



## Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Mike DeWine  
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 the test group, because the group will test a change in SSA's program. DDD will pick who goes into which group randomly.

You are in the usual services group. That means SSA and OOD will not contact you again about this demonstration.

SSA and OOD encourage you to contact BVR if you are interested in working. To do this, you may go to [OODWORKS.com](http://OODWORKS.com). On that website, you can find the number to your local office or complete an application for vocational rehabilitation services. If you prefer calling, use 1-800-282-4536. You can learn more about services or get the number to your local office. Once you apply, BVR will decide if you are eligible for their services.

### KEEPING YOUR SSI EVEN IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE DISABILITY RULES AS 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 Individualized Plan for Employment (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
- Social Security decides that your program would not lead to work that would keep you from returning to benefits.

Thank you,

Brian Baumgartner  
Assistant Deputy Director  
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Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation