



Fire Safety Resources for ACFs

Preparing for fire related emergencies can help save lives with the proper foresight. Smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are the first line of defense in planning for the safety of your home. Proper placement for smoke alarms includes having smoke alarms installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home including the basement is important. Replace the batteries in your fire and carbon monoxide detectors every six months to make sure that they remain functional. Do not rely on the beeping to warn you to change batteries since the mechanism can be faulty. The easiest way to remember is to change them during daylight savings time when you switch your clocks. Fire extinguishers should be checked and maintained in accordance with the rules of the board of building standards and the state fire code.

In addition, when the Ohio Administrative Code 5122-30-12 went into effect on January 1, 2018, OhMHAS Licensure and Certification division suspended enforcement of item (L) requiring a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system for Residential Class 2 and 3 facilities serving nine or more ambulatory residents while the division reviewed the impact of the rule on providers. The Licensure and Certification division began a phase-in enforcement of the rule effective **September 12, 2022**.

Now facilities with **nine or more ambulatory residents** shall have a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system. The fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with the rules of the board of building standards and the state fire code. Such systems shall include approved bells, sirens, or horns, lights for hearing impaired residents,

if served, and manual fire alarm boxes. All smoke detectors shall be interconnected with the fire alarm system. Smoke detection devices shall be located in the immediate vicinity but outside of all bedrooms. Two independent means of exit shall be provided for each occupied floor and occupied cellar level. The two independent means of exit shall be approved by the fire code official. The facility shall maintain and test the alarm system in accordance with state fire code and shall have documentation of testing.

Facilities in which **one or more of the residents are non-ambulatory** shall have smoke detectors, fire alarm, automatic fire extinguishing systems, and two independent means of exit for each occupied floor and cellar. The two independent means of exit shall be approved by the fire code official. The facility shall obtain annual alarm and sprinkler system testing and shall have documentation of testing. Facilities licensed as of the **effective date of the rule shall have two years** from the rule effective date to obtain an automatic fire extinguishing system



The phased in enforcement of the rule is outlined below.

- For new, initial providers applying for a residential class 2 or 3 licensure, if the provider requests to serve nine or more ambulatory individuals the facility will need to have a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system in accordance with the rule. If the facility is not equipped with a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system, the Licensure and Certification division will issue a license with a maximum capacity of 8 beds.
- For existing, renewal providers licensed as a residential class 2 or 3 facility, serving over 9 residents, when their license is due for renewal, the Licensure and Certification division will note non-compliance with the rule. The provider will have one renewal cycle (2 years) to install a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system. If the facility does not equip the facility with a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system during that 2-year cycle, during the next renewal cycle, the Licensure and Certification division will issue a license with a maximum capacity of 8 beds.
- *Please note in SFY 23 the Enhancing Quality grant can be used for the purchase, installation, and monthly monitoring fees for a combined smoke detector and fire alarm system. <https://mha.ohio.gov/supporting-providers/apply-for-funding/funding-opportunities/housing-grants>*

Tips:

- Do you have a safety plan posted on every floor of the home? If not, now is a great time to do so.
- Have you completed safety drills with your residents and staff? If not, now is a great time to do so.
- If you are unsure about your needs to meet the combined smoke and fire alarm system requirements check with local Fire Marshall for best accurate information and ADT and Guardian may carry some brands for options
- Have you reviewed the Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5122-30-12 recently? If not, now would be a great time to do so to ensure that you are on target for safety.

Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5122-30-12- Safety

To learn more please go to <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5122-30-12>

Check out these resources for fire safety programs in your county.

Dayton (Montgomery County)

- <https://www.daytonohio.gov/693/Fire-Life-Safety-Resources>
 - **Home Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Installation** - Fire Department staff will provide and install free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the homes of people who are financially unable to purchase the alarms. To request a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm, please complete the online Smoke Alarm Request Form. Smoke & carbon monoxide alarms may not be obtained at Dayton Fire Stations. To request a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm, email DFD-Prevention@daytonohio.gov.

Cleveland (Cuyahoga County)

- https://www.clevelandohio.gov/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/PublicSafety/Fire/Fire_Prevention_Safety
- Smoke detector program, Fire Prevention Bureau/Code Enforcement, Senior Power Program: https://www.clevelandohio.gov/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/PublicSafety/Fire/Legal_Requirements#facilityinspect

Cincinnati (Hamilton County)

- <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/fire-prevention/>
- <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/fire-prevention/smoke-alarms/>
 - Fire alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
 - Inspection form
 - Other miscellaneous fire safety protocol & programming

Red Cross (Northern Ohio Region)

- <https://www.redcross.org/local/ohio/northern-ohio/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign/request-a-smoke-alarm.html>
 - Request a Smoke Alarm
- Counties served in Northern Ohio Region:
 - Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula, Summit, Mahoning, Trumbull, Portage, Medina, Columbiana, Stark, Wayne, Ashland, Carroll, Holmes, Harrison, Tuscarawas, Erie, Hancock, Huron, Lorain, Putnam, Seneca, Wyandot, Lucas, Fulton, Henry, Ottawa, Sandusky, Wood, and Monroe County
 - You can access a drop down of provider numbers and contact information for each of the above-mentioned counties.

Red Cross (Southeastern Ohio Region)

- <https://www.redcross.org/local/ohio/central-and-southern-ohio/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html>
 - Request a smoke alarm.

RSS Increase

On July 4, 2023 Governor DeWine signed HB 33 into law. While Governor DeWine issued 44 line-item vetoes to House Bill 33 he DID NOT Veto the Residential State Supplement As Enrolled. This means that the restored RSS amount that we have been advocating for will go from \$16 Million per year to \$24 Million per year (an \$8 Million increase each year). The funding in the Residential State Supplement line at \$24,000,000 per year will increase the quality and expansion of mental health group homes. This is an additional \$8 million per year to help those with severe and persistent mental illness find a home versus the streets and homeless shelters. The lack of housing is at crisis level and mental health group homes have not seen an increase in funding for over 7 years with increased demand as more and more homes close due to inadequate funding. The Governor and General Assembly have increased access so more Ohioans will now have a place to call home.

The Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association would like to thank you all for joining us in advocating for this change!

What is the Residential State Supplement Program (RSS)?



RSS is Ohio's Optional State Supplementation program which provides financial assistance to adults with disabilities to help with accommodations, supervision, and personal care services in eligible living arrangements. Individuals use RSS, which supplements their income, to pay the monthly allowable fee (or "rent") to eligible living arrangements (i.e. Class Two Residential Facilities or Adult Care Facilities).

To learn more about RSS please visit

<https://mha.ohio.gov/get-help/recovery-supports/residential-state-supplement>

Social, recreational and leisure activities

Social interaction is critical to the brain and physical health. Ohio Administrative Code 5122-30-30 discusses the importance of facility operators in encouraging their residents to participate in community activities and social events. Having an active role in one's community or society and engaging with a wider range of people to enhance the diversity of one's network requires making social connections with people beyond health and social care services. Diverse social connections enhance the resourcefulness of an individual's network, reduces isolation, and supports recovery from mental health problems.

To learn more please go to <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5122-30-30>

Here are a few ways to become involved in your community:

Peer Recovery Organizations- to find Peer Recovery Organizations across the state go to <https://ohio-pro.com/services/>

Libraries and Cultural Passes

Local libraries are a great place for free programming and events in your neighborhood. Along with renting out books and other media options for free, they also have events such as health help, online events, technology courses, author talks, and more. Your library may also offer the Cultural Pass program that allows card holders to take out day passes to different museums, zoos, theatre, sports, parks, and other programs for free.

Local Parks and Recreation Programming

Many local parks and recreation programs have free programs for health and wellness. These programs can be anywhere from guided meditations and yoga to concerts in the park to arts and crafts or even volunteering to help others in your community.

Festivals

Festivals are a great place to see free music and live performances. There is a variety of forms that festivals take whether food or music, cultural, arts, sciences, or neighborhood block parties. Festivals are a great way of interacting with community members with similar interests and many festivals' entry is free.

Support Your Local Sports Teams

Get into the sports spirit by cheering on neighborhood sports teams. Not only does it raise the morale for your residents, it also raises the morale of the players having fans cheer them on.

YWCA

The YWCA offers financial assistance for individuals with limited income or experiencing financial hardship. They offer various programs for all age groups.

Volunteering

Volunteering in the community can be a great way for residents to get out and into the community. Volunteering can help boost confidence, build a sense of community, and build skills.



Home Tips

Spring is here and is the perfect time to spruce up your home. Not all updates are expensive or time consuming; here are some ideas to help keep your home maintained.

- Is your faucet leaking or spraying to the sides? A simple way to maintain proper water flow is cleaning out your dirty aerator screen. Just take a towel and cover your drain so you do not lose any parts before you start. The aerator is held in place by your faucet head, you can remove it with a cloth, or for more tightly stuck aerators, you can wrap the drain head in painter's tape which will help cut down surface damage if you need to use pliers. Once off, make sure to lay the parts down in the same order you take them off, that way you can reassemble it easily.
- Changing the direction of your ceiling fans twice a year can help with your cooling and heating bills. Warm air rises and can be pushed down by reversing the direction of your ceiling fan, it will instead of pushing cool air down, pull air current upwards, dispersing the heated air that collects near the ceiling.
- Clothes dryers collect a little bit of lint inside them each time you use the machine. You can remove the back cover on your dryer to either brush or vacuum out the accumulating lint, which helps in reducing the potential for house fires.
- Clean out your tub and make it sparkle with an easy concoction. Mix equal parts baking soda and cream of tartar with lemon juice until it has a paste like consistency. Apply the paste to any stains and rub it in, then wait one hour before rinsing. It is a less chemically harsh option compared to traditional bleach cleaners.
- Increase the efficiency of your refrigerator by cleaning off the coils on the back of your fridge. Over time dust and debris get caught up on the coils causing your fridge to run at sub-optimal conditions. Cleaning the coils and the back of your refrigerator can help the longevity and functionality of your fridge. The easiest way to clean them is with a vacuum cleaner, or with a soft brush.
- If you regularly change your HVAC filters it can help you save 5-15% on your home energy bills. Look at your current filter to see which filter you will need to replace. Slide out the old filter and slot in the new filter and you are good to go.
- Cleaning your air conditioning unit can help with the life of your unit. Removing large debris from the fan and then running your hose through to clean off any other debris that may have settled during the winter will stop your unit from burning out its motor.



Operator Spotlight

Leona Washington, owner and Operator of LeLe's Place I – III, Dayton, Ohio.

With a career in the ACF industry for 20 years, Leona has been an effective operator making an impact in her residents' lives. Over the summer of 2022, the Dayton area had lost two operators whom left residents behind without anywhere to go. Leona was contacted by other operators, as well as her local ADAMH Board to take over operations, including the remaining residents within the home. Though transition planning takes a lot of triaging and collaboration, Leona took everything on by herself and stepped up to the plate for the sake of those residents residing within the home.



“My name is Leona Washington. I entered into my path 20 years ago. The reason being I wanted to help and be of assistance for the ones that didn't know how to assist themselves in regards to their own well-being. I was introduced to the importance of mental health at the age of 17 years old by an extraordinary and strong woman. She became my mentor in ways I didn't even acknowledge at the time. As an ACF operator I look forward to my early morning rise. I enjoy interacting with my residents helping them strive to be the best they can be. My residents give me a purpose to keep striving and I am very thankful for that. My latest ACF home came about after my dearest and best friend passed away. Her mother came to me for advice on how to continue the business in the future. It was not until later that I discovered they selected me to take over the business. I am honored and thankful to my best friend's son and family for allowing me to continue what his mother has started.”

1. **What makes you passionate about the work you do?**
I wanted to help and be of assistance for the ones that didn't know how to assist themselves in regards to their own well-being; My residents give me a purpose to keep striving and I am very thankful for that.
2. **What do you envision in the future for your industry?** I envision improved upon services from mental health entities, such as local mental health boards and other state entity supports
3. **Why do you think ACFs are important?** ACFs are important because you cannot get 1-on-1 attention/assistance in a hospital or other types of facilities. ACFs are an affordable housing option for those living with mental illness
4. **How long have you been operating for?**
For over 20 years
5. **Why are you a member of the OACFA?** I am a member of the OACFA due to their continued efforts and work to help both ACF providers and consumers.

OACFA New Website - <https://ohioadultcarefacilities.org/>

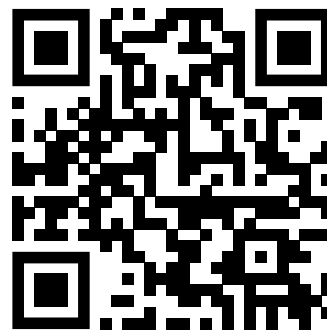


This month we welcome the Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association's new website. We now have a one stop location for all your new and established adult care facility needs including new resource centers for both brand new and established homes.

The website also features our statewide adult care facilities locator, so make sure that you update your information on your ACF to make sure that people statewide know how to contact you about potential new residents. Updating your information to make sure that you are up to date can help you in filling your beds and getting new residents. The adult care facilities locator is a premier tool that is used statewide in trying to locate an adult care facility for families and case managers.

To make the most of the Ohio Adult Care Facilities website's benefits we highly recommend updating your home for accuracy. It is easy to do, if you are a member, go to the member login at the top of the page and log in. If you are not yet a member, go to the Become a Member tab, log in to become a member and then you will receive instructions on how to log in. If you need help accessing your log in information, email Mary at mary@namiohio.org to get your log in information.

Other new features include a new Marketplace for buying and selling pre-established adult care facilities, a resource center for all your adult care facility needs such as information about technology, templates, policy and procedures, posters, survey tools, FAQs, and more.



**SCAN TO VISIT
OUR NEW WEBSITE**

SAVE THE DATE- OACFA Conference

October 16-18, 2023

Please save the date for our statewide Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association Conference! It will be on Monday, October 16 to Wednesday, October 18th at Embassy Suites Columbus Dublin in Columbus, Ohio. This conference will cover a wide range of topics for Residential Care Facilities Home Operators, staff, and individuals wanting to learn more about starting Residential Care Facilities.

On the first day of the conference there will be Learning Intensives which will be a hands-on deep dive into different topics. Day 2 and 3 will be dynamic speakers and breakout sessions on various topics that matter to home operators, their staff and individuals looking to start Residential Care Facilities. There will be vendors and networking as well. A full conference overview will be available when registration opens.

The registration fee for attending the conference is \$75 for OACFA members and \$150 for non-members. Hotel rooms will be \$132/night.

There will be a **limited number** of scholarships available for individuals needing assistance with registration and hotel accommodation. Registration and scholarship applications will open on **August 1, 2023**.

We look forward to seeing you and want to make this the largest conference for Adult Care Facilities (Residential Care Facilities) in Ohio. It is our hope that everyone can come together, learn, and take away information that will have an impact on your work. Please plan to attend and invite someone!



How to Become an Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association Member

Becoming a member of the Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association has some major benefits to you as an Home Operator of an Adult Care Facility (Residential 2 or 3). Membership to the OAFCA includes being featured on our Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association locator application, which is used statewide to help partner potential new residents with your home. You will receive our informative newsletters and emails from our team, learn about accessing grants, and have our team members available to you for assistance. You'll also be updated on our regional meetings and network events as well as other opportunities in your area.

All you need to do is visit us at <https://ohioadultcarefacilities.org/new-membership-form/> and fill out the form and pay online. For just \$105 a year, you will receive a plaque to display that shows your membership with OAFCA, along with space for year plates to show your continued dedication to being an OACFA member. Or if you are a current member, you can renew your membership. You may now pay on the new OACFA website by credit card or electronic payment (ACH) to renew your membership.

If you have any further questions on becoming a member, what membership entails, or how being an OAFCA member benefits you please feel free to call (614) 927-2421 or email mary@namiohio.org.

Become a member today and join our other members in providing the best in adult facilities care in Ohio.

OACFA Training

July 2023 - July 2024 now available at
<https://ohioadultcarefacilities.org/training-events/>

Topics include:

Mental Illness 101

Mood Disorders

**Working with Someone
with Mental Illness**

Alzheimer's & Dementia

New Providers

Schizophrenia

**Personal Care Services and Assistance
with Self-Administration of Medicine**

**Crisis Intervention and
De-Escalation**

**Diabetes, Nutrition,
and Mental Health**

LACTS



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