

# It's all about... Employment

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS  
WITH DISABILITIES**



# BSVI

## Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired

[www.ood.ohio.gov](http://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.

Eligibility is based on three factors:

- a visual impairment or blindness results 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; and
- because vision loss can progress over time, a person who may not have have been eligible to receive BSVI services under a plan for employment is always welcome to visit with a BSVI counselor to be reassessed at a later date.



## The Journey to a Job

Once a person is eligible, he or she will work with a professional counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that will outline the steps required to get or keep a job. In developing an IPE, the counselor will present information about all the services available to reach the employment goal.

When the individual is ready for employment, the counselor and other BSVI staff will assist with their job search and placement.

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 someone 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 on 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 age, color, disability, genetic information, military status, veterans' status, national origin/ancestry, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

## 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., 2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43213-1243  
800. 430. 6940

### Southwest Region

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



**Ohio** | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

**Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**

