

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Awareness

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
(BVR)

Bureau of Services for the
Visually Impaired
(BSVI)



Updated January 2024
(VR Training Unit)



HI THERE!



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Mission

Empowering Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations, and independence.



OOD Overview

- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) was created in 1970 and serves individuals with disabilities in all **88** counties.
- A Director is appointed by the Governor
- 15-member OOD Council
- OOD is comprised of four (4) divisions that work directly with individuals with disabilities and/or employer partners.
 - *Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)*
 - *Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI)*
 - *Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS)*
 - *Division of Disability Determination (DDD)*



Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Overview

- In FFY 2023

- 34,235 individuals received VR services
- We made 15,831 eligibility decisions
- We wrote 12,093 Individualized Plans for Employment (IPEs)
- We assisted 5,294 individuals in receiving employment
- Average time from application to closure w/employment: 28.0 months
- The average wage of individuals who received VR services was \$14.44/hr.

Phases of a VR Case

- Application for Services
- Eligibility Determination
- Development of Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Service Provision
- Employment obtained (case closure)



Application

- Applications can be submitted via phone call to local office (330-643-3080), hard copy (paper) thru fax (614-985-7840), email (OOD.NEMedicalFax@ood.ohio.gov), or our VR Portal (www.oodworks.com).
- Intake appointment held within 30 calendar days.
 - Receive and review medical/physical records
 - Refer for assessment if updated information is needed

Eligibility

Eligibility is based on **four (4)** factors:

- 1) The individual has a physical, cognitive or mental disability;
- 2) The individual's physical, cognitive and/or mental disability constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment;
- 3) The individual can benefit from VR services in terms of an employment outcome; and
- 4) The individual requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment.

Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

- Developed with the individual during the comprehensive assessment process.
 - Summary of individuals assets, limitations, experience, medical/psychological history, and disabilities
- Includes employment goal, timelines, service providers, costs, and individual responsibilities.
- Regular monitoring of individual's progress.

VR Services

Services are provided on an individualized basis and may include:

- Occupational/Vocational Training

- College/University Training

- Job Seeking Skills Training

- Job Search/Placement Assistance

- On-the-Job Supports

- Rehabilitation Technology

- Summer Youth Career Experience

- Pre-Employment Transition Services
(Pre-ETS)

VR Services (continued)

Supported Employment Services

- Individuals with the most significant disabilities
- Competitive integrated employment has not historically occurred
- Competitive integrated employment has been interrupted
- Intermittent employment as a result of a significant disability

CASE CLOSURE



Programs and Partnerships

- Employment First Partnership (EF)
- Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP)
- Ohio College2Careers
- OOD Jobs for Recovery
- Personal Care Assistant (PCA)
- Business Enterprise Program
- Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Ohioans

Employment First Partnership (EF)

- Collaboration between OOD and DODD (Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities)
- Expands Supported Employment services for working adults with developmental disabilities
- 10 Work Incentive Coordinators

Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP)

- Collaboration between OOD and Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
- Expands Transition Services for students with disabilities
 - Ages 14-21
 - Receiving services under an IEP (Individualized Education Program)
 - Meet OOD eligibility criteria
- 65 OOD counselor positions

Ohio College2Careers

- Collaboration between OOD, Ohio Department of Higher Education, and Ohio businesses.
- Assists students with disabilities with additional supports, such as:
 - Career exploration & counseling
 - Assistive technology
 - Resume and interview preparation
 - Internships & permanent employment
 - Connection to an expansive employer partner network

OOD Jobs for Recovery

- Collaboration between OOD, RecoveryOhio, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) and the Supreme Court of Ohio.
- OOD counselors immersed as an active member of drug court teams to ensure individuals get jobs.
 - 1 Counselor and 1 Job Developer per county site
 - Currently in 14 counties (Ashtabula, Butler, Franklin, Lucas, Scioto, Summit, Allen, Cuyahoga, Clinton, Highland, Hocking, Mahoning, Tuscarawas, Warren)

Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Program

- Assists individuals with severe physical disabilities with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) to allow them to:
 - Obtain training for employment.
 - Seek employment.
 - Maintain employment.

Please email pca@ood.ohio.gov with questions about the program and how to apply.

Business Enterprise Program

- Enables individuals who are legally blind opportunities to be self-employed facility food service and/or vending machine operators.
 - *Operators may hire employees, including persons with a disability*
- Facilities are in government buildings and roadside rest stops.
- Currently supports about 75 independent business owners.
- 2022 Operators average annual income was \$38,627

Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB)

- Assists individuals who are blind/visually impaired to maintain independence in the community.
- ILOB program eligibility:
 - Age 55 or older and not interested in employment
 - Has a significant vision impairment that interferes with activities of daily living
 - Independent living goals are feasible

Interviewing Tools and Skills

General Interview Tips

- Arrive ten minutes early.
- Dress professionally.
- Practice basic interview questions.
- Research the employer and position you are applying for.
- Come prepared with your availability and questions about the position.

Interviewing Tools and Skills

Online Interview Tips

- Check your internet connection at least 30 minutes prior to interview start time.
- Practice using the platform you will be using.
- Make sure you have a quiet environment, free of distractions and clutter.
- Check lighting and camera to make sure you're visible.

Interviewing Tools and Skills

Behavioral Interview Tips

- Make a list of skills needed for the position, including social and soft skills.
- Take time to reflect on past work or school experience and identify examples of when you utilized your skills in the workplace.
- Use the STAR method (Scenario, Task, Action, Result) to answer questions.
- If you do not have an example to use, it's okay to be honest and to discuss the experience you do have, and how you would problem solve in that situation.

Interviewing Tools and Skills

Structured Interview Tips

- Typically, you're being interviewed by more than one person.
- This type of interview is scored. So when you're asked a question, you will want to answer it as completely as possible.
- There is often little to no eye contact, because your interviewers are writing your answers down for scoring purposes.
- This type of interview can also include written assessments or computer tests.

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

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