

# HOPE BUILDERS

*Elevating Dreams,  
Transforming Realities*

Friday, April 4, 2025  
Columbus, Ohio





# Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Vocational Rehabilitation: R.A.I.S.E.  
(Road to Achieving Independence, Skills, and Earnings)

Presenters:  
Jessica Folsom & Jan Mader

# Objectives

Learn ways that OOD is supporting youth with disabilities to:

- Learn about career pathways
- Increase earnings and
- Achieve independence

Accomplished by service expansion, staff development, and more.

# Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities  
(OOD)

BSVI  
Bureau of  
Services for the  
Visually Impaired

BVR  
Bureau of  
Vocational  
Rehabilitation

EIS  
Division of  
Employer and  
Innovation  
Services

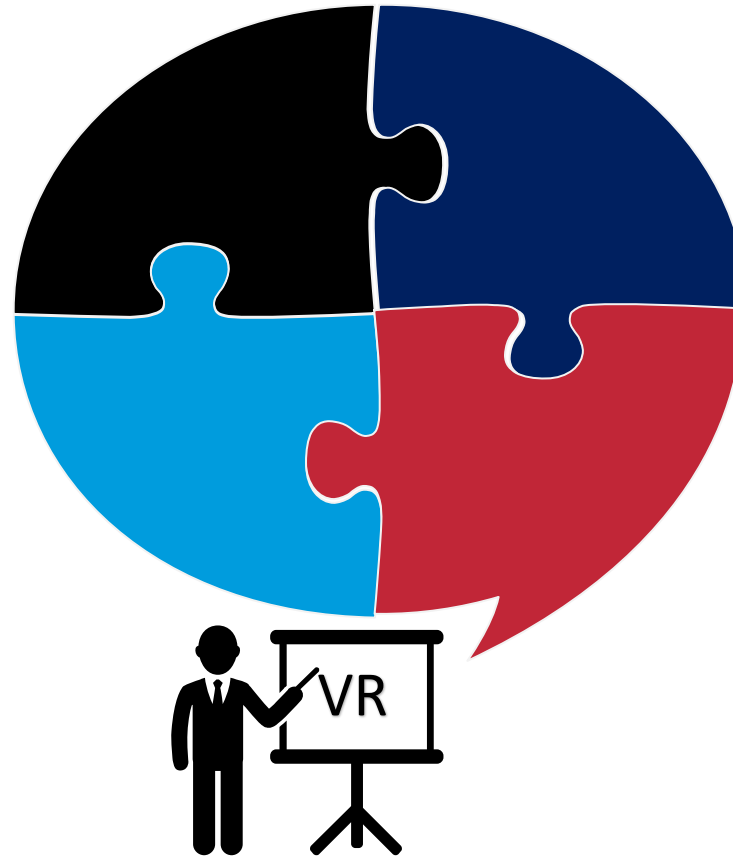
DPP  
Division of  
Policy and  
Partnerships

DDD  
Division of  
Disability  
Determination

# What is Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)?

**State and Federally Funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

**The goal is to help individuals with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.**



**Every state has a VR program that follows federal laws and rules.**

**VR is for individuals with disabilities, including youth and students.**

# OOD Support for Youth with Disabilities






# Identify Career Pathways



# Research: Predictors of Postschool Success for Students with Disabilities

- Career Awareness
- Career Technical Education
- Occupational Courses
- Paid Employment/Work Experience
- Work Study/Work-based Learning



Predictors/Outcomes	Education	Employment	Independent Living
• Career Awareness	Promising	Promising	
• Career Technical Education (was Vocational Education)	Research-based	Evidence-based	
• Community Experiences		Promising	
• Exit Exam Requirements/High School Diploma Status		Promising	



Predictors/Outcomes	Education	Employment	Independent Living
• Career Awareness	Promising	Promising	
• Career Technical Education (was Vocational Education)	Research-based	Evidence-based	
• Community Experiences		Promising	
• Exit Exam Requirements/High School Diploma Status		Promising	
• Goal-Setting	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Inclusion in General Education	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Interagency Collaboration	Promising	Promising	
• Occupational Courses	Promising	Promising	
• Paid Employment/Work Experience	Research-based	Research-based	Promising
• Parent Expectations	Promising	Research-based	
• Parental Involvement		Promising	
• Program of Study	Research-based	Research-based	
• Psychological Empowerment (new)	Promising	Promising	Promising
• Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination	Research-based	Research-based	Promising
• Self-Care/Independent Living	Promising	Promising	Research-based
• Self-Realization (new)		Promising	Promising
• Social Skills	Promising	Promising	
• Student Support	Promising	Research-based	Promising
• Technology Skills (new)		Promising	
• Transition Program	Research-based	Promising	
• Travel Skills		Promising	
• Work Study		Research-based	
• Youth Autonomy/Decision-Making	Research-based	Research-based	Promising

## NTACT - Predictors of Post School Success



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**

# Paid Work Experiences

- Summer Youth Work Experience
- Larger investment in Non-Permanent Job Search Assistance
- Internships and Apprenticeships



# Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Subcategories – Feb 5



Instruction in Self Advocacy



Job Exploration Counseling



Work Based Learning



Workplace Readiness Training



Counseling on Postsecondary Opportunities



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**

# Pre-ETS Curriculum

- Investment in students
- More providers; more students served
- Employment First website





# Resources for Exploring Career Pathways



# Tools for Guidance and Counseling



[OhioMeansJobs](#)



[OOD Career Pathways Toolkit](#)



[Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation - Find Your Career Pathway](#)

# Ohio Means Jobs



OhioMeansJobs.com

[For Job Seekers](#) [For Employers](#) [For Students](#) [News & Events](#)



Live Chat



Site Search

[Log In/Sign Up](#)

[OMJ \(OhioMeansJobs\)](#) / [For Job Seekers](#) / [OCN](#) / [Ohio Career Navigator](#)

## Find your future

Get personalized resources to help you reach your goals. It only takes a few minutes.

[Take Survey →](#)

☒ Have you already taken the survey? [Click here to see your previous results.](#)



[Ohio Career Navigator](#)

### How does the Career Navigator survey work?

Our intuitive platform uses four simple steps to guide you toward career success.



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**



# OOD Career Pathways Toolkit



INFORMATION FOR  
**INDIVIDUALS**

INFORMATION FOR  
**PROVIDERS**

INFORMATION FOR  
**EMPLOYERS**

ACCESSIBLE  
**OHIO**

INFORMATION  
**ABOUT US**

Contact Us

Search

OOD / Information for Individuals / Career Pathways / Career Pathways Toolkit



## Career Pathways

### CAREER PATHS

PROFESSIONAL  
COMMUNICATION

FINANCIAL BASICS

SELF-ADVOCACY

CAREER CLUSTERS

HEALTH SCIENCE

HUMAN SERVICES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Career Pathways Toolkit

*Discover careers and learn what it takes to start a career in an in-demand field.*

The Career Pathways Toolkit is designed to help you discover careers, develop the knowledge and skills to start a career in an in-demand field, learn about typical career paths, and get on the way to career advancement.

The toolkit includes typical job duties and wages, credentials needed to get a job, where and how to get started in training, and additional support you may need while working toward a degree, certification, or other credential. You can also see which OOD Employer Partners are currently hiring qualified candidates.



### Career Paths

Learn about the potential career paths of high-demand, well-paying jobs in Ohio.



### Professional Communication

Communicating professionally with supervisors, co-workers, and customers supports career advancement.



### Financial Basics

Learn about budgeting, banking, credit scores, and resources to understand how work may impact your public benefits.



### Self-Advocacy

Discover how to advocate for yourself, represent your interests, and influence decisions that impact you.



## Career Pathways Toolkit



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**



# Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation – Find Your Career Pathway



[ABOUT](#) [INITIATIVES](#) [NEWS](#) [CONTACT](#)

[Help](#)

[Search](#)

## FIND YOUR Career Pathway RESOURCE

[Find Your Career Pathway](#)

[Workforce Transformation](#) / [Initiatives](#) / [Initiatives](#) / [Career Pathways Resource](#)

### Career Pathways Resource

#### CAREER PATHWAYS RESOURCE

[PRE-APPRENTICESHIP](#)

[INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED  
CREDENTIALS](#)

### Career Pathways Resource

The “Find Your Career Pathway” video and toolkit aim to guide students in their educational journey to land a successful career right here in Ohio.

Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, has created this resource that provides information for students, parents, and teachers about the different career pathways available to Ohio students.

The “Find Your Career Pathway” resource encourages Ohio students, parents, and schools to start conversations earlier about the best pathway to a successful career in Ohio.



Find Your Career Pathway!



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**

# Increase Independence



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**

# MIT Living Wage Calculator

## Living Wage Calculation for Franklin County, Ohio

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an **individual** in a household must earn to support themselves and/or their family, working full-time, or 2080 hours per year. The tables below provide living wage estimates for individuals and households with one or two working adults and zero to three children. In households with two working adults, all hourly values reflect what one working adult requires to earn to meet their families' basic needs, assuming the other adult also earns the same.

The poverty wage and state minimum wage are for reference purposes. Poverty wage estimates come from the Department of Health and Human Services' [Poverty Guidelines](#) for 2024 and have been converted from an annual value to an hourly wage for ease of comparison. The state minimum wage data is sourced from the [Labor Law Center](#) and includes the minimum wage in a given state as of January of that year.

For further detail, please reference the [Methodology](#) page. The data on this page was last updated on February 14, 2024.

	1 ADULT				2 ADULTS (1 WORKING)				2 ADULTS (BOTH WORKING)		
	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children
Living Wage	\$20.76	\$37.61	\$48.35	\$60.51	\$28.97	\$34.48	\$39.03	\$40.81	\$14.45	\$21.02	\$26.67
Poverty Wage	\$7.24	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$15.00	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$15.00	\$17.59	\$4.91	\$6.21	\$7.50
Minimum Wage	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45	\$10.45

[MIT Living Wage Calculator](#)



Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities

# Benefits of Higher Wages

## Economic

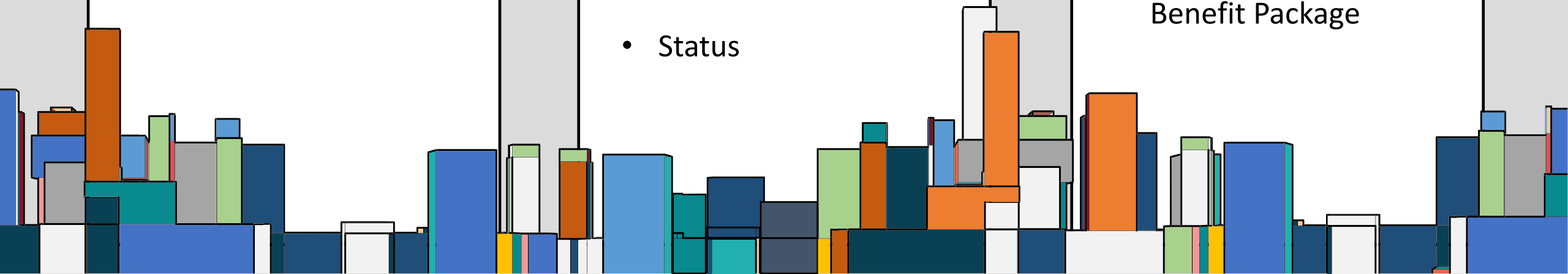
- More funds = more choices
- More money to do the things you enjoy

## Emotional

- Positive identity and improved self-worth
- Correlated to less stress
- Status

## Health & Wellness

- Correlated to better health for individual and family members
- Increased Employee Benefit Package





# Work Incentive Planning



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**

# Ohio Disability Benefits 101

## Disability Benefits 101

Ohio

Home | My DB101 | Glossary

Search

### My Benefits and Work

Understand the programs that help you. See how work can help.

#### What Benefits Do I Get?

See how to find out which Social Security and state benefits you get.

[→](#)

#### Supplemental Security Income (SSI)


SSI helps people with disabilities and seniors who have low income and resources.

[→](#)


#### Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

SSDI helps people with disabilities who worked and paid Social Security taxes.


[→](#)



[Ohio DB101](#)



Get Help ?



Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities

# Transportation

## Ways to Support Transportation



# Other Services to Support Independence

Supported Employment

Bridge Support Services

Life Skills Training





# Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Accessible Ohio

Prioritize  
accessibility

Promote  
inclusion

Ensure equitable  
access



Consultations



Training &  
Education



Online Tools &  
Guides



Planning &  
Awareness



Navigation



Experience



Personal Care

# Maximize Earnings



# Different Types of Postsecondary Training

2 Year School

4 Year School

Occupational/Vocational Training

Apprenticeship/Internship

# Connecting Disability/Accessibility with Careers





# No-Cost Services to Employers



---

Candidate Sourcing

---

On the Job and Retention Supports

---

Disability Etiquette and Awareness Training

---

Job Fairs and Hiring Events

---

Tax Credits and Other Resources

---

Workplace Accessibility Services

---

Inclusive Internships

---

Inclusive Employer Toolkit

**A wide variety of  
apprenticeship  
opportunities, such as:**

- HR
- IT
- Fiscal
- Communications
- Customer Service
- Administrative Professional
- Laboratory Tech

Expansion of program to  
Ohio General Assembly and  
statewide elected officials  
through Ohio Developmental  
Disabilities Council grant



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with Disabilities**

Ohio Vocational Apprentice Program

- Launched Fall 2019 to support Governor DeWine's Executive Order
- OOD funds wages up to \$16.50 per hour, 25 hours per week, for a maximum of 1,000 hours
- Goal is permanent employment in state government upon completion

# R.A.I.S.E throughout OOD



# Partnerships





# Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP)

- Common message to educators and OOD staff
- Professional development opportunities
- Supports VR Counselors attending IEP meetings
- Funds additional Counselors across the state dedicated to serving high school students



# Ohio College2Careers Overview and Expansion



- Support to earn a degree and/or credential
- Earn higher wages
- Meet the demands of tomorrow's labor market
- Partnering with all public colleges and universities
- Assisting students with navigating supports on campus

# Staff Development





# Connect With OOD

- OODWorks.com
  - Individuals can refer themselves
  - **NEW! Professionals can submit referrals for multiple clients in a single login**
- Sign up for our newsletter
  - Visit OOD.Ohio.Gov & the option to sign up is on the bottom of the page
- Follow us on social media (Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram)
  - @OhioOOD
  - @OhioC2C
- Subscribe to “OOD Works” podcast wherever you listen



# Contact Us

## **Jessica Folsom**

Transition and Pre-Employment Transition  
Services Program Administrator

Division of Policy and Partnerships

[Jessica.Folsom@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Jessica.Folsom@ood.ohio.gov)

614.867.0596 (mobile)

## **Janice Mader**

Postsecondary and Ohio College2Careers  
Program Administrator

Division of Policy and Partnerships

[Janice.Mader@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Janice.Mader@ood.ohio.gov)

614.357.0763 (mobile)

# Questions





PASSIONATE. CONNECTED. ACCESSIBLE.



Department of  
Education &  
Workforce



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
CENTER ON EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION



cete-parentmentor@osu.edu



parentmentor.osu.edu



ParentMentorsOh

Share your experience and learning today on  
social media using the hashtags

**#ParentMentorsRock #OPMConf2025**