Helping Ohioans with Disabilities Get a Job
OOD operates Ohio’s Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Through the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, the VR program provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities to assist them in getting and keeping a job. Disabilities may include physical, intellectual, mental health, or sensory disabilities. OOD works with adults seeking to enter the workforce or retain a job, and with youth beginning at age 14, to assist them as they transition from high school into college and/or the workplace.

Applying for Services
VR services are available in all 88 counties of Ohio. An individual who is interested in applying for VR services can begin the process online by visiting www.OODWorks.com. A self-assessment on this site helps an individual decide if VR services are the right fit. Individuals with disabilities can also contact any of OOD’s field offices (www.OOD.Ohio.Gov) to begin the process.

Career Counseling
Once eligibility is established, OOD’s VR counselors provide individualized career counseling to help eligible individuals with disabilities explore and prepare for employment options available in their community. These services are person-centered so that individuals with disabilities take part fully in the process, with VR counselors helping them navigate all of the possibilities. For individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), OOD can offer work incentives consultation services to understand the impact of employment on disability and other benefits.

Services
Career counseling results in a specific written plan called an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that outlines the individual’s job goal and the services needed to reach that goal. OOD closely monitors needed services purchased from providers in the community to make sure the individual’s needs are met. Services may include work experience, job training, job search assistance, assistive technology, and on-the-job supports. For information about approved providers, visit ProviderSearch.ood.ohio.gov.

Employment
OOD, along with its network of providers, works with employers to match individuals who are ready to work with available job openings. Once the individual is working successfully on the job for at least 90 days and is satisfied with the work, OOD will close the case. If the individual experiences difficulties on the job later, short-term services may be available to keep the job, or the individual can reapply for VR services.