

About Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the state agency that partners with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence and Social Security disability determination outcomes. It is accomplished through its Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) and Division of Disability Determination (DDD). A fourth area is the Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS), which is responsible for establishing and maintaining partnerships with employers.

OOD works with partners in businesses, education and non-profit organizations to facilitate customized employment plans for Ohioans with disabilities; helps Ohio companies recruit and retain employees with disabilities; and is the sole agency determining medical and vocational Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs in Ohio.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

OOD's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to eligible individuals with disabilities to assist them to attain and maintain competitive integrated employment. OOD works with adults seeking to enter the workforce or retain a job, and with youth beginning at age 14 to assist them as they transition from high school into college and/or the workplace.

Division of Disability Determination (DDD)

DDD, in agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), determines medical eligibility for Ohioans who apply for Social Security disability benefits (Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income). It is federally regulated and receives 100% of its funding from SSA. Under SSA, disability is based on an individual's inability to work.

Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS)

The Division of Employer and Innovation Services works to raise awareness of OOD's mission with employer partners, to promote a talent pool of job-ready candidates, and to support businesses in the hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities. In addition, EIS is instrumental in the development and implementation of the agency's strategic plan to ensure that client and stakeholder expectations are met, while providing value to Ohio taxpayers through efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of services.

The services described are funded, in part, with federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) under the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Supported Employment Services, and the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) programs. For purposes of the VR program, the federal VR grant paid 78.7% of the total costs of the program. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018, the VR agency received \$100,336,097 in federal VR funds. Funds appropriated by the state paid 21.3% of the total costs \$27,155,767 under the VR program.

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