

## Dear Families and Friends of Morrow DD,

We are grateful to have received the County Commissioners' approval to place a replacement levy with a 1.0 mill increase on the May 2022 ballot. This levy is **critical** to restore millage that was lost nearly 20 years ago. Passage is essential to meet the lifelong needs of Morrow County residents with developmental disabilities! Some of the most frequently asked questions are addressed below. **Please invest a few minutes of your time to ensure you understand why this levy is so important.**

### How will the additional funds be used?

We will use the additional funding to meet the greatest needs, which currently are:

- **Early Intervention therapies and services** for children 0-3 years old (these may be children born pre-term, involved in accidents, or with health or developmental concerns). The number of children eligible for Early Intervention services is growing at a faster rate and we expect this growth to continue for the foreseeable future due to new eligibility factors, better neonatal services for pre-term babies, and greater awareness of the lifelong benefit of Early Intervention.
- **Community and residential services and supports**, including the additional supports needed by adults as they age, while still sustaining current services and supports.
- Locally funded **transition supports** for students and young adults, ages 14-22
- Locally funded support of **children and families with complex needs** and
- **Emergency needs** of people who face very challenging and sometimes dangerous situations, like the death of their caretaker, abuse, neglect, manipulation, and human trafficking.

### Why is a new levy or a replacement levy with an increase needed? How does our levy millage compare to other counties?

We experienced the loss of most of our voted millage nearly 20 years ago when two renewal levies failed, which left just one levy for all DD services. We are only able to seek additional funding through a new levy or by replacing and increasing the levy we have, currently a 3-mill, continuing levy. **The average millage for similar counties is 4.5 - 6 mills.**

### How does the increase to an existing levy work?

Replacements are needed periodically as the effective millage declines over time as property values increase. Passage of the replacement levy with a 1.0 mill increase means the 3-mill levy is replaced with a 4-mill levy. A 4-mill levy will cost taxpayers **\$11.67 per month or just 38 cents a day** with an appraised home value of \$100,000 (this is **an increase of less than \$4.50 per month or \$0.15 per day.**) We need everyone to share the value of these additional funds, which are essential to sustain existing services and meet the growing needs of our community. **Your DD tax dollars ensure the health and wellbeing of people 24 hours, 7 days per week!**

### Can we continue to "get by?" What does "getting by" really mean?

Relying on limited local funding received from our current levy creates constant challenges and very difficult decisions as we strive to meet the growing needs of people with developmental disabilities and



their families. This long-term loss increases their hardships, makes ordinary life demands more difficult and destroys their trust in our community and their hope for the future.

**Insufficient local funding means:**

- More people must wait, often for years, without needed supports, experiencing undue hardships, delays in development and independence, resulting in a poorer quality of life
- There are more “gaps” in supports and services. These gaps represent people who have real needs, hopes and dreams - just like other people!
- Some people end up in crisis or emergency situations which may have been prevented

**Why are local matching funds necessary?**

County board local levies provide the matching funds needed for all Medicaid services, like Residential, Community, Day and Transportation services. These supports are provided by private providers who bill the state for services they provide to people with developmental disabilities. The state then uses our local matching funds to bring federal tax dollars back to Morrow County to pay for these services. Without our local matching funds, federal Medicaid funding is lost and the number of people we can support is greatly reduced. Our levy funds are not just for the operations and employees you see at our buildings. **Local funds are necessary to ensure the health and wellbeing of all people with developmental disabilities throughout the county 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! They are your neighbors, the people you see at church, restaurants, retail stores and other places in our community. They may be a family member, now or in the future.** We truly strive to ensure that efficiencies, transparency and accountability are integrated into everything we do. We have reached the point where we must ask our community for help to meet the growing needs of current and future Morrow County residents.

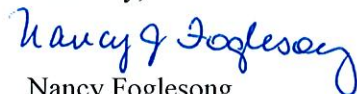
**Who is Morrow Abilities Partners (“MAP”)?**

MAP is a group developed to promote the social welfare of individuals in Morrow County with developmental disabilities and they also coordinate our levy campaigns. County boards of developmental disabilities are not permitted to run levy campaigns directly, but must rely on volunteer groups and MAP assumes this important role. MAP has their own Facebook page and distributes information separately from the county board.

***We are thankful for the support of our community and our partners.*** We are grateful for our Residential, Community, Adult Day and Transportation service providers who work tirelessly to ensure people remain safe and well in our communities. We rely on them and they depend on the county board to secure the matching funds to help cover the cost of the services they provide. We appreciate our safety forces, community and business leaders, and the many volunteers and supporters who help to make each day meaningful and fill the gaps that challenge our small team.

***We appreciate ideas, questions, and constructive criticism. We want Morrow County to be a great community where everyone belongs and feels welcome!*** There are many ways each of us can make a difference and contribute to our community. If you want more information on Morrow DD, our services, or want to volunteer, please contact us. You can also find more information on our website, [www.MorrowDD.com](http://www.MorrowDD.com) and can help by sharing our Facebook posts. Please consider how you can help us as we strive to achieve our mission: ***to cultivate a dynamic community where people can make meaningful contributions and lead fulfilling lives.***

Sincerely,



Nancy Foglesong  
Superintendent  
**#WorldsImagined**