

Transition to Employment Agency Assistance and Support

Agency Table



Realizing Employment First for Youth

Transition to Employment: Agency Assistance and Support

Many youth with disabilities will continue to need support after they leave high school to find a job, to live on their own and to take part in activities and services in their community.

Some youth will be eligible for services from various types of agencies. Short term and/or ongoing supports that are available vary for agency to agency and are dependent on the youth meeting eligibility requirements to receive service for any specific agency.

Becoming eligible for services from an adult serving agency is determined based on a different standard of disability than that used by schools.

Youth and their families can use the information in this document to explore the agencies listed. The youth's transition team can contact agencies of interest to ask further questions about the eligibility process and invite agency representatives to meetings.

Make connections with agencies while youth are still in school. This gives the transition team time to explore options and provide needed experiences and instruction that will prepare the youth to achieve desire life goals. Agency representatives can get to know the youth and the types of supports and services they might need, as well as advise about the potential for eligibility for various agencies. This document was created as a resource to provide some basic information about key agencies to explore. This document contains:

- A list and description of the types of information that agencies often request. Families may wish to talk to team members about this information to help them to understand how to prepare applications and interviews.
- An overview of 5 key agencies that describes eligibility requirement, intake procedures and possible services
- Contact information for each agency at the state/national level
- Space to add local contact information for each agency
- A space for families/teams to type in the information often requested by agencies, so it is readily available

Transition to Employment: Agency Assistance and Support

Youth, families, and transition teams should explore a variety of partner agencies to determine which agencies can offer support, services, and resources that will assist to move the youth along the path to employment. In most cases the agencies that can offer a youth service or resources will be determined by the agencies' eligibility criteria, available services, and the youth's adult life goals.

The types of criteria that are often considered by agencies include:

- **Age:** Services may only be available to youth that are a certain age. Some require youth be age 14 or older. Some require age 18 or older.
- **Disability:** Some agencies require a formal diagnosis of a disability AND that the identified disability be one that the agency is able to serve
- **Challenges and Limitations:** Agency may require documentation of challenges caused by the disability and how those challenges impact the youth's ability to learn, work, be safe, care for personal needs, and/or participate in daily life.
- **Level of Need:** Agencies may have limited resources and will prioritize those individuals considered to have the greatest need to receive support and service before those whose needs are determined to be less critical
- **Type of Need:** The type of service needed by a youth may only be available through certain agencies or providers
- **Financial:** Some resources are only available to people with limited income. In some cases, a youth may not be eligible for resources or supports because their or their family's income is above the allowed limit.
- **Availability:** Some services or resources may be limited and require individuals to be placed on waiting lists for specific services/resources
- **Residence:** Agency service providers may only serve specific geographic areas of the state
- **Youth Goals:** The youth's outcome or adult goal can help determine which agency should provide services or if an agency should provide a service. When contacting agencies, it is most important to have goals and outcomes that drive a request for service.

As youth, families, and teams begin to explore agencies it is important to keep these criteria in mind in order to be prepared to provide the needed information. The information in the table below may assist in the initial discussions and questions regarding agency eligibility and extent of service.

Agency Overview: Eligibility

| Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) (BVR and BSVI) | Social Security Administration (SSA) | Ohio Department of Medicaid | Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Who is Eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals of any age that have a developmental disability/delay that results in functional limitations may be eligible for support through DODD. This means the disability occurs/is documented before age 22. “Functional limitations” refers to the ability to play, work, learn, etc. Eligibility is determined by use of COEDI and OEDI assessment tools. (Those under age 3 are determined eligible using other documentation.) The needed level of support is also determined individually through the use of a variety of assessment tools and information. DODD administers three Home and Community Based Medicaid Waivers that provide funding for services beyond basic Medicaid coverage. These are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level One Waiver Individual Options (IO) Waiver SELF (Self-Empowered-Life-Funding) Waiver Individuals must be eligible for both Medicaid and DODD services to obtain one of these waivers | <p>Who is Eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition age students (age 14 and older) and adults with disabilities that wish to work in the community may be eligible for service and support through OOD. Eligibility Requirements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person has a visual, physical or mental disability that interferes with the ability to work The person is able to benefit from the services OOD provides The person requires vocational services in order to get or keep a job OOD utilizes an Order of Selection principle when determining who receives services. At times there have been waiting lists for services, however, OOD is committed to eliminating waitlists in order to provide services to all eligible persons after eligibility has been determined. | <p>Who is Eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) is a financial support that may be available to people who cannot work because they have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death. SSI (Supplemental Security Income) is financial support for individuals with low income, few resources, and are elderly or disabled. Individuals of all ages are can be eligible to receive SSI. In general, the individual must have a <u>disability</u> that results in significant functional limitations and (if over age 18) a disability that <u>prevents sufficient employment</u> to provide for living expenses (referred to as Substantial Gainful Activity or SGA). This means there is both a “disability” criteria and a “financial” criteria. The 2015 monthly SGA amount (The amount a person can earn) for blind individuals for 2015 is \$1820. For non-blind individuals, the monthly SGA is \$1090. For those under 18, the family income is considered when determining eligibility. | <p>Who is Eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio Department of Medicaid provides many programs for different populations, including individuals with disabilities. Medicaid health care programs are one of the most important for individuals with disabilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicaid: Provides eligible individuals with disabilities health care coverage (primary, acute, and long-term care) Medicaid Buy In for Workers with Disabilities (MBI): Provides health care coverage to working Ohioans with disabilities whose income may exceed established limits set for Medicaid eligibility. Individuals pay monthly premiums. Eligibility criteria includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional limitations (Social Security Administration criteria) Be a US citizen Have a social security number Financial eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial guidelines are impacted by individual circumstances and information. A quick check with this calculator will help you know if you may be eligible. Medicaid Calculator: https://benefits.ohio.gov/ Medicaid Buy-In 2015: Have an annual income less than or equal to \$29,184 (or, 250% of the federal poverty level)*Must have less than \$11,281 in resources | <p>Who is Eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODMHAS funds, reviews and monitors community mental health programs with the assistance of 58 community boards. These boards oversee both mental health and addiction services but do not directly provide services. Instead they contract for services through private organizations and public psychiatric hospitals. These local systems of care contract with more than 400 local agencies to provide a network of community care and support. Children, youth, and adults with a mental health diagnosis, a suspected diagnosis, or who are at risk of mental health challenges may be eligible to receive services or intervention from a community mental health provider. The specific program design, the types of service provided, and the funding sources determine eligibility for services. Types of funding sources for ODMHAS programs include Medicaid, Federal Block Grants, State General Revenue Funds and locally generated dollars (local levies). |

Agency Overview: Services

Agencies may provide a wide range of service that can assist youth as they transition to adult life. The type of service, intensity of service, and availability of service may be different for different people

| Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) (BVR and BSVI) | Social Security Administration (SSA) | Ohio Department of Medicaid | Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>What are possible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are provided through the local County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD) where the individual lives • Services can provide support for employment, learning, leisure, and living needs • Services may include: case management/ coordination of services, therapies, transportation, respite, behavior support, vocational services (job development, job training, job coaching), sheltered workshops, adult day activities, and residential supports • Children under age three are served through “Help Me Grow” in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention Services (BEIS). • Medicaid, Local County levy dollars, and State General Revenue funds are the primary funding sources. • Services may come directly from the local CBDD or through a contracted private service provider and can vary from county to county. | <p>What are possible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services from OOD must be focused on an employment outcome. Consumers and VR counselors work together in identifying an appropriate employment goal. • Services may include assistance to attend an educational program, vocational evaluation or assessment, personal and work adjustment training, vocational training, therapies, job development, job placement, equipment, adaptive technology, counseling and/or a VR Counselor or Coordinator to help organize and guide an employment plan. • Services (other than vocational guidance and counseling and the coordination of VR services) are generally authorized to outside vendors rather than provided directly by OOD employees. • OOD frequently works in partnerships with other agencies to provide services and service programs for identified groups of people • Previously known as Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission | <p>What are possible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSI includes a monthly financial allocation that may be as much as \$733/month. • Those on SSDI will eventually receive Medicare coverage. • “Work incentive” programs are also important options offered by SSA to allow individuals to work and maintain their benefits. • SSA works with employment networks to provide incentives to employ individuals with disabilities through the Ticket to Work program. • SSA supports benefits counseling through Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Agencies to help individuals understand the programs. • Navigating SSA can be complex, but the many programs offered by SSA can provide important support. | <p>What are possible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid provides health care coverage for those that meet financial eligibility (those unable to work) and for those that are disabled, working and still need to buy into the Medicaid program to maintain their health coverage. • Medicaid also has a program of “Home and Community Based Waivers” that allow for extended support services, beyond the basic Medicaid. • For people with developmental disabilities, these are administered by DODD and are limited. • Medicaid dollars are frequently the funding source for many programs and services provided by other agencies such as DODD, OOD and ODMHAS. Therefore, Medicaid is a priority “service support” for individuals with disabilities to pursue early in the planning process of adult life. | <p>What are possible services:</p> <p><u>Early Childhood:</u> Services target young children and families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation to early childhood programs, (mentoring, coaching and classroom observation) • Training and educational sessions, • Work with parents/families to enhance their ability to create strong, nurturing environments and relationships <p><u>Hospital services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODMH operates regional psychiatric hospitals in six locations across the state • Expert services built on evidence-based best practices are provided in both an inpatient and community-supported environment <p><u>Coordinating Centers of Excellence</u> ODMH operates seven Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOE). Each center promotes a specific practice by training, consultation, fidelity assessment and/or outcomes evaluation. Three CCOEs to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities (MIDD) CCOE.</u> The MIDD CCOE promotes clinical best practices for individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities. • <u>Supported Employment (SE) CCOE</u> Supported employment is an evidence-based treatment approach where employment is the treatment • <u>Center for Innovative Practices (CIP) CCOE</u> A collaboration with Case Western University to implement evidence-based practices for youth and their families. |

Resources and Information

Record additional web-based resources below

| Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) (BVR and BSVI) | Social Security Administration (SSA) | Ohio Department of Medicaid | Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>DODD State Website dodd.oh.gov</p> <p>Ohio Employment First ohioemploymentfirst.org</p> | <p>OOD State Agency Website ood.ohio.gov</p> | <p>SSA Website: ssa.gov</p> | <p>Department of Medicaid: http://medicaid.ohio.gov</p> <p>Department of Developmental Disabilities - Overview of Medicaid Waivers: https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/INF/WaiverSer/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Ohio Disability Rights - Medicaid Waiver Information disabilityrightsohio.org/medicaid-waivers</p> | <p>ODMHAS Website: mha.ohio.gov</p> <p>Supported Employment (EBP): centerforebp.case.edu/practices/se</p> |

Local Resources and Contacts

Record local or regional contact information below

| County Board of Developmental Disabilities: | Regional Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) (BVR and BSVI) | Local Social Security Administration Office: | Local Department of Job and Family Services Office | Local Mental Health and Addiction Services Board Offices |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Website:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Contact Names:</p> | <p>Phone:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Contact Name:</p> | <p>Phone:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Contact Name</p> | <p>Phone:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Contact Name:</p> | <p>Phone:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Contact Name:</p> |

Prepare for Agency Contact and Communication

Before approaching agencies for assistance, it is helpful to the agency and can quicken the necessary processes if information is readily available. Use the questions below to facilitate gathering information and documentation.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Age Services may only be available to a certain age group</p> | When is youth's birthday? | |
| <p>Residence Agency may only serve specific geographic areas of the state</p> | Where does the youth live? | |
| <p>Disability Some agencies require a formal diagnosis of a disability AND that the identified disability be one that the agency is able to serve.</p> | What is the disability? Make available documentation of the diagnosis and assist the agency to recognize how the youth's diagnosis is one that the agency could serve. | |
| <p>Challenges and Limitations Agency may require documentation of challenges caused by the disability and how those challenges impact the youth's ability to learn, work, be safe, self-care, and participate in daily life.</p> | Document how the diagnosis or documented disability makes employment, learning, living, etc. difficult for the youth. | |
| <p>Level of Need Agencies may prioritize those individuals considered to have the greatest need to receive support and service before those whose needs are determined to be less critical.</p> | Explain how the challenges that the youth faces create barriers that the youth is not likely to overcome if support is not available. | |
| <p>Type of Need The type of service needed by a youth may only be available through certain agencies or providers.</p> | Detail the type of support / service that is needed and align the request for service with the type of service the agency offers. | |
| <p>Financial Some resources are only available to people with limited income. Youth may not be eligible for resources or supports because their or their family's income is above the allowed limit.</p> | Document the income and assets of the youth and family (under 18 years of age), including savings. Document expenses that the youth or family incur in order that the youth can live or work as these may be helpful when qualifying for a variety of assistance. | |
| <p>Availability Some services or resources may be limited and require individuals to be placed on waiting lists for specific services/ resources.</p> | Identify the types of service of support one may need long term, as an adult, to work, live and participate in the community. Ask to be placed on waiting lists for these services, even if the need seems to be years in the future. | |
| <p>Youth Goals The youth's outcome or adult goal can help determine which agency should provide services or if an agency should provide a service. When contacting agencies, it is most important to have goals and outcomes that drive a request for service.</p> | Detail the adult outcomes that the youth seeks to achieve. Specially discuss employment, adult learning, living (residence) and other community participation. Explain how the requested services/supports are needed to achieve the desired adult goals. | |