Anyone can make a Referral

Anyone can refer a person to OOD – you can even refer yourself. Referrals often come from doctors, employers, schools, professional membership organizations, community health organizations, places of worship, peers and family members.

OOD serves all Ohio counties through offices located around the state. To refer someone who might benefit from our services, call one of these regional offices:

Northeast Region
14650 Detroit Ave., Suite 300
Lakewood, OH 44107-2160
866. 325. 0026

Northwest Region
5241 Southwyck Blvd., Suite 200
Toledo, OH 43614-1502
800. 589. 5811

Southeast Region
4300 E. Broad St., Suite 200
Whitehall, OH 43213-1243
800. 430. 6940

Southwest Region
895 Central Ave., 7th Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1961
800. 686. 3323

Visit our Web site:
www.ood.ohio.gov

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired

Local Regional Office Label

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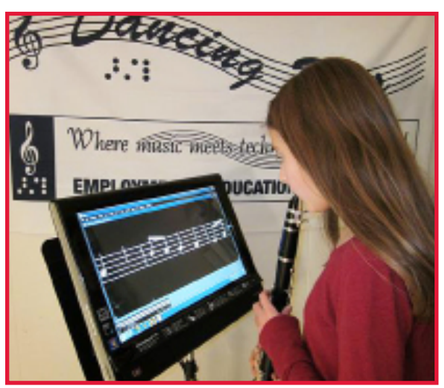
It's all about...

Employment

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES



Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired

www.ood.ohio.gov
800. 282. 4536

Our Commitment

As part of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) is committed to helping people with low vision and blindness succeed in the workforce. BSVI helps eligible individuals prepare for or retain careers consistent with their skills, interests and abilities.

Our services may include evaluation, vocational counseling, training, medical restoration or job placement assistance, as well as instruction in adapting to the work environment. BSVI staff can help eligible individuals obtain low vision aids such as special lenses or filters, magnification devices or computer technology.

Eligibility made Easy

A person doesn't have to be totally blind to qualify for services. If a doctor is unable to correct a person's vision completely, he or she may be eligible.

Vision loss can also progress over time. A person who may not have been eligible to receive BSVI services under a plan for employment, is always welcome to visit with a BSVI counselor to be re-assessed at a later date.

Eligibility is based on three factors:

- a visual impairment or blindness resulting in a substantial impediment to employment
- the person can benefit from services in terms of an employment outcome
- vocational rehabilitation services are necessary for the individual to prepare, secure, retain, or regain employment

The Journey to a Job

Once a person is eligible, he or she will work with a professional counselor. Counselors assist individuals in learning about the labor market and in assessing the job seeker's interests, skills, and abilities in order to develop a career goal and an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). This IPE outlines the steps to get or keep a job including what services OOD will provide to assist the individual. The IPE also specifies what the individual job seeker will do in order to reach the IPE career goal.

If the person is currently employed and needs assistance to retain a job, BSVI can help with job retention.

Assistive Technology

There are many types of assistive technology which can enable an individual with a visual impairment to get their job done. This may mean purchasing a commercially available product, modifying an existing product or designing a new customized product. BSVI staff can help identify the most appropriate assistive technology for an individual at their work site. Once obtained, training may be provided to learn to use the assistive technology effectively.

Our Services

- Work Assessment
- Mobility Training
- Medical Restoration
- Braille Instruction
- Guidance & Counseling
- Vocational Development
- Career Planning
- Interviewing Skills
- Job Training
- Job Placement
- Business Enterprise
- Assistive Technology
- Employer Assistance
- Follow-Up Support

Our Mission

... is to partner with individuals with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin/ancestry, disability, age (40 years or older), sexual orientation, gender or sex, veteran or military status, and/or genetic information or in any manner prohibited by law.

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities