



Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

John R. Kasich
Governor
Kevin L. Miller
Executive Director

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Division of Disability Determination

Thank you for being part of the Ohio Direct Referral Demonstration run by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). OOD is the agency that houses both the Division of Disability Determination (DDD) and the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR).

SSA and OOD asked you to join the demonstration because SSA is reviewing your disability record. This is either because you applied for benefits, or because SSA must decide if your SSI benefits can continue under the adult rules for disability. The adult rules for disability are different from the rules for people under age 18. SSA calls this review an SSI Age 18 redetermination.

This demonstration has two groups of participants. One group is the usual services group, or “control” group. Nothing changes for people in the usual services group. The other group is the program services group, or “test” group, because the group will test something new. DDD will pick who goes into which group randomly. You are in the program services group. We are referring people in the program services group to BVR for employment services. BVR will contact you and help you with the BVR application process, but you will only get BVR services if you apply and BVR decides you are eligible.

WHAT IS BVR?

BVR is a part of OOD and helps people with disabilities get and keep employment. Once BVR decides that a person can receive services, a BVR counselor works with that person to set an employment goal. The counselor also helps create a plan, called an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE outlines the job services and training that BVR will offer.

A staff person from BVR should contact you within the next five days. That person will help you make an appointment to apply for vocational rehabilitation services in your local area. If you don't want to wait for that call, you may go to OODWORKS.com. On that website, you can find the number to your local office or complete an application. If you call 1-800-282-4536 you can also learn more about BVR or get the number to your local office.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

During the application process, you will work with BVR staff. Someone from BVR will ask for proof of your disability. They will ask you to talk about how your disability affects your ability to work. You can bring family, friends, case managers, or others with you. They are welcome, and may be helpful.

Please bring any of the following records you have with you to your appointment:

- School Records or Reports;
- Medical Records;
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of your doctors and others you have seen to treat your disability;
- Any records you have, like vision or hearing tests, records from your mental health provider, or other records about your disability.

Please also be sure to bring the following information to help us with your application:

- State Driver's License or ID;
- Social Security card;
- Social Security Award Letter (SSI and/or SSDI) if you are receiving benefits.



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If you do not have any records or reports to bring with you, you will need to bring the names and contact information of any doctors, counselors, or other professionals who we may need to contact to ask for information.

We try to make our decision about your eligibility for BVR services within 30 days of meeting with you. Your help getting records, giving us up-to-date contact information, and coming to all appointments will help us make a faster decision.

SSA and OOD retain the right to remove any participants from the Ohio Direct Referral Demonstration for any reason, including participant misconduct.

CONTINUING YOUR SSI EVEN IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE DISABILITY RULES FOR AN ADULT

SSA and OOD asked you to join this demonstration because you have applied for benefits or you are undergoing a review to see if you meet the adult definition of disability. If SSA finds that you do not meet the disability rules for adults, you may be able to continue to receive benefits. SSA calls this rule "Section 301: Continued Payment under Vocational Rehabilitation." To qualify for continued payments under Section 301:

- You must have begun participating in a vocational rehabilitation program, using an IPE, before the month your disability ended; and
- SSA must review your plan and decide that it will make you likely to work at a level that would keep you from returning to benefits.

Under Section 301, your benefits may continue until:

- You complete your program; or
- You stop following the program; or
- SSA decides that your program would not lead to work that would keep you from returning to benefits.

Thank you,

Darin McCoy
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Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation