

WEEKLY FOCUS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

April 3, 2015

The mission of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes.

Community Centers for the Deaf Partnership Meeting



Director Kevin Miller speaking at the Community Centers for the Deaf Partnership Meeting.

The Community Centers for the Deaf (CCD) held a partnership meeting on Wednesday here at OOD Central Office. The CCDs were joined by OOD and other partnership organizations to discuss the future of the Centers and how best to work together to serve even more Ohioans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

I was able to discuss last year's Workforce Integration Task Force as well as how we are working to develop a plan for implementing the Task Force's recommendations. I also shared with them the ongoing biennial budget process and OOD's priority budget items.

The Ohio School for the Deaf, the Ohio Association of the Deaf, Disability Rights Ohio, and the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council also had presentations. Leadership from

the CCDs and partnership organizations discussed the challenges of funding and service delivery as well as how diversified funding streams could help bring stability, for wider service accessibility in Ohio.

Although a great deal of work remains to be done, I am proud of the relationships and partnerships that have been developed between our agency and the CCDs over the last four years. Together we have opened up lines of communication, strengthened leadership, and increased collaboration.

It was good to see everyone coming together this week to focus on serving more Ohioans and doing so, even more effectively.

National Federation of the Blind's NFB-NEWSLINE

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) NFB-NEWSLINE makes it possible for individuals who are blind to gain access to the information in newspapers at the same time as their sighted colleagues, friends, and family members. NFB-NEWSLINE is an OOD paid service that offers anyone who cannot read print or maneuver physical pages, access to about 350 newspapers along with nearly 40 magazines with a focus on the Arts, Science, Health and Fitness, Pop Culture and National and International news. Also, this service is still expanding to include disability-specific resources in the future.

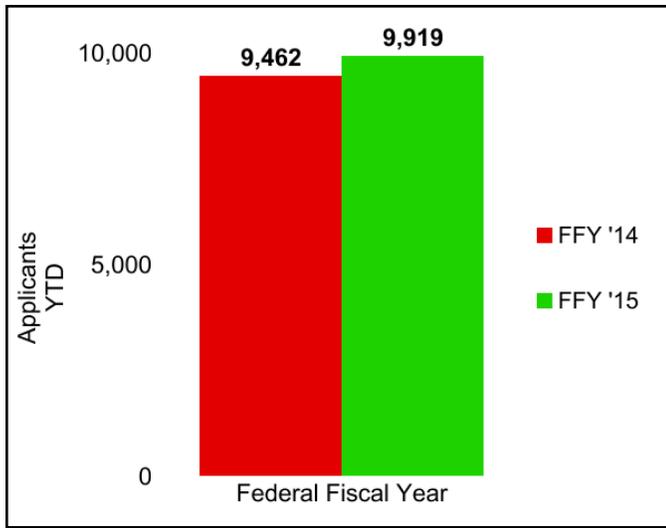
Currently NFB-NEWSLINE has over 3,100 readers in Ohio. The service is open to any reader with a print disability, which can be any disability that interferes with the effective reading of printed material. Readers may visit NFB-NEWSLINE's website at <https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service> to begin electronic registration, whereby counselors can authenticate an individual's disability for enrollment in the program.

Individuals interested in this service who are already qualified with National Library Services can be automatically enrolled as subscribers (register at <https://www.nfbnewsline.net/NI2/NL2NewUserReqInput.jsp>). After registration is processed, readers will receive a letter containing a personal activation code and instructions.

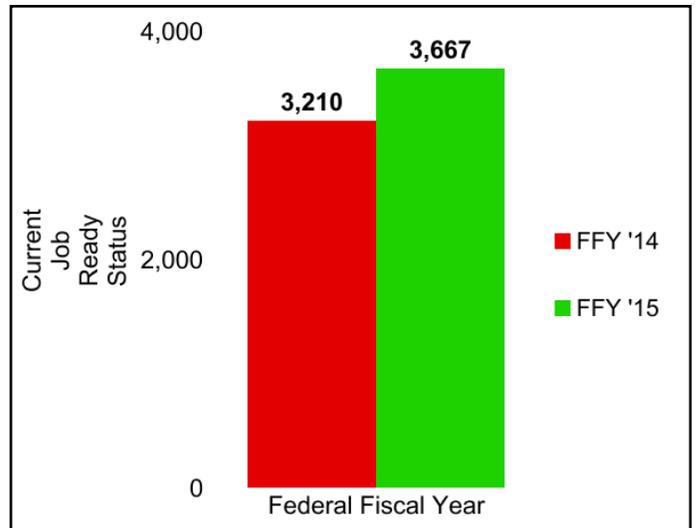
DID YOU KNOW?

Six months into FFY 15 Ohio's Combined VR program key indicators
(as compared to the same time last year):

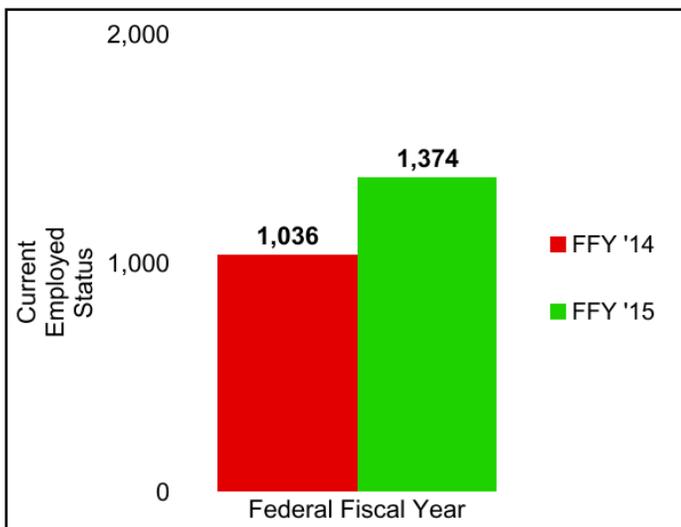
Applicants YTD - UP 4.8%



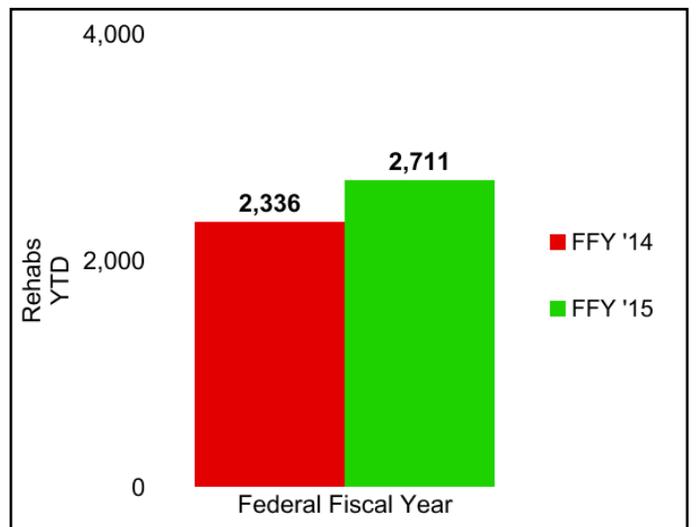
Current Job Ready Status - UP 14.2%



Current Employed Status - UP 32.6%



Rehabs YTD - UP 16.1%



Individuals in Job Ready Status by County



Total Statewide:
3,719

* Job Ready Status Individuals have received Vocational Rehabilitation services and are ready and seeking employment.

For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1474.

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