

Annual Report



**Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities**

2024-2025

Director's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Moments after taking the oath of office, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed [Executive Order 2019-03D](#), designating Ohio as a Disability Inclusion State and establishing it as a Model Employer of Individuals with Disabilities. Our mission is to ensure that all Ohioans have access to the necessary support, training, and opportunities to thrive within both the workforce and their communities.

The OOD Annual Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 and State Fiscal Year 2025 highlights our commitment to Ohioans with disabilities. Last year, we provided Vocational Rehabilitation services to over 42,000 Ohioans with disabilities, which was 5,444 more individuals compared to the previous year, a 14.8 percent increase. More than 21,000 of these Ohioans were young people. Over the past three years, Ohio has ranked within the top three among all Vocational Rehabilitation programs nationwide for serving youth under the age of 16. An outstanding 73.8% of youth and adults in training programs made measurable skill gains toward earning a credential. This ranks us fourth in the nation and exceeds the national average by 21.7 percentage points.

In June 2025, I participated in the National Governors Association's virtual briefing to introduce the publication "[State Government as a Model Employer for People with Disabilities](#)." Emphasizing the importance of Governor DeWine's Executive Order, I had the honor of sharing Ohio's efforts to help other states looking to improve state government career paths for people with disabilities.

In its second year, the Accessible Ohio program partners with Ohio's businesses, communities, venues, and attractions statewide to support their accessibility goals. Since its inception, our AO team has established 247 partnerships, provided 358 consultations, and supported 46 accessibility enhancements, including accessible doors and seating, sensory areas, and universal

changing tables. The inaugural Accessible Ohio Conference and Expo attracted over 300 attendees, vendors, and guests, reflecting Ohio's commitment to help all Ohioans fully participate in everything our state offers.

Our reporting aligns with federal fiscal year requirements due to funding sources. Vocational Rehabilitation programs receive substantial federal grants administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Our Division of Disability Determination (DDD) is completely funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Last year, DDD processed disability claims for more than 155,000 Ohioans, surpassing SSA's workload target by 2,600 determinations.

As we look back on the past year, our dedication to empowering Ohioans with disabilities continues to grow stronger than ever. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Tressel, the General Assembly, the OOD Council, our providers, stakeholders, staff, and every Ohioan with a disability—your unwavering support is vital to our mission. Take part in our journey by visiting [OOD.Ohio.Gov](#), [signing up for our newsletter](#), or following us on social media (@OhioOOD).

Sincerely,



Director
Kevin L. Miller



About OOD

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

OOD is the state agency that empowers Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determination, and independence. This is accomplished through the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI), the Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS), and the Division of Disability Determination (DDD).

OOD works with partners in business, education, and nonprofit organizations to facilitate individualized employment plans for Ohioans with disabilities; helps Ohio companies recruit and retain employees with disabilities; and is the sole agency in Ohio that administers the determination of benefits for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs in Ohio.

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

BVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities to assist them with obtaining and maintaining competitive integrated employment. BVR 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.

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired

BSVI provides services to improve employment and independent living outcomes for individuals who are blind or have low vision beginning at age 14. BSVI also partners with Ohio's Community Centers for the Deaf and Centers for Independent Living.

Division of Employer and Innovation Services

EIS works to raise awareness of OOD's mission with the business community to promote a talent pool of job-ready candidates and support businesses in hiring and retaining individuals with disabilities. Through Accessible Ohio, staff consult with Ohio businesses, venues, attractions, and communities to identify barriers and establish goals for accessibility. EIS is also instrumental in the development and implementation of the agency's strategic plan, performance management, and coordination of Lean Six Sigma process improvement initiatives.

Division of Disability Determination

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 percent funding from SSA. The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs provide benefits to people who meet the guidelines set by SSA.

Quick Facts & Metrics

What OOD Has to Offer

OOD's Vocational Rehabilitation programs help Ohioans with disabilities get and maintain employment, including:

- Career counseling for finding and keeping a job
- Job training and practical work experiences
- On-the-job support and accommodations
- Assistance with resume writing and job interviews
- Financial support for various expenses related to education and training programs, transportation, work attire, tools, and equipment necessary to eliminate employment barriers

How Long Does It Take?

Because of the personalized nature of Vocational Rehabilitation support, timelines can vary significantly, with some individuals finding employment in just weeks!

For adult participants ages 22+, it takes an average of 5.4 months to get a job when receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services.*

For participants ages 14-21, it takes an average of 22.4 months to get a job when receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services.* (These individuals often need more time to learn job skills due to limited work experience.)

Employer Partnerships

OOD collaborates with more than 800 employer partners to facilitate the recruitment, hiring, and retention of workers with disabilities, helping to enhance workforce diversity and strength.

How Much Will I Make?

The amounts below show the median earnings of participants at the end of receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services.*

Participants with a four-year degree or beyond can expect to make around \$22.00 per hour.

Participants with a two-year degree or beyond can expect to make around \$17.00 per hour.

Participants with an industry-recognized certificate/credential can expect to make around \$16.00 per hour.

Participants with a high school diploma can expect to make around \$13.00 per hour.

Supporting a More Accessible Ohio

The Accessible Ohio team has established 247 partnerships, provided 358 consultations, and supported 46 accessibility enhancements, including accessible doors and seating, sensory areas, and universal changing tables.

Eligibility Decisions

The Division of Disability Determination processes applications for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), ensuring accurate eligibility decisions for Ohioans, with an initial accuracy rate of 97.1%.

**OOD Vocational Rehabilitation participants getting a job during Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024).*

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation



Overview

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Visually Impaired worked with more than 42,000 Ohioans with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful work and independent lives. Through career counseling, goal setting, and tailored support, the bureau helped individuals overcome barriers to employment. Collaborating with approximately 300 Vocational Rehabilitation providers statewide, these services facilitated the removal of obstacles to finding or maintaining employment.

Getting Results

OOD's Vocational Rehabilitation services, including the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, are getting results for Ohioans with disabilities. Of individuals who engaged with services, 59.4% are still employed one year after exiting, positioning OOD ninth in the nation. Among those enrolled in training programs, 49.2% earned a credential, ranking Ohio 12th nationally. An outstanding 73.8% of individuals in training programs made measurable skill gains toward earning a credential. This ranks OOD fourth in the nation and exceeds the national average by 21.7 percentage points.

Over the past three years, Ohio ranked within the top three among all Vocational Rehabilitation programs nationwide for serving youth under the age of 16. Through early collaborative planning, OOD and partners can help students with disabilities identify their strengths, weaknesses, interests, and career goals to help them build a realistic foundation for future success.

BVR Program Highlights | FFY 2024

- New applications for Vocational Rehabilitation services totaled 21,918
- Eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation services was determined for a total of 20,795 individuals
- The average timeframe from application to eligibility was 22 days, significantly faster than the federal requirement of 60 days
- A total of 16,234 new Individualized Plans for Employment (IPEs), personalized written plans outlining individual employment goals, and the services to reach those goals, were created
- Vocational Rehabilitation assisted 5,238 individuals in the achievement of successful employment outcomes

Serving Young People with Disabilities

OOD helps young people with disabilities acquire the necessary skills and support to enter the workforce successfully. Young people with disabilities or other barriers to employment may face unique challenges in transitioning from school to work. OOD provides services such as career counseling, job training, and support services tailored to their individual needs, empowering them to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. By intervening early and providing targeted assistance, these programs can maximize the potential for young people to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

In FFY 2024, OOD assisted 21,224 young people with disabilities through programs and partnerships including the Ohio Transition Support Partnership, career-technical education, Pre-Employment Transition Services, Summer Youth Work Experiences, and Ohio College2Careers.

Ohio Transition Support Partnership

The Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP), which began in 2015 with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, ensures that students ages 14-21 with disabilities have access to OOD's Vocational Rehabilitation services. OTSP serves students with disabilities as they move from school to postsecondary education (education or specialized training after high school) or the workforce. These services are geared toward making the transition to the working world smoother by addressing the specific needs and challenges that individuals with disabilities may encounter during this important phase of life. Last year, a total of 6,148 students participated in OTSP to work toward their employment goals.

Career-Technical Education

Over the last year, OOD focused on increasing services to students with disabilities enrolled in career-technical education in Ohio. These students benefitted from help through OOD for individualized work experiences, assistive technology, tools, licensure/certification fees, work clothing, and job placement in their chosen field.

In FFY 2024, OOD served a total of 2,343 students with disabilities enrolled in career-technical education.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) help students with disabilities explore job options, understand work environments, and develop necessary skills for the workplace, such as teamwork and self-advocacy. From job exploration counseling to workplace readiness training, these programs are designed to guide students aged 14 and up in finding career paths that match their interests and prepare them for future employment. In FFY 2024, OOD served a total of 2,745 students who participated in Pre-ETS.

Summer Youth Work Experiences

Summer Youth Work Experiences provide students ages 14-21 with disabilities opportunities to explore careers and gain on-the-job training. These paid work-based learning experiences help students build confidence and learn essential skills at jobs in their local communities. Youth are assigned to work sites based on their interests and abilities, and safeguards are in place to promote health and safety. While working at job sites, students receive support from a job coach and earn minimum wage.

In the Summer of 2024, OOD worked with 75 Vocational Rehabilitation providers throughout the state to provide 2,934 students with disabilities with summer work experiences.

Samuel Sanchez-Rivera and Lily Witsken gained work experience at Luminary by La Terza, a coffee shop in Cincinnati, with support from IKRON (Integration of Knowledge and Resources for Occupational Needs), a Vocational Rehabilitation provider.



Kelsi Weaver

Discover
Kelsi's Journey:
Empowering
Change Through
Determination
and Advocacy



Youth Leadership Forums

During the summer of 2024, OOD partnered with the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living across Ohio to host summer Youth Leadership Forums for high school students with disabilities interested in becoming Ohio's future leaders. Five of Ohio's regional Centers for Independent Living hosted week-long events to help local students advance their leadership, citizenship, and social skills. To learn more, watch a [video about the 2024 Youth Leadership Forums](#).

Ohio College2Careers

Ohio College2Careers (Ohio C2C) is currently available at 64 colleges and universities. Ohio C2C counselors assist students with disabilities with career exploration and counseling, assistive technology, resume and interview preparation, and job placement. OOD's Career Development Specialists connect college students with disabilities to internship and permanent employment opportunities.

Adison Delp is an Ohio C2C participant and student majoring in communications at Wright State University.



OOD counselors can also work with students with disabilities at any credentialing program, college, or university in Ohio.

In FFY 2024, OOD served a total of 2,507 college students with disabilities through Ohio College2Careers.



Pictured: Adison Delp, Ohio C2C counselor Philip Penrod, and Avery Tokarz.

[Watch a video about how Ohio C2C is empowering college students with disabilities.](#)

Ohio College2Careers is here to help students with disabilities navigate the challenges of higher education and career development. Together, we can create pathways for success for students with disabilities in Ohio.

Employment First Partnership

The Employment First Partnership between OOD and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) continues a statewide initiative to expand community employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. OOD Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and regional Work Incentive Consultants work with local county boards of developmental disabilities and dually-certified providers to support eligible individuals who are interested in competitive integrated employment, including adults transitioning from facility-based settings (e.g., workshops).

Through the partnership, provider agencies, schools, families, businesses, and people with developmental disabilities across Ohio have all worked together to create opportunities and pathways for integration, independence, and full community participation. Additionally, this allows Ohio to maximize resources to support more people on their path to community employment, build system capacity, and strengthen the relationship between the developmental disability and vocational rehabilitation systems.

In FFY 2024, OOD served a total of 11,471 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities who were also eligible for county board services.

Molly McGinty, who has Down syndrome, works at an assisted living facility, The Convallarium of Dublin, where she engages the residents in activities like crafts, music, movies, and bingo.



Works4Me Program Works for Equity

With Governor DeWine's support and a five-year federal grant awarded to OOD, Works4Me will help 1,450 individuals with disabilities move out of subminimum wage employment and into competitive integrated jobs.

Through enhanced career development, work incentives planning, paid community-based experiences, and wraparound services, Works4Me will continue to help remove barriers for people with developmental disabilities who are employed at subminimum wage or considering employment at subminimum wage. OOD is collaborating with DODD, other state agencies, and local entities to ensure Works4Me empowers adults with disabilities to successfully complete activities leading to competitive integrated employment.

Works4Me is entering its third year of implementation. In FFY 2024, a total of 13 providers participated in increasing the availability of Works4Me services to Ohioans with developmental disabilities. A total of 51 participants received Works4Me services in FFY 2024.

Watch a [video about Works4Me](#) to learn more.

Tamatha Peoples is a Works4Me participant.



Employment Support for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

OOD assists individuals with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders to find competitive integrated employment that is aligned with their strengths, interests, and goals. Employment is an important part of recovery and offers a variety of benefits, including increased

income, independence, self-confidence, a sense of purpose, meaningful involvement in their communities, greater access to medical benefits, and positive social connections.

In FFY 2024, OOD served a total of 14,121 Ohioans with mental health and/or substance use disorders.

Individual Placement and Support

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidence-based practice that helps people with serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorders work in competitive jobs related to their preferences. OOD assists eligible individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining competitive jobs related to each person's unique strengths, priorities, abilities, experiences, and interests. Individuals served through IPS benefit from the collaborative efforts of mental health agencies and OOD.

In FFY 2024, a total of 23 IPS partnerships, which include community mental health and substance use treatment providers throughout the state, delivered services to a total of 714 participants.

OOD Jobs for Recovery

OOD Jobs for Recovery is a partnership that assists Ohioans with disabilities who are participating in specialized court dockets to attain, maintain, or advance their careers. Consistent employment helps Ohioans in recovery stay on a positive path, increase their independence and income, and engage meaningfully in the community.

OOD staff are active members of specialized docket treatment teams and help individuals with

Tony, Kelley Kemp, and Judge Nicholas Iarocci at the Conneaut Renewal Court graduation on August 8, 2024.



employment limitations due to mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders. These staff attend court proceedings and treatment team meetings to ensure the rapid engagement of each participant in career counseling, job placement, and retention services. They also help address employment barriers, such as transportation, tools and licenses for employment, and interview and work clothing/shoes.

OOD Jobs for Recovery provides employment support for individuals served through certified specialized dockets in the following counties: Allen, Ashtabula, Butler, Clinton, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Highland, Hocking, Lucas, Mahoning, Scioto, Summit, Tuscarawas, and Warren.

In FFY 2024, a total of 224 Ohioans successfully completed the OOD Jobs for Recovery Program, working through their recovery and finding employment.

Division of Policy and Partnerships

The Division of Policy and Partnerships within OOD centralizes key functions to effectively navigate the growing partnership landscape while ensuring policies support access to services and quality employment outcomes for Ohioans with disabilities. This division manages crucial aspects of OOD's operations, including Vocational Rehabilitation policies, training, provider relationships, interagency partnerships, collaboration with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and coordination with the OOD Council. By streamlining these responsibilities, the division aims to strengthen OOD's collaborative approach, enhance policy implementation, and ultimately improve services for Ohioans with disabilities.

The OOD Council meeting on November 13, 2024.



Aaron Lantz

Discover Aaron's
Journey: Navigating
Vision Loss and
Thriving in a Science
Career



Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired



Overview

The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) assists eligible people, beginning at age 14, who are blind or have low vision, by providing direct, personalized services to assist them in finding and retaining meaningful work and personal independence. In FFY 2025, BSVI received 1,112 applications for services.

Partnering to Assist Individuals Who are Blind or Have Low Vision

OOD partners with three sight centers, located in Toledo, Cincinnati, and Cleveland, as well as other stakeholder groups and partners throughout the state, to provide programs and services to enhance independence, education, career, and support opportunities for Ohioans with vision loss.

Over the last year, BSVI staff presented at the state conventions of both the American Council of the Blind of Ohio and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (NFB of Ohio). Attendees learned about BSVI, and staff learned from presenters at each convention.

OOD and NFB of Ohio offer a searchable database of resources for individuals who are blind or have low vision. With 14 categories of information (e.g., accessible technology, advocacy, employment resources, and independent living), the public can search for resources based on topic or name. Families and professionals can go to one place to find the resources and information they need at the [OOD and NFB resource webpage](#).

BSVI Program Highlights | FFY 2024

- Services were provided to 2,146 individuals who are blind or have low vision and seeking to find or retain meaningful work
- Services were provided to 2,819 individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or DeafBlind and seeking to find or retain meaningful work
- The Independent Living Older Blind program assisted 1,523 individuals in meeting their independent living goals
- OOD launched a mobile services unit to provide no-cost screenings and services across the state, ensuring that individuals in underserved areas have access to vital resources

Getting the Word Out

Through sponsorships with OOD and other agencies, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) offers NFB-NEWSLINE, a free audio news service, providing access to more than 500 publications, job listings, newspapers, and more. OOD Works e-Newsletters are added to NFB-NEWSLINE weekly to help listeners stay up-to-date and promote OOD services.

Voicecorps is a reading service for people who cannot read due to medical conditions. Volunteers read aloud newspapers, print publications, and shopping flyers. Individuals who cannot read print because of a disability, including Ohioans who are blind or have low vision, are eligible for Voicecorps services. In addition to reading print materials, the program schedule features service organization highlights, including interviews with BSVI staff.

Partnering with Community Centers for the Deaf

OOD provides personalized services to assist Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind people in gaining and maintaining meaningful work and personal independence.

In addition to offering walk-in office hours with public access to videophones, the Community Centers for the Deaf (CCDs) provide independent living skills training, interpreting and communication services, advocacy, and peer support to the Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and DeafDisabled communities.

In FFY 2024, the CCDs achieved a significant milestone by implementing a shared case management database. This advanced tool has substantially improved the capacity to track and manage services efficiently. This transition highlights dedication to data-driven decision-making, ultimately better serving the needs of individuals across Ohio.

Throughout the year, CCD staff provided nearly 3,000 hours of targeted support services to over 500 individuals in 58 counties. CCD staff received an additional 650 requests for information or referral services in 50 counties, further supporting Ohioans who are Deaf and local communities. From



Listen to How Caroline Karbowski Empowers the Blind Community Through Science & Technology

Caroline discusses the significance of Braille literacy and technology in advocating for individuals with disabilities.

Image courtesy of Caroline Karbowski

presentations and training to community and outreach events, the CCDs reached an additional 11,000 people in their communities. These events helped Ohioans throughout the state learn more about the Deaf community and American Sign Language.

OOD and the Community Centers for the Deaf offer a [searchable database](#) of more than 450 resources for this low-incidence disability group. With 40 categories of information (e.g., Deaf Culture, Domestic Violence, Employment, Housing, Sign Language, Substance Use, and Youth Services), families and professionals can search for resources based on their location, resource type, or organization name.

Expansion of Interpreter Services

Last year, OOD expanded its American Sign Language interpreter team from one to five interpreters, ensuring more comprehensive coverage across the state. This enhancement supports the accommodation needs and improves communication access.

Ohio Deaf Literacy Partnership

Launched in the fall of 2018, the Ohio Deaf Literacy Partnership (ODLP) provides adult basic literacy education to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing through a partnership between OOD, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Ohio School for the Deaf, and the Delaware Area Career Center's Aspire program. The program offers adult learners literacy in both ASL and English. The program seeks to provide individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing with the literacy and communication skills needed to further their career potential. In FFY 2024, the program served 18 students.

Partners actively recruited individuals who are Deaf from other countries to boost literacy to help address the challenges facing those who have left sometimes dire situations in their homelands with the hope of a better future. The partnership has been featured as a best practice by the National Deaf Center (NDC), and programs around the country continue to meet with partnership staff

to learn how to develop their own programs in various states.

Communication Disability Law

Director Miller and staff continued to promote the [Communication Disability Law](#), which helps reduce potential confusion and supports the safety of Ohioans who have challenges communicating.

The Communication Disability Law allows individuals with a medically diagnosed communication disability, who drive or who are regular passengers in a vehicle, to voluntarily enroll in a database that connects to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). The law enforcement officer is then alerted that the driver or a passenger in the vehicle may have difficulty communicating and can approach the vehicle with awareness to help avoid a situation that could become harmful to either the individual with a communication disability or to the officer. Learn more at the [Communication Disability Law webpage](#).

In September 2024, OOD and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), announced a significant milestone: over 2,000 license plates have been registered in the voluntary database for individuals with communication disabilities. "Having this information right up front is helping law enforcement officers add an additional layer of understanding in their approach to these situations, creating a smoother stop for all involved," said Governor DeWine. "Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that all people feel safe and secure while interacting with law enforcement. I encourage anyone who has a communications disability to sign up to participate."

In April 2025, Connor Miller and his father, Director Miller, shared a [video in honor of Autism Acceptance Month](#). In the video, they explained how the Communication Disability Law fosters safety, promotes understanding, and empowers individuals like Connor to navigate the world with greater confidence.

Left: OOD Director Kevin L. Miller. Right: Connor Miller.



Communication Card to Help Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals Communicate with Law Enforcement

OOD also continues to promote a [communication card](#) that helps individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing communicate with law enforcement.

In partnership with members of the Deaf community, the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Traffic Safety Office, statewide law enforcement partners, and OOD, the communication card is available to download onto a phone or printed and stored inside a vehicle, wallet, or purse. It includes various pictures that Deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals can point to in order to help them more easily communicate during interactions with law enforcement.

The communication card also displays icons of common violations and provides tips for law enforcement to help officers effectively communicate with those who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, and Ohio State Highway Patrol also participated in developing the card.

Supporting Access: OOD Mobile Services Unit

In July 2024, the Ohio State Fair served as the launchpad for OOD's mobile services unit, an initiative dedicated to delivering no-cost screenings and essential services throughout the state. The mobile services unit's goal is to ensure

that vulnerable populations in underserved areas have access to critical resources that support their personal and professional development.

Beyond screenings, the unit serves as a hub for hiring event support, providing application assistance and interview preparation. OOD's trained job placement specialists are committed to helping candidates navigate their employment paths, offering tailored career readiness guidance and fostering important conversations about professional development.

Over the first three months of operation, the mobile services unit offered services to Ohioans in six counties, including uniform fittings, mock interviews, and employment interviews with local companies that offered jobs on the spot.

The mobile services unit is equipped with two confidential offices, allowing staff and partner organizations to meet with individuals in areas with limited public transportation. These private spaces facilitate meaningful discussions regarding career exploration and the wide array of resources available through OOD.

We invite you to partner with OOD for your next event. For more information or to check availability, please email OOD.MobileServicesUnit@ood.ohio.gov.



Accessibility and Inclusion at the Ohio State Fair

Thanks to a partnership between the Ohio State Fair and OOD, the 2024 Ohio State Fair showcased its commitment to accessibility like never before. Through this collaboration, OOD debuted its new

mobile unit to provide comprehensive accessibility information, helping every fairgoer feel supported and included.

The commitment to accessibility was evident through the unprecedented number of American Sign Language (ASL)-interpreted shows at the Fair, which increased by 150% compared to 2023. In addition to ASL interpretation at popular events such as the Great Lakes Timber (lumberjack) and Marvelous Mutts shows, fairgoers could also enjoy daily interpreted comedy and magic shows, competitions, educational sessions, and acrobatics performed by the Nerveless Nocks.

Madison Henschen, former OOD participant, stopped by the mobile services unit at the Ohio State Fair and shared that she has been succeeding in her job at a school cafeteria for four years.



Additional accessibility features included free wheelchair and mobility device charging stations, two universal changing stations, free use of Aira to connect to a remote agent to help access visual information, audio descriptions for select exhibits, a dedicated sensory-friendly morning, accessible picnic tables, service animal relief areas, and an accessible playground.

OOD's Business Enterprise Program

OOD's Business Enterprise (BE) Program provides entrepreneurial careers in vending services by licensed operators who are legally blind. The program currently has 70 licensed operators managing businesses in food service and vending throughout Ohio. BE Operators manage cafeterias, convenience stores, snack bars, and vending machines in state and federal buildings and highway rest areas, where licensed operators have priority under the Randolph-Sheppard Act and the Ohio



Pictured: Brad Rogers, Johana Graves, Lillian Rogers, and Arden Rogers.

Inclusive Fun: Discover How the 2024 Ohio State Fair Became Most Accessible Yet

The Ohio State Fair showcased its commitment to accessibility like never before, thanks to a partnership between the Ohio State Fair and OOD. Running from July 24 to August 4, 2024, the Fair was not just an event; it was a celebration of Ohio and the joy of shared experience.

Watch more
[@OhioOOD videos](#)

Image courtesy of Rogers & Graves family

Revised Code. The program also operates at state universities, colleges, and county buildings.

The BE Program held its Statewide Conference at Deer Creek Lodge & Conference Center in May 2025, bringing together operators, new licensees, and OOD staff to explore innovations in technology and customer service. The event featured networking opportunities, an awards ceremony honoring 27 BE Operators for their service, and an inspiring keynote speech by Alabama Operator Michael Talley about proactive business management.

Conference participants from left to right: Jeff Pawlecki, BE Consultant for the Toledo area; Yvette Shackelford, BE Operator; Mike Shackelford, Yvette's husband; Jeff Tolle, BE Operator; and Tonia Koo, BE Consultant for the Cincinnati area.



In FFY 2024, the BE Program expanded to include one additional college and enhanced services at four other colleges and universities. Additionally, the program launched in three new locations on state properties and improved services at two federal properties. Furthermore, the program replaced 146 machines, contributing to the modernization of 17 facilities. These changes have resulted in a 19% increase in average vendor earnings and a 51% increase in median income from FFY 2023 to FFY 2024.

Mark Wood, BE Operator, fills vending machines at an interstate rest area in Ohio.



Personal Care Assistance Program

Many people with severe physical disabilities require assistance in activities of daily living so that they can go to work, look for a job, or participate in training for a job.

The Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Program provides partial funding to these individuals so they may hire personal care attendants and be as independent as possible.

In FFY 2024, the PCA Program served a total of 123 individuals. Of these individuals, 87% were competitively employed; 4% were looking for competitive employment, 8% were attending a training program to prepare for competitive employment, and 1% were self-employed.

Services for Students at the Ohio State School for the Blind and Ohio School for the Deaf

Services were provided for students at the Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB) and the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) through a dedicated Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at each school. These counselors provide vocational counseling, work experiences, skills training, and job placement assistance to help students transition to college and employment after graduation. When OOD and OSSB/OSD staff work together to support students, more than 90% of the students they work with graduate from high school. In FFY 2024, a total of 100 students were served at the two schools.

Students at the Ohio School for the Deaf stop by the OOD mobile services unit to learn about programs and services.



Bob Ulm

Discover Bob's
Journey: Celebrating
50 Years on Local
Radio Thanks to
Disability Support



Division of Employer and Innovation Services



EIS Program Highlights | SFY 2024

- Hosted virtual and in-person hiring events across the state, facilitating interviews for job seekers and students with disabilities to connect one-on-one with employers
- Hosted two Expos for more than 174 high school students with employers, colleges & universities, and community partners
- Hosted 11 webinars for 2,130 attendees to foster community and workplace inclusion of Ohioans with disabilities
- Established partnerships with businesses, communities, venues, and attractions and provided consultations for partners to identify accessibility barriers, establish goals for accessibility and share information about possible funding sources
- Launched a Lean process improvement project related to the vocational rehabilitation process and facilitated Yellow Belt training for 38 staff

Overview

In the Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS), the Business Relations Team fosters strategic partnerships with employers to address their hiring needs. Their services include organizing virtual and in-person hiring events, providing disability etiquette and awareness training, and assisting in improving workplace accessibility.

OOD collaborates with over 800 Employer Partners to facilitate the recruitment, hiring, and retention of workers with disabilities, offering education and resources to create inclusive workplaces that benefit from the contributions of a workforce with a broad range of skills and abilities.

Ohio is leading the way through the Accessible Ohio program, the first of its kind. This program provides a statewide, coordinated effort to support accessibility and inclusion for Ohioans with disabilities. Accessible Ohio supports businesses, communities, attractions, and venues in prioritizing accessibility from the start, promoting inclusiveness, and ensuring everyone can experience Ohio equitably.

Hiring Events and National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a campaign held every October to celebrate the many contributions of America's workers with disabilities and raise awareness

regarding the employment of people with disabilities. The 2024 theme, “Access to Good Jobs for All,” underscored the importance of ensuring workers with disabilities have access to quality employment opportunities throughout the year.

In October 2024, OOD hosted five hiring events to facilitate job interviews for OOD job seekers and employers with available positions. The events provided 424 interviews for 255 OOD job seekers with 39 employers, resulting in 16 same-day job offers. Watch the [2024 NDEAM wrap-up video](#) to learn more.



Governor’s Inclusive Employer Award: Giant Eagle, Inc.

Governor DeWine and OOD announced in October that Giant Eagle, Inc., was the 2024 Governor’s Inclusive Employer Award winner for its outstanding commitment to individuals with disabilities in the workplace.

Governor DeWine’s [Executive Order 2019-03D](#) established Ohio as a Disability Inclusion State and a Model Employer of Individuals with Disabilities, and H.B. 110 introduced an award to honor employers with inclusive workplaces during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Giant Eagle demonstrated its dedication to inclusion by actively participating in job fairs specifically aimed at individuals with disabilities, attending eight such events in Ohio in the year prior to applying for the award. A successful partnership with OOD resulted in the hiring of more than 180 new team members with disabilities during that year.



Pictured: Devonne Tinnon, Team Member; Ali-Jon Zakikhani, Store Leader, Legacy Village Giant Eagle; Nia McKinney, Team Member; and Jeremy Greene, Team Member.

Giant Eagle, Inc. Receives Governor’s Inclusive Employer Award

Governor DeWine and OOD announced Giant Eagle, Inc. as the 2024 Governor’s Inclusive Employer Award winner for their commitment to individuals with disabilities in the workplace.

Watch more
[@OhioOOD videos](#)

Additionally, MetroHealth, CareSource, and Meijer each scored more than 80 points on their application and were recognized as Ohio Inclusive Employers.

OOD-Team Ohio Skills Based Career Fair

On May 13, 2025, OOD partnered with the Department of Administrative Service's Team Ohio to host a career fair at the State Library of Ohio. HR recruiters from 17 State of Ohio agencies, boards, and commissions conducted 145 interviews with 49 OOD participants for permanent employment opportunities. Job candidates were pre-screened to meet minimum qualifications and had established profiles on [Careers.Ohio.Gov](https://careers.ohio.gov) in advance of the event. An onsite application station was available for candidates who interviewed to easily apply for open positions.

OOD participant Jean Jones received an on-the-spot job offer from Jet Stream International at a Youngstown hiring event in July 2024.



Additional Hiring Events

In addition to the NDEAM hiring events, OOD facilitates virtual and in-person hiring events throughout the year to connect its Employer Partners with OOD's pool of qualified candidates. These events may be interviews arranged with one Employer Partner, several employers within a specific industry, or a job category, such as work-from-home opportunities. OOD also hosts "OOD

Hiring Days," which are targeted half-day hiring events held quarterly in each area of the state. These events take place onsite at an employer location, an OOD office, or virtually.

OOD also hosted a statewide virtual hiring event for work-from-home and hybrid job opportunities on February 26, 2025. Six employers participated in 66 interviews with OOD participants.

Apprenticeship Week 2024

November 18-22, 2024, marked the 10th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week, highlighted by the Career and Resource Fair in Toledo, organized by OOD in collaboration with OhioMeansJobs Lucas County and several local organizations. The fair served over 200 job seekers, featuring representatives from 13 unions, employers, and educational institutions who discussed apprenticeship programs and career pathways. Additionally, 14 community resource agencies were available to assist with issues like housing and record expungement.

Job seekers interact with employers at the Career and Resource Fair in Toledo.



Following the fair, an Apprenticeship Information Session was held for employers, featuring insights from ApprenticeOhio, TechCred, and local educational and business entities. Throughout the week, OOD participants and partners engaged in various events, including tours at Jet Stream International and CINFAB Sheet Metal Manufacturing, in collaboration with the Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition.



Ohio Vocational Apprenticeship Program

117

Build an Inclusive Workplace.

We have had a total of 117 apprentices placed at 32 agencies.

39

An Innovative Workforce Solution.

We have had 39 apprentices permanently hired at 27 agencies.

\$22.84

A Skilled, Diverse Workforce.

Apprentices hired into positions started with an average hourly wage of \$22.84.

Ohio Vocational Apprenticeship Program

OOD developed the Ohio Vocational Apprenticeship Program (OVAP) for students and adults with disabilities to assist them in gaining access to state government employment. The goal of this program is for apprentices to secure permanent employment in state government upon completion of the apprenticeship.

OOD partners with State of Ohio agencies, statewide elected officials, and the Ohio General Assembly to identify their workforce needs and develop apprenticeship opportunities that align with the job and educational goals of OOD-eligible participants. OOD assists participants in applying and interviewing for the apprenticeship, completing the onboarding process, and receiving any needed on-the-job support. Through the program, OOD funds all wages for the apprentices, up to \$16.50 per hour, 25 hours per week, for a maximum of 1,000 hours.

In SFY 2025, OOD funded 47 vocational apprenticeships for individuals with disabilities served by OOD to create a strong recruitment pipeline for permanent employment. Since its launch, apprentices have been hired into permanent employment with state agencies.

Webinar Series Promoted Community and Workplace Inclusion

OOD continued a webinar series to help communities and employers support disability inclusion. With an audience of 2,130 attendees, the webinar series corresponded with Governor DeWine's Executive Order 2019-03D, which established Ohio as a Disability Inclusion State and Model Employer of Individuals with Disabilities, OOD's Inclusive Employer Toolkit, and the Governor's Inclusive Employer Award criteria.

Topics included "Strategies for a Recovery Friendly Workplace, Boosting Engagement in Employee Resource Groups, Effective Partnerships with Job Coaches, Building an Inclusive Apprenticeship Program, Leading Effective Self-Identification Campaigns, Accessible Communications, Website Accessibility, Utilizing ADA Tools, All About Service Animals, Technology in the Workplace, and Safety and Emergency Management."

In-Demand Jobs Week 2025

During In-Demand Jobs Week (IDJW), held May 5-9, 2025, a total of 148 OOD participants and 29 employer partners participated in seven events aimed at highlighting Ohio's thriving job market. [A video about IDJW](#) explains more.

An OOD participant shakes hands with an employer partner at the IDJW event at Wright State University.



Throughout the week, OOD led events aimed at actively promoting these career growth opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities throughout the state. OOD facilitated a range of engaging events, including tours of GE Aerospace, Walgreens Micro-Fulfillment Center, and Powell Electrical Systems Plant. During IDJW, OOD hosted an expo for more than 174 high school students who engage with employers, colleges, universities, and community partners. Additionally, OOD participated in the Clinton County Job and Community Resource Fair and the Tri-C Workforce Training Showcase, providing valuable resources and insight into available positions across various fields. Through interviews and demonstrations, OOD aimed to connect job seekers with in-demand careers.

Accessible Ohio Empowers Inclusive Experiences for All

Launched in July 2023, the Accessible Ohio (AO) program partners with Ohio's businesses, communities, venues, and attractions statewide to support their accessibility goals.

Ohio is at its best when everyone, including Ohioans with disabilities, is empowered to experience all our great state has to offer. Building upon Governor DeWine's commitment to Ohioans with disabilities, AO encourages us to prioritize accessibility from the start, promote inclusiveness, and ensure everyone can experience Ohio in an equitable way.

The AO team includes four regional AO Specialists who are available to consult directly with local partners to help identify barriers in their programs, services, and environments, and then

help them establish goals for accessibility and inclusion. AO services also include training and resources to assist our partners with navigating their responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, identifying ways to make environments accessible, and providing effective, reasonable accommodations. Watch a [video to discover more about Accessible Ohio](#).

The Nuxhall Foundation and the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields have partnered with Accessible Ohio to ensure future building plans prioritize accessibility, including wheelchair charging stations and service animal relief areas.



Accessible Ohio Feedback Forums

AO Feedback Forums were conducted to gather valuable input as the AO team developed related webinar topics, created tools and resources for the AO website, and planned for the inaugural AO Conference & Expo. Approximately participants offered ideas and feedback at a total of three forums.

Accessible Ohio Consultations

In SFY 2025, AO Specialists established 153 partnerships with businesses, communities, venues, and attractions in Ohio. They provided 222 accessibility consultations, delivered 47 training sessions for more than 3,400 attendees, and created more than 30 [accessibility resources](#). They conducted four regional workshops for 80 attendees.

For example, the Darke County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Darke DD) partnered with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and AO to enhance the accessibility of public spaces throughout the county.

Pictured from left to right: Jason Willis, Brumbaugh Construction Vice President; Tonya Clark, Darke DD Superintendent; Elizabeth Brewer, 2023 Darke County Jr. Fair Queen; Marla Werner, Darke County Agricultural Society Treasurer; Kimberly Hauck, DODD Director; Jessi Clark, Brumbaugh Construction Designer.



Darke DD received a \$550,000 ARPA grant that has supported several great projects in the county, including universal changing tables, a public sensory room, a platform lift, inclusive meeting equipment, accessible pathways, and picnic tables.

Other consultations provided by AO Specialists included resources for accessible entrances, universal changing stations, staff training on

Attendees celebrate Governor DeWine's unveiling of the first of 29 universal changing stations at Ohio rest areas on January 10, 2025, at the I-71 rest area in Jeffersonville. From left to right: Kim Kirkwood, Changing Spaces Ohio chapter co-leader and Aiden's mother; Aiden Boulter; Jennifer Corcoran, Changing Spaces Ohio chapter co-leader and Matthew's mother; Julia Wagner, Accessible Ohio Specialist; Matthew Helton; Julie Wood, Accessible Ohio Manager; and Kristen Ballinger, OOD Deputy Director of Division of Employer and Innovation Services.



respectful interactions with customers who have disabilities, and mobility device charging stations. The AO team also researched and provided information about potential funding resources to implement accessibility enhancements.



Pictured: Sarah Rupp, Visitor Experience and Evaluation Manager, Sauder Village; and Shelly Burkhart, Accessible Ohio Specialist.

Discover Accessible Ohio

The Accessible Ohio program supports Ohio's businesses, communities, attractions, and venues to be more inclusive and welcoming for individuals with disabilities.

Watch more
[@OhioOOD videos](#)

Inaugural Accessible Ohio Conference & Expo

Governor DeWine served as the opening speaker for the first-ever Accessible Ohio Conference & Expo on July 23, 2024. The one-day event, hosted by OOD, showcased ways to make Ohio's businesses, communities, venues, and attractions accessible and inclusive for all Ohioans, including Ohioans with disabilities.

"Ohio's strength lies in its people, and we can't afford to leave anyone behind. Accessibility is a mindset that we should always be thinking about, from education and employment to recreation and civic engagement," said Governor DeWine.

Governor DeWine shakes hands with Richard Payne, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, at the Accessible Ohio Conference & Expo.



"We're grateful for the positive impact individuals with disabilities have had on Ohio's workforce and communities. By breaking down barriers and providing opportunities, we tap into the tremendous potential of all our citizens," Governor DeWine continued.

The Accessible Ohio Conference & Expo featured keynote speaker Rosemarie Rossetti, Ph.D. A central Ohio native, Dr. Rossetti is an internationally recognized expert in disability inclusion, universal design, and accessibility. Held at The Ohio State University's Fawcett Center, the event included additional guest speakers, educational sessions and workshops covering workplace accessibility and inclusive public spaces, an accessibility showcase, and more. To learn more, watch the [inaugural Accessible Ohio Conference & Expo video](#).

Caption: Keynote speaker Rosemarie Rossetti presented on "Why Accessibility Matters," sharing insights on the critical importance of incorporating accessibility from the outset.



Lean Process Improvement

The agency practices LeanOhio's continuous improvement, Lean, and Six Sigma methodologies to make improvements for government's customers and Ohio citizens.

Throughout the past year, OOD applied Lean strategies to improve the vocational rehabilitation process. Two pilot programs were launched in the East Central and Northwest areas as part of this effort to identify feasible options aimed at increasing efficiencies in serving individuals with disabilities.

OOD is committed to providing training in basic Lean and Six Sigma principles to all new supervisors, managers, and other program staff. In 2024, 38 OOD staff participated in two-day Yellow Belt training. In addition, six OOD staff attended Camo Belt training provided by LeanOhio and are working on their process improvement projects.

Division of Disability Determination



Overview

Decisions on whether Ohioans are eligible for Social Security disability benefits are crucial for people looking to create a dependable foundation for their lives. Staff at OOD's Division of Disability Determination (DDD) understand those needs and the importance of quickly processing cases and delivering accurate decisions.

DDD processes applications made to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Case adjudication is performed by a team of claims examiners, support personnel, disability specialists, and medical/psychological consultants. They work together to assess medical and employment factors to determine whether an applicant meets the federal eligibility criteria for disability and/or blindness.

In FFY 2024, DDD completed 158,144 determinations for new applications for disability benefits and ongoing disability reviews. Of these determinations, 147,905 were new applications in FFY 2024. Notably, the determinations outpaced the number of receipts by 6.9%, or 10,239.

When comparing DDD's achievements in FFY 2024 with those of FFY 2023, an additional 6,856 Ohioans were served, representing a 4.5% increase in service.

DDD Program Highlights | FFY 2024

- Made 158,144 determinations
- Processed initial cases in an average of 102.5 days compared to an average of 185.9 days for all state agencies that process cases for SSA
- Attained the best overall processing time for initial claims in the Chicago Region, which includes six states, securing a national ranking of seventh
- Ohio's initial decisional accuracy rate was 97.1%

These results illustrate DDD’s commitment to meeting and exceeding expectations and its ongoing dedication to supporting Ohio’s citizens’ needs. In recognition of National Social Security Month in April 2025, OOD released a [video to explain how DDD supports Ohioans](#) and continually strives to improve its services.

SSA Awards Staff for Commitment to Excellence

Khristine Brenning received the Associate Commissioner Adjudicator of the Year for the Ohio DDS.



In December 2024, Khristine Brenning, Disability Claims, was awarded the prestigious Associate Commissioner Adjudicator of the Year for the Ohio DDS (Disability Determination Services) Award for FFY 2024 by the SSA Commissioner. This recognition highlights her outstanding contributions to Ohioans with disabilities and her commitment to excellence in her role.

Khristine has excelled in her role, showcasing a high work volume and accuracy. In the past year, she conducted five shadowing sessions with probationary staff and two with tenured staff. She also led two refresher trainings for new Disability Claims Adjudicators and volunteered as a Unit Helper, providing guidance to second-year adjudicators and supporting supervisors.

Her hard work has earned her multiple internal DDD awards for thorough case processing and public service. Additionally, she collaborated

on the Intelligent Medical Language Analysis Generation (IMAGEN) tool, assisting her peers with writing determinations and drafting assessment forms. IMAGEN is a transformational way of analyzing and viewing claimant medical and related evidence in the disability electronic folder. IMAGEN transforms evidence in real time into machine-readable text that enables enhanced search capabilities and intelligent analysis of medical record content.

Compassionate Allowances

Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet SSA standards for disability benefits. These conditions primarily include certain cancers, adult brain disorders, and several rare disorders that affect children. The initiative helps DDD reduce waiting time to reach a disability determination for individuals with the most serious disabilities.

Military Casualty/Wounded Warrior



Military Casualty/Wounded Warrior claims receive priority handling and expedited processing of disability claims from SSA. These claims involve any current or former member of a military service who sustained an illness, injury, or wound while on active-duty status on or after October 1, 2001, and allege a physical and/or mental impairment, regardless of how the impairment occurred, or where it occurred.

Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit Savings

The mission of the Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit is to resolve questions of fraud in SSA's disability programs. This supports the strategic goal of ensuring the integrity of the Social Security programs, with zero tolerance for fraud. This mission is accomplished through the combined skills of DDD staff, SSA staff including those with the Office of Inspector General, and state and local law enforcement. The unit investigates individual disability beneficiaries and claimants, and identifies lawyers, doctors, translators, or other third parties who facilitate disability fraud. The results of these investigations are presented to federal and state prosecutors for consideration of prosecution.

Podcast Explains Changes to Social Security Disability Benefits

Robert Fenn (left) and Brandon Smith (right).



In [episode 55 of the OOD Works podcast](#), Robert Fenn and Brandon Smith, Public Affairs Specialists with SSA, explained the changes to Social Security disability benefits in 2025. The discussion provided a comprehensive overview and helpful pointers for individuals looking to navigate SSA benefits.



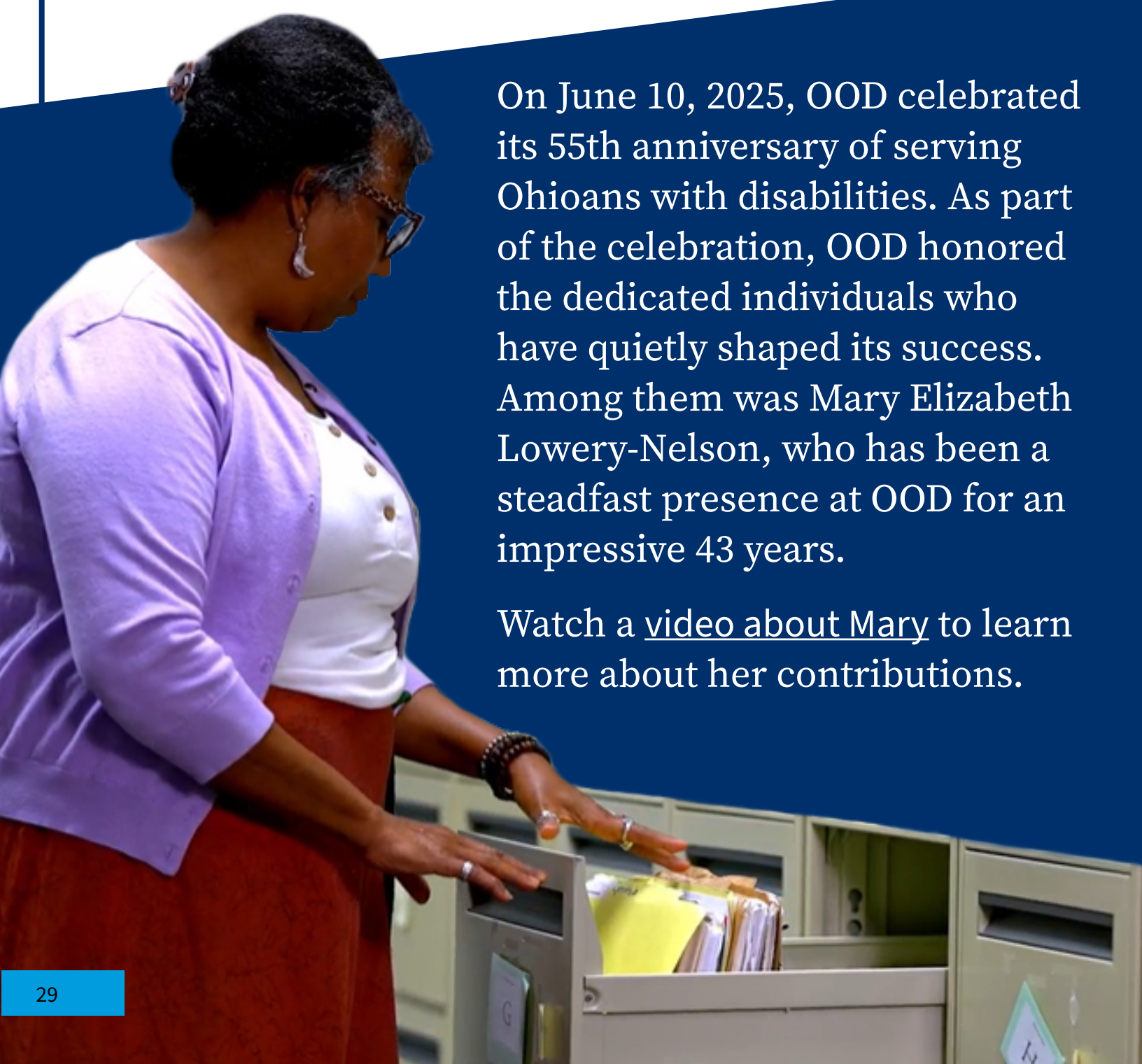
Pictured: Megan Cox, Disability Claims Adjudicator; Enid Quinn, Senior Disability Claims Adjudicator; and Jonathan Clancy, Disability Claims Supervisor.

Understanding Disability Benefits Support in Ohio

DDD is vital in supporting Ohioans by assessing their eligibility for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. In the past year alone, we proudly served over 158,000 Ohioans, ensuring that those who qualify receive the vital support they need.

Watch more
[@OhioOOD videos](#)

Celebrating 55 Years of OOD

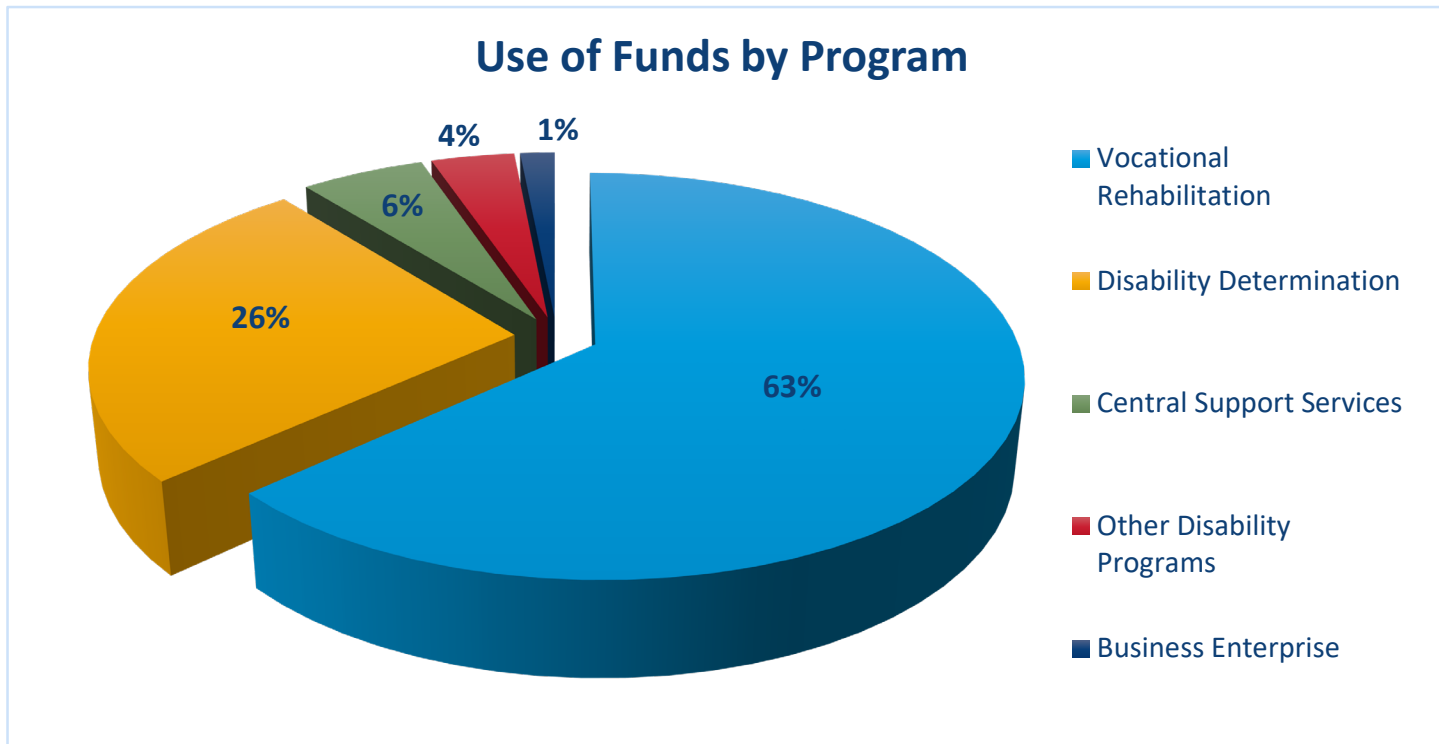
A woman with short dark hair, wearing glasses, a purple cardigan over a white top, and a red skirt, is looking down at a filing cabinet. She is standing in front of a row of light-colored filing cabinets. One cabinet is open, showing yellow folders. She has a bracelet on her left wrist and a ring on her left hand.

On June 10, 2025, OOD celebrated its 55th anniversary of serving Ohioans with disabilities. As part of the celebration, OOD honored the dedicated individuals who have quietly shaped its success. Among them was Mary Elizabeth Lowery-Nelson, who has been a steadfast presence at OOD for an impressive 43 years.

Watch a [video about Mary](#) to learn more about her contributions.

Federal Fiscal Year 2024

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024



Use of Funds	Amount	Percent
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$187,535,329	63.3%
Disability Determination	\$76,744,359	25.9%
Central Support Services	\$16,426,629	5.5%
Other Disability Programs	\$11,045,068	3.7%
Business Enterprise	\$4,564,550	1.5%
TOTAL	\$296,315,936	100.0%
Sources of Funds	Amount	Percent
Federal Resources	\$245,663,775	82.9%
General Revenue Funds	\$37,613,970	12.7%
State and Local Partnerships	\$10,157,867	3.4%
DUI License Reinstatement	\$2,098,690	0.7%
Business Enterprise	\$781,634	0.3%
TOTAL	\$296,315,936	100.0%

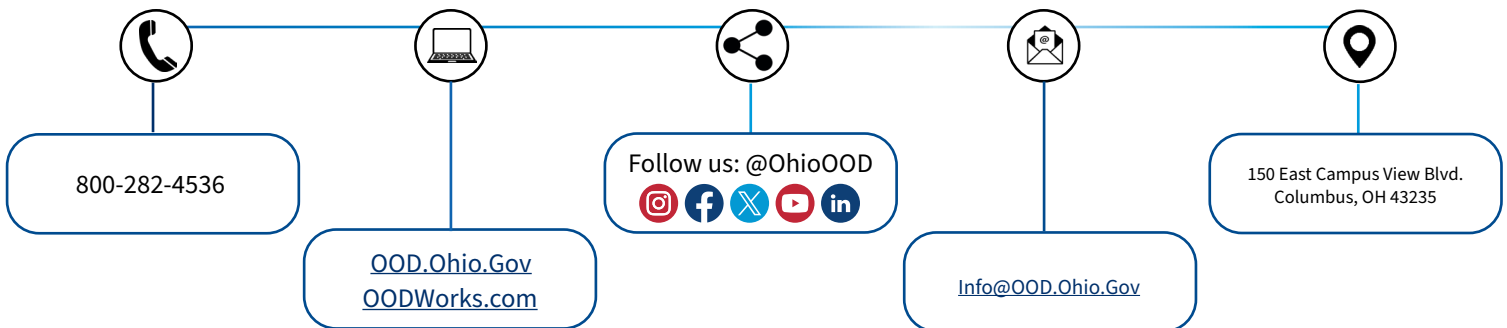
Performance Progress

Vocational Rehabilitation Program					
Metric	FFY 2021	FFY 2022	FFY 2023	FFY 2024	% Change (FFY 2023 to FFY 2024)
Applications	14,965	16,733	18,698	21,918	17.2%
Eligibility Decisions	13,904	15,831	17,885	20,795	16.3%
Average Days from Application to Eligibility Decision	23	23	21	22	4.8%
New Employment Plans	10,756	12,093	13,693	16,234	18.6%
Participants active during the reporting period (Eligible + Served)	34,193	34,235	36,898	42,342	14.8%
Total Closures with Employment Outcome	5,659	5,294	5,040	5,238	3.9%
Average Hours per Week	27.2	27.2	27.4	27.4	0.0%
Average Wage	\$12.79	\$14.44	\$15.70	\$16.61	5.7%

Disability Determination Program					
Metric	FFY 2021	FFY 2022	FFY 2023	FFY 2024	% Change (FFY 2023 to FFY 2024)
Disability Determinations	133,284	139,725	151,288	158,144	4.5%
Cost per Case	\$580.00	\$592.00	\$553.54	\$548.23	-1.0%
Days to Process Initial Determinations	111.0	100.0	109.2	102.5	-6.1%
Rate of Favorable Initial Determinations	36.9%	38.4%	37.8%	36.3%	-4.0%



Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities



Programs provided by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) are funded, in whole or in part, with federal grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program, including Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), OOD received 78.7% of its funding through the DOE VR grant. In Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024, OOD received \$166,384,030 in federal funds. Funds appropriated by the State covered 21.3% of the total costs, or \$45,031,510. Of these federal funds, \$24,957,605 is set aside for Pre-ETS. For purposes of the Works 4 Me program, OOD received 100% of its funding through the DOE Disability Innovation Fund grant. In FFY 2024, OOD received \$716,175 for this program. For purposes of the Supported Employment (SE) Program, the DOE SE grant funded 90% of the costs for the Supported Employment for Youth with a Disability Program up to the grant amount and 100% of the costs of regular Supported Employment program costs up to the grant amount. In FFY 2024, OOD received \$593,853 for SE Youth with a Disability, and State appropriated funds paid the remaining 10%, or \$65,984 of the total costs. In FFY 2024, OOD received \$593,853 in regular SE grant funds. For purposes of the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) Program, the federal grant received from DOE in FFY 2024 paid 90% of the total costs incurred under the program. In FFY 2024, OOD received \$1,166,389 in federal grant funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid the 10% required match, or \$129,599 of the total costs incurred under the OIB program. For purposes of the Independent Living (IL) Program, the federal grant received from HHS paid 90% of the total costs incurred in FFY 2024. In FFY 2024, OOD received \$646,297 in federal grant funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid the 10% required match, or \$71,811 of the total costs incurred under the IL Program.