



**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council**

**Sunset Review Committee Testimony**

**July 30, 2024**

Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hillyer, and Members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is Greg Dormer, and I am the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). I am here to testify on the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Council.

Pursuant to Section 361.16 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which was issued by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, the OOD Council serves as the State of Ohio’s State Rehabilitation Council.

The purpose of the OOD Council is to advise OOD regarding specific aspects of the vocational rehabilitation program as outlined in the federal regulations. Specifically, the Council provides feedback to OOD on its Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI), and Division of Policy & Partnerships. The Council is responsible for reviewing state goals and priorities related to the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan.

The OOD Council consists of 16 members appointed by the Governor. The makeup of the Council follows criteria established by the federal government, including that a majority of the members have a disability. Council members include an individual who has applied for or received vocational rehabilitation services; an individual who represents community rehabilitation program service providers; and an individual who represents an organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental disabilities.

The OOD Council meets quarterly with one or two subcommittees regarding specific items for the full Council to consider. One OOD staff schedules meetings, takes minutes, arranges for travel, and coordinates all meeting details for the OOD Council. The OOD staff person is also responsible for records retention of the OOD Council.

The OOD Council was established in 2018 by Senate Bill 144 which was signed into law by Governor John Kasich. The law streamlined the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commissioners (7 members), the Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (21 members), and the Consumer Advisory Committee (17 members) into a single, more inclusive council.

The budget for the OOD Council is comprised of costs related to Council members’ reimbursement for travel expenses to attend Council meetings. The total that was reimbursed to OOD Council members in SFY 2024 was \$1,679.85.



# Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

[OOD.Ohio.gov](http://OOD.Ohio.gov)

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**Mike DeWine**, Governor   **Jon Husted**, Lt. Governor   **Kevin Miller**, Director

Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hillyer, and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief overview of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.