



November 19, 2025

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Commissioner Christopher Pope  
Rehabilitation Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Governor DeWine and Commissioner Pope:

It is a pleasure to write to you in what has been a very eventful year for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the people they support. On behalf of the (OOD) Council, I would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to work with OOD's Director, Kevin L. Miller and his outstanding team

### **Operating Budget**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's operating budget reinforces his commitment to making Ohio a Disability Inclusion State and Model Employer of Individuals with Disabilities. This investment continues to have a positive impact on the lives of Ohioans with disabilities, helping them secure and maintain meaningful employment and advance toward greater independence.

### **Increased Enrollment**

OOD continues to experience the positive impact of the increased budget for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, OOD served a total of 46,064 individuals, marking a significant increase in service delivery. This includes:

- 43,481 individuals served through the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
- 2,583 individuals served through the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI)

This represents an increase of 3,722 individuals compared to the previous FFY year.

The OOD Council is encouraged by this continued growth, which reflects expanded access and opportunity for Ohioans with disabilities.

### **Ohio College2Careers (Ohio C2C)**

The biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 expanded the Ohio College2Careers (Ohio C2C) program, ensuring that students of all ages with disabilities receive the support they need to complete degrees, attain credentials, earn higher wages, and meet the demands of tomorrow's workforce.

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Additional funding for this biennium enabled an increase from 16 to 32 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRCs), who are present at over 60 Ohio public colleges and universities and at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In SFY25, the total number of students participating in Ohio C2C increased by 12% to 2,407. Also, this year, OOD Education Support Funds (ESF), which are additional dollars above and beyond what participants typically receive after a financial needs assessment, increased support for educational related expenses (e.g., tuition, books) from \$4,715,195 to \$ 4,869,460.

### **VR Policy Review and Modifications**

The OOD Council provided input on Vocational Rehabilitation policies throughout the year, including Vocational Rehabilitation Application and Intake, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Residency and Immigration, Rehabilitation Technology, Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) Development, Eligibility and Order of Selection, and Self-Employment. In addition, input was provided regarding updates and changes to several Administrative Rules, including Third-Party payments, Qualifications and standards for service providers and vendors, Qualifications for personal assistance service suppliers (new rule), Restoration, and Closure.

### **Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA)**

Every three years, OOD conducts a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment to evaluate the vocational rehabilitation service needs of Ohioans with disabilities across five primary categories: Blindness and Low Vision, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Physical Disabilities, Psychosocial Disabilities, and Cognitive Disabilities. The OOD Council provided critical input into the 2024 CSNA, especially in developing survey questions to assess provider capacity to meet demand. The resulting data informed several strategic recommendations that will guide future planning efforts.

### **WIOA Combined State Plan**

The Council provided input on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services portion of the 2-year modification to the WIOA Combined State Plan. This Council continues to support OOD and its plans for increased outreach and expansion of the program, employer engagement, informed choice of providers, and a focus on credential attainment and higher earnings.

### **Accessible Ohio**

Since its launch in July 2023, [Accessible Ohio](#), a statewide program led by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), continues to advance Governor DeWine's vision of a more accessible and inclusive state. The program assists businesses, communities, and attractions in identifying and achieving accessibility goals that enable all Ohioans to fully participate in work and community life.

At the 2025 Ohio State Fair, the program provided \$10 electronic scooter rental discount coupons to individuals with mobility limitations. The second annual Accessible Ohio Conference and Expo, held August 14, 2025, at The Ohio State University's Fawcett Center, brought together over 350 participants, including attendees, panelists, vendors, and accessibility advocates. The event featured 20 breakout sessions, an opening keynote delivered by Sam Sepah titled "Innovating for Access," a panel on Accessibility in Ohio's

Professional Sports Venues, and an Accessibility Showcase with more than 40 exhibitors offering products and services that promote inclusion.

**Mobile Services Unit**

The Council commends the accomplishments of OOD's Mobile Services Unit (MSU), which has now completed its first full year of service. Since launch, the MSU has participated in 96 community events, delivering 366 direct services across 34 Ohio counties—including more than 20 recent vision screenings.

These efforts were made possible through partnerships with organizations such as STABLE, Prevent Blindness Ohio, Ohio State Healthy Community Center, and numerous county boards of developmental disabilities. As it enters its second year, the MSU continues to expand its reach, bringing services directly to communities across the state.

In addition to the important work listed above, the Council is also proud to celebrate the following accomplishments:

- Participant Focus Group Surveys were coordinated to review services to Older Ohioans, including Independent Living Older Blind, In-House Job Development, Ohio C2C, Postsecondary Students, and Individuals with Physical Disabilities
- Provided input that resulted in positive changes to Customer Satisfaction Service Surveys
- Reviewed and updated OOD Council bylaws, in consultation with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, to enable virtual participation in Council meetings.

The OOD Council commends OOD for its ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, operational efficiency, and statewide collaboration. Together, these efforts ensure that Ohioans with disabilities have the opportunity to live, learn, and work as fully engaged members of their communities.

We are proud to submit this letter, highlighting the Council's work and accomplishments in partnership with OOD during Federal Fiscal Year 2025, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Moore

Chair, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council

CC: OOD Council Members  
 OOD Director Kevin Miller

