



# MyODP News Online

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August 30, 2024

Welcome to MyODP News Online Digest, a virtual publication from the Office of Developmental Programs. **The Digest now features a listing of recently published ODP webinars!**

For complete stories, please visit [MyODP News Online](#). For all available webinar recordings, please visit [MyODP's Webinar Library](#).

Story suggestions and/or comments may be sent to: [ra-pwmyodp@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pwmyodp@pa.gov).

## News Stories



### Seeking Participants for Study on the Use of Assistance Animals in the Workplace

The Southwest ADA Center is conducting a study of workplace experiences of people with disabilities, aged 18 and up, who use service animals or emotional support animals. [Read More.](#)



### Communication Corner – Autumn Transitions and Communication

Autumn is full of transitions. For most it means back to the regular schedule of life. School is starting for both students and teachers, fall sports are making their debut, and the weather is changing. All of these things can bring both excitement and anxiety and all of them can also impact communication. Here are some helpful tips to make the season bright and colorful! [Read More.](#)



## PA Regional Collaboratives For Supporting Families Summit Brings Together Naturally-Connected Communities

The 2024 Pennsylvania Regional Collaboratives For Supporting Families Summit sponsored by the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) was held August 14 and 15, 2024. Pennsylvania's Regional Collaboratives for Supporting Families are naturally-connected communities in which ODP stakeholders from all walks of life create local networks of support for the families of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and/or autism. [Read More.](#)



## PA Family Network Advisors Certified in Charting the LifeCourse Mentorship Program

The Pennsylvania Family Network (PAFN) recently certified all of their advisors with intellectual/developmental disabilities in *Charting My LifeCourse*. Charting My LifeCourse introduces self-advocates to the building blocks of Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) which allows them to mentor peers in using the tools. [Read More.](#)



## EBT Skimming on The Rise in PA: How to Protect your SNAP and TANF Benefits

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has detected a recent growth in reports of stolen SNAP and TANF benefits in the Erie and Western PA regions due to suspected EBT card skimming. Although these types of fraudulent activities are on the rise nationwide, the recent wave of scams in PA are depleting critical SNAP and TANF benefits from constituents in your area. [Read More.](#)



## ODP Celebrates One-thousandth PA E-Badge Academy Certificate With SPIN

When Heather Radcliffe of Philadelphia completed her DSP I E-Badge Academy training certificate, she became the thousandth Direct Support Professional in Pennsylvania to do so. To celebrate this milestone in Pennsylvania's DSP workforce development, the Office of Developmental Programs visited SPIN to present Heather with a signed proclamation of recognition from Governor Josh Shapiro. [Read More](#)

### Webinars

- [Community of Practice for Supporting Families Regional Collaboratives Virtual Session Recordings](#)