

Employer and Innovation Services

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the state agency that partners with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence and Social Security disability determination outcomes. It is accomplished through its Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) and Division of Disability Determination (DDD). A fourth area is the Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS), which is responsible for establishing and maintaining partnerships with employers.

Division of Employer and Innovation Services

The Division of Employer and Innovation Services works to raise awareness of OOD's mission with employer partners, to promote a talent pool of job-ready candidates, and to support businesses in the hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities. In addition, EIS is instrumental in the development and implementation of the agency's strategic plan to ensure that client and stakeholder expectations are met, while providing value to Ohio taxpayers through efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of services.

Workforce Development Resource

The EIS business relations team identifies job opportunities that match the skill sets and experience of OOD job-seekers, and provides services and resources to employers that promote an inclusive and diverse work environment. Business relations specialists (BRS) work directly with employer partners to identify job opportunities. BRSs coordinate with OOD vocational rehabilitation talent sourcing coordinators who match the skill sets and experience of a pool of job-ready candidates to those job opportunities and facilitate the hiring and placement of candidates with employers.

Resources and Benefits for Employers

Recognizing the essential need and demand for educational resources, OOD provides free on-site trainings to educate employers on the benefits of the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. These trainings include Disability Etiquette Training, which highlights best practices of effective communication and Windmills Training, which provides awareness of cultural diversity and biases towards people with disabilities.

OOD partners with employer groups, such as the Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN), that are committed to strengthening their business members through diversity and inclusion initiatives. In addition, OOD's business relations team connects employers with best practice resources for recruiting, hiring and retaining workers with disabilities.

Tax credits are also available for employers who hire individuals with disabilities. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program provides federal tax credits for Ohio employers who hire individuals from one of several target groups, including those served by OOD through the vocational rehabilitation program.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

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