Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities – Agency Overview

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired
Division of Disability Determination
Our Mission: To provide individuals with disabilities opportunities to achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes.
Vocational Rehabilitation Overview

• VR is for individuals with disabilities, who are age 14 and over
• The goal is to help individuals with disabilities to prepare for and get ready for work, find a job, and maintain employment
• State and Federally Funded through Rehab Act Dollars under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
• Every state has a VR program that follows federal laws and rules
• VR matches individuals with jobs that best meet their interests and abilities
Ohio’s VR Program is Carried Out by 2 Bureaus

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) for Ohioans with physical, cognitive, emotional, and mental disabilities

Virtual Rehabilitation (VR)

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) for Ohioans who are blind and visually impaired

Same VR program. The only difference is that BSVI specializes in eyesight.
BVR is all about assisting people with disabilities to:

• Make decisions about the type of job that is most suitable
• Prepare for that job
  • Get that job
  • Keep that job
Counselors Work with Participants to:

- Move through the process from intake to competitive employment
- Assist with decisions involved in this process
- Ensure needed services and supports are in place
- Collaborate or advocate
Vocational Rehabilitation Process

1. Application for Services
2. Eligibility & Order of Selection
3. Services
4. Closure
Referral Process

• Apply at [www.oodworks.com](http://www.oodworks.com)

• Walk-in: 4300 East Broad Street, Suite 200, Whitehall, OH 43213

• Call: 614-466-4575
Next Steps

• Counselor will complete intake interview with applicant
• A friend, family member, or advocate may accompany the individual to the interview
• Counselor will gather information for the eligibility process
Eligibility

- Applicant has a physical, cognitive and/or mental impairment; or receives SSI/SSDI

- Applicant’s physical, cognitive and/or mental impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment

- Applicant can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from the provision of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services

- Applicant requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment
Developing the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

- Counselor begins the Comprehensive Assessment process, which may include assessments and job experiences to help determine an employment goal.

- The IPE is developed once an employment goal and services are agreed upon.
Potential Types of Services

• Community rehabilitation providers (CRPs) assist in short-term work skills training, resume building, interview skills, job coaching
• Colleges, universities, technical schools and vocational schools provide training and placement assistance
• Provide adaptive equipment, as needed
Benefits

If there are questions about how working could impact a recipient’s SSI/SSDI benefits, a benefit’s analysis can be completed, or contact the following:

- The Social Security Administration [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or 1-800-772-1213
- Medicaid [www.medicaid.ohio.gov](http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov) or Ohio Consumer Medicaid Hotline - 1-800-324-8680
- Disability Benefits 101 [https://oh.db101.org/](https://oh.db101.org/)
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