

# Ohio Transition Support Partnership

**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.

## What is the Ohio Transition Support Partnership?

The partnership between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is designed to improve Post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. The model supports earlier engagement, beginning at age 14, in the vocational rehabilitation process. Students with disabilities gain skills to prepare for today's in-demand careers needed to achieve high quality employment outcomes.

## Ohio Transition Support Partnership Model

This partnership funds vocational rehabilitation counselors to work exclusively with students with disabilities. These counselors provide many benefits to our schools and students. This model:

- Increases presence in career-technical planning districts and local education agencies statewide.
- Increases participation of vocational rehabilitation counselors in Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings ensuring cross-agency planning and earlier career preparation.
- Improves collaboration between vocational rehabilitation staff, students with disabilities, their families, educators, and other local partners to provide: person-centered planning; vocational guidance and counseling; and employment services.
- Improves strategies to secure employment prior to graduation and, when needed, connects students with long-term supports to ensure success.
- Strengthens partnership between OOD staff and ODE's regional state support teams increasing statewide capacity to enhance transition services

## Criteria for Ohio Transition Support Partnership

The Ohio Transition Support Partnership increases capacity to serve students with disabilities ages 14-21, who receive services under an IEP, meet OOD eligibility criteria, and demonstrate a need for VR services.

## Types of Services

This model utilizes a person-centered, agency-neutral, and outcome-focused approach to comprehensive career planning that is based on established evidence-based predictors of success. It is designed to increase independence and career readiness. While a full range of VR services are available, service provision is based on data-driven decisions and is designed to meet students where they are on their unique path to employment.

Typical services may include:

- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Career exploration
- Paid work experiences
- Job placement
- Job coaching and/or job retention

### **Evidence-Based Predictors for Transition Youth \***

The Ohio Transition Support Partnership embraces several evidence-based predictors of post-school success, including:

- Students who have a job at exit are 5 times more likely to be engaged in postsecondary employment or education in the first year after graduation.
- Youth who participate in transition programs with 2 or more paid jobs during high school are more likely to be engaged in post-school employment or education.
- Students who receive services from 3 to 6 community-based agencies are more likely to be engaged in post-school employment or education.

\* The above information is from National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)

### **How Can I Learn More?**

For more information about the Ohio Transition Support Partnership and transition services please visit:

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities: <https://ood.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ood/individuals-with-disabilities/services/students-14-plusor>

Ohio Department of Education: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Secondary-Transition-and-Workforce-Development/Ohio-Transition-Support-Partnership>

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) 2020, OOD received \$103,332,949 in federal funds. Funds appropriated by the State covered 21.3 % of the total costs, or \$27,966,859. Of these federal funds, \$15,499,942 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 2020, OOD received \$369,584 for SE Youth with a Disability, and State appropriated funds paid the remaining 10%, or \$41,065 of the total costs. In FFY 2020, OOD received \$369,584 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 2020 paid 90% of the total costs incurred under the program. In FFY 2020, OOD received \$1,148,413 in federal grant funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid over the 10% required match, or \$127,601 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 2020. In FFY 2020, OOD received \$641,721 in federal grant funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid over the 10% of the match required or \$71,302 of the total costs incurred under the IL Program.

#### **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities**

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