

Personal Care Assistance

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the state agency that empowers Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations, and independence. 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. OOD works with partners in businesses, education and non-profit organizations to facilitate customized employment plans for Ohioans with disabilities; helps Ohio companies recruit and retain employees with disabilities; and is the sole agency determining medical and vocational Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs in Ohio.

In order to maintain employment, look for employment, or participate in training for employment, some Ohioans with severe physical disabilities may require a personal care attendant/aide to assist them with activities of daily living (ADLs). ADLs may include, but not limited to: bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting, food preparation, feeding, turning, positioning, transferring, and/or assisting with ambulation. The PCA program provides reimbursement to eligible individuals for a percentage of the wages paid to their personal care assistant/aide.

Through the PCA program, many Ohioans have been able to find and maintain employment and have left institutions for the personal independence of their own homes or apartments.

Eligibility

To qualify for the Ohio PCA program a person must:

- Be 18 years of age or older,
- Be an Ohio resident and obtain services in Ohio,
- Have a severe physical disability,
- Not be receiving duplicate personal assistance services from other programs,
- Need no fewer than eight consecutive weeks of PCA and no more than 455 hours per quarter,
- Have adjusted income not exceeding 600% of the poverty level,
- Be capable of instructing and supervising a personal care assistant,
- Be living independently or through PCA be capable of living independently, and
- Agree to be subject to periodic evaluation of need for continuing PCA service.

Priority

Limited funds are made available to eligible individuals based on the following priorities:

- People who have a job and need a personal care assistant to keep the job,
- People who are actively seeking a job and need PCA to find and keep a job, or
- People in an approved job training program who need PCA to participate in training.

Additional Information

Program information may be found on the OOD website, www.ood.ohio.gov

- Personal Care Assistance
- Application and Financial Statement
- Forms for eligible individuals
- Contact information

Programs provided by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) are funded, in whole or in part, with federal grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program, including Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), OOD received 78.7% of its funding through the DOE VR grant. In Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019, OOD received \$99,548,657 in federal funds. Funds appropriated by the State covered 21.3 % of the total costs, or \$26,942,648. Of these federal funds, \$14,932,299 is set aside for Pre-ETS.

For purposes of the Supported Employment (SE) Program, the DOE SE grant funded 90% of the costs for the Supported Employment for Youth with a Disability Program up to the grant amount and 100% of the costs of regular Supported Employment program costs up to the grant amount. In FFY 2019, OOD received \$297,857 for SE Youth with a Disability and State appropriated funds paid a small amount more than the remaining 10% or \$33,192 of the total costs. In FFY 2019, OOD received \$297,857 in regular SE grant funds.

For purposes of the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) Program, the federal grant received from DOE in FFY 2019 paid 90% of the total costs incurred under the program. In FFY 2019, OOD received \$1,153,208 in federal grant funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid over the 10% required match or \$130,000 of the total costs incurred under the OIB program.

For purposes of the Independent Living (IL) Program, the federal grant received from HHS paid 90% of the total costs incurred in FFY 2019. In FFY 2019, OOD received funding of \$640,571. Funds appropriated by the State paid 10% or \$71,175 of the total costs incurred under the IL Program.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

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