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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fairfield DD introduces new community safety and communication opportunities.

Lancaster, Ohio, January 21---The Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Fairfield DD), along with local law enforcement, is proud to announce the Blue Envelope Program and Safety Roster, two initiatives designed to promote safety, understanding, and inclusion for residents of Fairfield County.

In 2025, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council approved a grant to print 50,000 Blue Envelope packets, which were distributed free of charge to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities across Ohio, including Fairfield County. This collaborative effort reflects Fairfield DD's mission to bring about a vibrant community where people lead lives of greater independence and make meaningful contributions.

The Blue Envelope Program helps law enforcement officers safely and effectively assist community members, ensuring individuals feel more comfortable and understood during traffic stops or emergencies. Each envelope instructs the owner to compile key documents for quick reference. The packets also contain a vehicle decal to notify first responders that someone in the vehicle uses a Blue Envelope, enabling more tailored and respectful communication.

First responders and Fairfield DD believe this program will help reduce anxiety for drivers and their passengers and provide helpful information for law enforcement across the state. All 88 Ohio counties have been invited to participate, giving drivers peace of mind as they travel throughout Ohio. Blue Envelopes are available at all Fairfield DD buildings, the Lancaster Division of Police Headquarters, the Pickerington Police Department, and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

The Lancaster Police Department (LPD) also launched the Safety Roster. The roster is a voluntary and confidential program where individuals or guardians can register important information to help officers respond with care, patience and understanding during emergencies.

Information that may be included in the Safety Roster includes communication preferences, emergency contacts, medical conditions, and calming strategies. LPD reports the roster is open to individuals of all ages with autism, dementia, developmental disabilities, mental health concerns, mobility limitations, or any other condition that may impact interactions with law enforcement. Participants are encouraged to update their information annually or following any significant changes.

To learn more about the Safety Roster or register, visit the [onlineform](#) or contact LPD's Community Services Unit at 740- 687-6680 extension 5.

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