

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency

Jacquelyn Schroeder, Senior Budget Analyst
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Attachments:

- Catalog of Budget Line Items (COBLI)
- Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Redbook

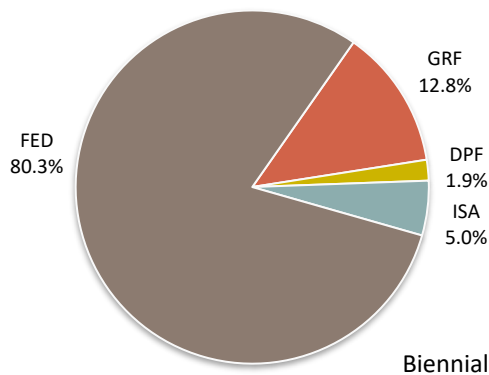
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency

Quick look...

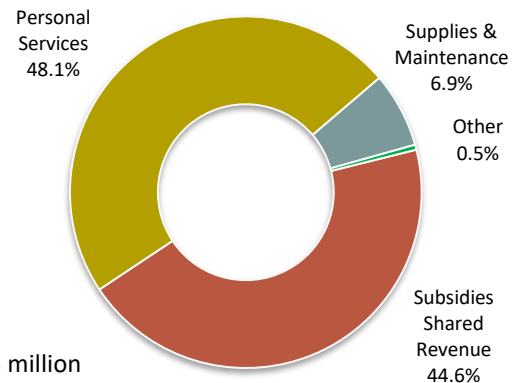
- The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Agency’s mission is to provide individuals with disabilities opportunities to achieve quality employment, independence, and disability determination outcomes.
 - OOD is the agency in Ohio designated to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
 - OOD is also responsible for making determinations on Social Security disability.
- The VR Program will assist 5,700 individuals per year obtain employment.
- Daily operations are the responsibility of an executive director appointed by the Governor.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
General Revenue	\$29,916,357	\$35,520,000	\$43,920,000	\$43,920,000
Dedicated Purpose	\$11,355,864	\$16,435,368	\$6,638,360	\$6,644,039
Internal Service Activity	\$15,103,977	\$20,191,107	\$17,083,462	\$17,539,339
Federal	\$241,449,505	\$274,776,108	\$272,654,883	\$279,868,994
Total	\$297,825,703	\$346,922,583	\$340,296,705	\$347,972,372
% change	--	16.5%	-1.9%	2.3%
<i>GRF % change</i>	--	<i>18.7%</i>	<i>23.6%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>

**Chart 1: OOD Budget by Fund Group
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



**Chart 2: OOD Budget by Expense Category
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



Overview

Agency overview

To carry out its mission, the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Agency has three service bureaus: the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, and the Division of Disability Determination (DDD). The first two bureaus provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals with disabilities. The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation aids people with disabilities to assist them with obtaining and maintaining competitive, integrated employment. The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired assists people who are blind or have visual impairments and also manages the Business Enterprise Program, which provides people who are legally blind with employment opportunities as managers and operators of food service facilities, often in government buildings and at roadside rest stops. DDD, by agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), is responsible for determining the eligibility of Ohioans seeking Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This division is fully funded by the federal government. Additionally, the Division of Employer and Innovation Services works to raise awareness with employer partners, promotes a talent pool of job-ready candidates, and supports businesses in the hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities. OOD also has other bureaus or divisions that focus on legal services, human resources, policy and partnerships, communications, etc.

The OOD Director is appointed by the Governor and the Agency receives advice and feedback from the OOD Council on its VR and Services for the Visually Impaired programs. The Council consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor and the OOD Director or designee. The makeup of the Council follows criteria established by the federal government. Some seats on the Council include an individual who has applied for or received VR 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 at least quarterly and receives local feedback from advocates and individuals with disabilities.

Appropriation summary

The executive budget provides a total appropriation of \$340.3 million in FY 2026 and \$348.0 million in FY 2027 for OOD. The table and Chart 1 shown in the “**Quick look**” section present the executive recommended appropriations by fund group. As shown in this chart, 80.3% of OOD’s appropriations are federal funds, 12.8% are GRF, 5.0% are Internal Service Activity funds, and 1.9% are Dedicated Purpose funds. Chart 2 in the “**Quick look**” section shows the executive recommended appropriations by object of expense. As shown in this chart, 48.1% is for personal services; 44.6% of the recommended funding for the biennium is for subsidies and shared revenue; 6.9% is for supplies and maintenance; and the remaining 0.5% is for a combination of purchased personal services, equipment, and transfers and nonexpenses.

Staffing levels

According to DataOhio, as of January 14, 2025, the Agency had 1,321 full-time staff members, with the vast majority of employees being VR counselors or DDD staff. A smaller number of employees work in administrative positions, including IT, human resources, fiscal staff, etc.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

This section provides an analysis of the Governor’s recommended funding for each appropriation line item (ALI) in the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Agency’s budget. For organizational purposes, these ALIs are grouped into four major categories based on their funding purposes. The analysis for an ALI with a lower category or subcategory designation will appear before that for an ALI with a higher category or subcategory designation. That is, the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C2:1 and the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8.

To aid the reader in locating each ALI in the analysis, the following table shows the category in which each ALI has been placed, listing the ALIs in order within their respective fund groups and funds. This is the same order the ALIs appear in the OOD section of the budget bill.

In the analysis, each appropriation item’s estimated expenditures for FY 2025 and recommended appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are listed in a table. Following the table, a narrative describes how the appropriation is used and any changes affecting the appropriation that are proposed by the Governor. If the appropriation is earmarked, the earmarks are listed and described.

Categorization of OOD’s Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget Proposal				
Fund	ALI	ALI Name		Category
General Revenue Fund Group				
GRF	415402	Independent Living Council	3	Independent Living
GRF	415406	Assistive Technology	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
GRF	415431	Brain Injury	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
GRF	415506	Services for Individuals with Disabilities	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
GRF	415508	Services for the Deaf	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
GRF	415511	Centers for Independent Living	3	Independent Living
GRF	415512	Visually Impaired Reading Services	3	Independent Living
GRF	415513	Accessible Ohio	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group				
4670	415609	Business Enterprise Operating Expenses	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
4680	415618	Third Party Services Funding	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
4L10	415619	Services for Rehabilitation	1	Vocational Rehabilitation
Internal Service Activity Fund Group				
4W40	415606	Program Management	4	Program Management
Federal Fund Group				
3170	415620	Disability Determination	2	Disability Determination
3790	415616	Federal – Vocational Rehabilitation	1	Vocational Rehabilitation

Categorization of OOD's Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget Proposal

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Category
3GH0	415602	Personal Care Assistance	3 Independent Living
3GH0	415604	Community Centers for the Deaf	1 Vocational Rehabilitation
3GH0	415613	Independent Living	3 Independent Living
3GH0	415627	Independent Living Projects	3 Independent Living
3ILO	415629	Works4Me Disability Innovation Fund	1 Vocational Rehabilitation
3L40	415615	Federal – Supported Employment	1 Vocational Rehabilitation
3L40	415617	Independent Living Older Blind	3 Independent Living

Category 1: Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program provides individuals with disabilities the services and support necessary to help them attain and maintain employment. Disabilities may be physical, intellectual, mental health, or sensory. VR services are customized for each individual through assessments and one-on-one meetings with professional VR counselors. VR services include:

- Evaluation and treatment of an individual's disability;
- Information and referral services;
- Vocational counseling and training;
- Job search, job placement assistance, and on-the-job supports;
- Educational guidance (tuition resources and other support);
- Transportation services;
- Rehabilitation technology assistance; and
- Personal assistance services (reader, interpreter, etc.).

Individuals with disabilities are eligible for these services if OOD determines that VR services are essential in order for the individual to obtain and retain employment. During federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023, OOD's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation worked with nearly 37,000 individuals and assisted 5,040 individuals to achieve successful employment outcomes, with an average wage of \$15.70 per hour.¹ According to the Office of Budget and Management's Bluebook, over 42,000 Ohioans received VR services in FFY 2024 (a 14.8% increase over FFY 2023) with an average wage of \$16.60 per hour (a 5.8% increase over FFY 2023).

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

In providing VR services, the Agency is also required to meet certain requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This Act specifies that at least 15% of federal

¹ OOD's 2023-2024 Annual Report.

VR dollars must be used to provide preemployment transition services to students with disabilities. This can include job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on postsecondary education programs, workplace advocacy training, and instruction in self-advocacy.

C1:1: Assistive Technology (ALI 415406)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415406, Assistive Technology	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This GRF line item is used for assistive technology for people with disabilities. The executive recommendation requires that the appropriation be provided to Assistive Technology of Ohio to provide grants and assistive technology services for people with disabilities.

C1:2: Brain Injury (ALI 415431)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415431, Brain Injury	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item is provided to the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine for the Brain Injury Program created in R.C. 3335.60. The mission of the Ohio Brain Injury Program is to advance prevention and treatment that will improve the lives of Ohioans impacted by brain injury.

C1:3: Vocational Rehabilitation (ALIs 415506 and 415616)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415506, Services for Individuals with Disabilities	\$32,015,000	\$40,015,000	\$40,015,000
% change	--	25.0%	0.0%
3790 ALI 415616, Federal – Vocational Rehabilitation	\$164,500,000	\$170,000,000	\$175,100,000
% change	--	3.3%	3.0%
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	\$196,515,000	\$210,015,000	\$215,115,000
% change	--	6.9%	2.4%

These appropriation items are used to provide VR services. All or some of the expenditures from the following are used as the state match to draw down federal VR dollars:

- GRF item 415506, Services for Individuals with Disabilities;
- GRF item 415511, Centers for Independent Living;

- Fund 4680 item 415618, Third Party Services Funding;
- Fund 4670 item 415609, Business Enterprise Operating Expenses; and
- Fund 4L10 item 415619, Services for Rehabilitation.

Match dollars are deposited into the Consolidated Federal Fund (Fund 3790) and expended from line item 415616, Federal – Vocational Rehabilitation. The increase in line item 415616 is due to a line item merge with federal Fund 3L10 line item 415608, Social Security Vocational Rehabilitation, to ensure federal funding for VR is contained in one line item.

The federal VR Program also has a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement. To meet the MOE requirement, the federal government requires a state to provide matching dollars at the same level as two years prior. For every \$1 in state match, OOD receives \$3.69 in federal VR funds. In FFY 2024, the federal award amount for Ohio was \$166.4 million. OOD estimates that VR services will help an average of 5,700 individuals obtain employment in each year. The increase in line item 415506 serves to offset the decrease in line item 415618, Third Party Services Funding, and will also allow for additional state matching funds to be used to draw down federal VR dollars. Line item 415618 currently receives a transfer from the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) for the Ohio Transition Support Partnership. Line item 415506 also supports the College2Careers Partnership with the Ohio Department of Higher Education. These partnerships are discussed in more detail under section “**C1:7: Third Party Services Funding.**”

C1:4: Services and Community Centers for the Deaf (ALIs 415508 and 415604)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415508, Services for the Deaf	\$527,000	\$527,000	\$527,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%
3GH0 ALI 415604, Community Centers for the Deaf	\$772,420	\$772,420	\$772,420
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%
Services for the Deaf	\$1,299,420	\$1,299,420	\$1,299,420
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

These appropriation items are used to contract with community centers for the deaf (CCDs) that provide services to the deaf community, including those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind. CCDs provide some of the following core services: interpreting, information and referral, independent living skills training, peer support, and individual and systems advocacy. CCDs provide services in all 88 counties. Funding amounts vary by center, but take into consideration the number of deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind in each county.

C1:5: Accessible Ohio (ALI 415513)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415513, Accessible Ohio	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
% change	--	100.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the Accessible Ohio Initiative. OOD provides customized consultations for local governments, attractions, and venues to identify barriers and establish goals for accessibility. Since the program's inception in FY 2024, OOD has established partnerships with 140 businesses, communities, venues, and attractions to support accessibility efforts and inclusion for Ohioans with disabilities. This initiative is also supported by line item 415619, Services for Rehabilitation. The increase in funding will allow for an additional Accessible Ohio specialist to be hired and support an expansion of the Accessible Ohio Conference and Expo, which had its inaugural event in July 2024.

C1:6: Business Enterprise Operating Expenses (ALI 415609)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
4670 ALI 415609, Business Enterprise Operating Expenses	\$1,555,368	\$913,127	\$918,806
% change	--	-41.3%	0.6%

This line item funds the Business Enterprise Program, which provides people who are legally blind with employment opportunities as managers and operators of food service facilities, often in government buildings and at roadside rest stops. These dollars are used to maintain, repair, and remodel vending stands and to purchase new equipment. The major source of revenue that supports this line item is generated from the collection of a vendor service charge; a portion of these dollars are used to match federal VR dollars. In FFY 2023, the program had 70 licensees who are legally blind managing food and vending businesses in Ohio. Efforts in the current biennium to modernize program equipment inventory account for the higher FY 2025 estimated expenditures; thus, the decrease in funding in FY 2026 reflects the estimated expenditures in the upcoming biennium.

C1:7: Third Party Services Funding (ALI 415618)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
4680 ALI 415618, Third Party Services Funding	\$12,680,000	\$3,725,233	\$3,725,233
% change	--	-70.6%	0.0%

The revenues that support this line item are moneys transferred to OOD under interagency cash transfer agreements (ICTAs) with state and local government partners. In addition, gifts and contributions are deposited into the fund that supports this line item and those dollars are used in accordance with the terms of the donation. Contributions include donations

from Ohio citizens made at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when applying for or renewing a disability placard. This recommended funding will allow OOD to draw down federal VR dollars by leveraging matching funds provided by state agencies and local entities. The decrease in appropriation reflects the estimated partnership dollars to be transferred to OOD. Partnerships are described in more detail below.

Implementing partnerships with other state and local agencies has helped OOD expand VR services. Local partners generally provide matching dollars to OOD under an ICTA and then may provide case management under a separate contract with OOD. With state partners, OOD generally uses the matching dollars to hire VR counselors directly to work with a specific population. OOD monitors its partners to ensure that they abide by state and federal regulations, provide appropriate services, and meet deliverables specified within the contract.

The table below shows the VR partners, the match investment, federal draw, the funds each partner still had to spend from the prior year (time-limited funds), and the net amount available for services after deductions for program support costs (contract amount) for FFY 2025. Following the table are descriptions of OOD's partnerships with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and the Department of Higher Education (DHE).

Interagency Cash Transfer Agreements, FFY 2025				
Partner	Match	Federal	Time-Limited Funds*	Contract Amount**
Ohio Department of Education and Workforce	\$6,500,000	\$24,016,432	--	\$30,516,432
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities	\$2,095,000	\$7,740,681	--	\$9,853,681
Butler Co. MHARSB	\$83,127	\$307,141	\$40,000	\$430,266
Cuyahoga Co. ADAMHS	\$290,613	\$1,073,766	\$150,000	\$1,241,502
Cuyahoga Co. DD	\$355,723	\$1,314,337	\$150,000	\$1,486,048
Hamilton Co. MHRS	\$417,968	\$1,544,323	\$100,000	\$1,668,832
Mahoning Co. MH	\$101,960	\$376,725	\$30,000	\$412,948
Portage MHRS	\$137,867	\$509,396	\$75,000	\$592,811
Total	\$9,982,258	\$36,882,801	\$545,000	\$46,202,520

*Time-Limited Funds are unspent funds at the end of FFY 2024.

**This column may not sum as OOD retains a small portion for administrative purposes. This amount is not shown in the table.

Note: Acronyms: DD: Developmental Disabilities; ADAMHS: Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services; MHRS: Mental Health and Recovery Services.

Department of Education and Workforce

The Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP) began in FY 2016 and is funded through line item 415618 in the current biennium. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly required DEW to provide \$5.5 million in FY 2024 and \$6.5 million in FY 2025 from GRF line item 200540, Special

Education Enhancements, to OOD to continue OTSP.² However, the Governor’s proposal does not include this language; instead, funding will be provided in the upcoming biennium through line item 415506, Services for Individuals with Disabilities, to connect students with disabilities with counseling staff beginning at age 14. Funding is used to hire dedicated VR counselors who work directly with school districts to provide transition services for students with disabilities. Services include VR services such as person-centered career planning, summer work experiences, job placement, and retention services for mutually eligible students with disabilities.

Department of Developmental Disabilities

The Employment First (EF) Partnership began in FY 2014 and is funded through the upcoming biennium; the executive budget specifies DODD will provide an amount agreed upon by the DODD and OOD directors in each fiscal year to continue EF.³ Through this initiative, OOD partners with DODD to help eligible individuals with developmental disabilities transition from facility-based settings, such as sheltered workshops, to integrated employment in the community. In FFY 2025, DODD provided \$2.1 million in matching funds to OOD. In FFY 2023, approximately 9,800 individuals with developmental disabilities who were also eligible for county board services were served.

Department of Higher Education

The College2Careers initiative assists students with disabilities in career exploration, assistive technology, resume and interview preparation, and job placement. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly allowed the Director of Budget and Management, upon the request of the Chancellor of Higher Education, to transfer \$2.0 million in each fiscal year from GRF appropriation item 235501, State Share of Instruction, to OOD for the program.⁴ However, the Governor’s proposal does not include this language; instead, funding will be provided for these purposes under line item 415506 (which currently receives the transferred funds from DHE).

C1:8: Services for Rehabilitation (ALI 415619)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
4L10 ALI 415619, Services for Rehabilitation	\$2,200,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
% change	--	-9.1%	0.0%

This line item is primarily used for VR services or any other purpose or program to rehabilitate persons with disabilities. These expenditures are counted as state match to draw down federal VR dollars, federal Independent Living (IL) dollars, and federal Supported Employment Grant dollars. Revenues to support this line item come from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) for license

² Section 265.250 of H.B. 33.

³ Section 261.60 of H.B. 96.

⁴ Section 381.250 of H.B. 33.

reinstatement fees (\$75 of each \$475 reinstatement fee) following an OVI. The decrease in appropriation is attributed to a projected reduction in revenues.

C1:9: Works4Me Disability Innovation Fund Grant (ALI 415629)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
31L0 ALI 415629, Works4Me Disability Innovation Fund Grant	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports a federal grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to implement the “Works4Me” demonstration project. Works4Me is intended to bridge the skill gap for individuals with disabilities earning subminimum wage who want to make the move to competitive integrated employment (CIE). The program includes workplace readiness and career development, paid community-based/integrated work experiences, work incentives counseling, and other wrap-around services. Works4Me is intended to identify strategies for addressing challenges associated with CIE (e.g., transportation issues), support integration into the community through CIE, coordinate wrap-around services for any individual served by the project who obtains CIE, and develop evidence-based practices and readily accessible transformative business models that can be shared with states and employers.

OOD received a five-year grant award from the federal RSA under the U.S. Department of Education for a total of approximately \$9.0 million to support this demonstration project through September 2027.

C1:10: Federal – Supported Employment (ALI 415615)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
3L40 ALI 415615, Federal – Supported Employment	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item is used to expend the federal Supported Employment Grant. The grant funds are used to pay for services for individuals with significant disabilities who are identified as needing on-the-job supports. These funds supplement state vocational rehabilitation dollars for the costs of providing supported employment services. After this grant has been expended, OOD uses VR dollars to provide supported employment services.

Category 2: Disability Determination

The Division of Disability Determination (DDD) conducts disability determinations for individuals who apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). To review disability claims, DDD obtains medical records and may purchase examinations or tests in accordance with Social Security Administration (SSA) guidelines. Medical records are reviewed by a claims adjudicator and a physician, psychologist, or speech pathologist, depending on the claim, to determine disability. After the determination of disability is made,

DDD sends the case to SSA for the final determination. SSA then determines the benefit amount and pays benefits directly to individuals. DDD also conducts periodic reviews of those receiving SSA benefits to assess continuing eligibility and performs the first level of appeals; subsequent appeals are conducted by SSA. In FFY 2023, DDD conducted over 151,000 determinations.

C2:1: Disability Determination (ALI 415620)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
3170 ALI 415620, Disability Determination	\$86,000,000	\$88,981,907	\$90,733,204
% change	--	3.5%	2.0%

This federally funded line item is used for the operations of DDD, including medical evidence records, consultative examinations and doctors, staff payroll, and rent. Under an agreement with the federal SSA, OOD prepares disability determinations for individuals who apply to SSA for benefits under SSI and SSDI. The federal government funds those benefits, which provide financial assistance to individuals who are totally disabled. Recipients receive benefits until they are able to return to work or in the case of children, to age-appropriate activities. The recommended appropriation increases in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 will allow for cost-of-living adjustments.

Category 3: Independent Living

The Independent Living Program provides services to assist individuals to maximize independence and productivity and supports the integration of individuals with disabilities. Services are coordinated by the Statewide Independent Living Council and provided directly by local centers for independent living (CILs). Every CIL provides services in five core areas:

- Information and referral services;
- Independent living (IL) skills training;
- Peer support;
- Individual and systems advocacy; and
- Transition services.

The Council includes various members appointed by the Governor who represent the disabilities community, as well as ex officio members who represent various government entities. The Council develops, monitors, and evaluates the state plan for independent living. The Council also provides financial assistance to CILs, as well as assistance in developing a statewide network of CILs. In addition, it maintains a website for those seeking information regarding independent living services.

C3:1: Independent Living (ALIs 415402 and 415627)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415402, Independent Living Council	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%
3GH0 ALI 415627, Independent Living Projects	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
% change	--	-60.0%	0.0%

These line items support the federally mandated IL Program, including support for the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council.

The executive proposal requires appropriation item 415402 to be provided to the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council to support the Council's operations under the State Plan for Independent Living. In the current biennium, a portion of this line item is used as state match to draw down federal VR Innovation and Expansion funds. However, the executive proposal provides this state match under line item 415511, Centers for Independent Living, which is discussed below.

The executive proposal also provides funding in appropriation item 415627, Independent Living Projects, which provides support for projects related to the IL Program intended to engage and educate the public regarding IL services, address accessibility pertaining to individuals with disabilities, and other related efforts.

C3:2: Centers for Independent Living (ALIs 415511 and 415613)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415511, Centers for Independent Living	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%
3GH0 ALI 415613, Independent Living	\$737,411	\$2,737,411	\$2,737,411
% change	--	271.2%	0.0%

The bill permits up to \$1,355,608 in each fiscal year from GRF line item 415511, Centers for Independent Living, to be used as state matching funds to provide vocational rehabilitation services to Ohioans with disabilities. Additionally, the bill requires \$74,124 in each fiscal year to be used as state matching funds for VR innovation and expansion activities. Federal funds that are drawn down will be deposited into Fund 3790 and appropriated in line item 415616, Federal – Vocational Rehabilitation. Additionally, the executive proposal requires the amount needed in each fiscal year for state matching funds for the Federal Independent Living Grant be provided from line item 415511, Centers for Independent Living. Currently, state matching funds are provided to draw down federal IL dollars through line item 415402, Independent Living Council. Funds in line item 415511 will support the state independent living programs and centers.

As mentioned above, a portion of the line item (approximately \$1.4 million) may be used as state match to draw down federal VR funds, which will be used as such in exchange for utilization of Social Security reimbursement funds appropriated through line item 415613, Independent Living. However, this proposed funding structure is dependent on the receipt of enough Social Security reimbursement to maintain the current funding level for the independent living program and centers. According to OOD, if reimbursement funds are not sufficiently available in line item 415613, then OOD would not use the funds in line item 415511 for VR match; instead, those funds will be used to support the state independent living programs and centers.

The IL Program receives a federal match of \$9 for every \$1 of state funds spent on the program. The federal dollars are deposited into Fund 3GH0, which supports line item 415613, Independent Living. Line item 415613 is used to support the operations of the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) in accordance with the State Plan for Independent Living. This line item is supported by these federal matching funds from the Federal Independent Living Grant as well as Social Security reimbursement, depending on the needs of other programs that are supported with those funds. The increase in line item 415613 will be used to support the CILs, which currently receive funds through line item 415511.

C3:3: Visually Impaired Reading Services (ALI 415512)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 415512, Visually Impaired Reading Services	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

This line item is used to support VOICEcorps Reading Services to provide reading services for blind individuals.

C3:4: Personal Care Assistance (ALI 415602)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
3GH0 ALI 415602, Personal Care Assistance	\$3,336,051	\$3,995,399	\$4,017,337
% change	--	19.8%	0.5%

This federal line item is used to provide payments to people with disabilities to subsidize the wages of their personal attendants under the Personal Care Assistance Program. The amount a person may receive is based upon their ability to pay for attendant care. The intent of the program is to enhance the employability and independence of people with disabilities. In FFY 2023, there were approximately 130 participants served by the program.

C3:5: Independent Living Older Blind (ALI 415617)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
3L40 ALI 415617, Independent Living Older Blind	\$2,680,226	\$2,567,746	\$2,908,622
% change	--	-4.2%	13.3%

This federally funded line item is used to expend the federal Independent Living Older Blind Grant. Services provided under the grant to older individuals who are blind include orientation and mobility skills training to enable safe independent travel; skills in braille, handwriting, and other means of communication; provision of communication aides; and training to perform activities of daily living. These services allow individuals to improve or increase their independence in their homes and communities. Matching funds for this grant are spent from line item 415619, Services for Rehabilitation. In FFY 2023, approximately 1,500 individuals received services. The recommended funding in FY 2026 and FY 2027 will support a cost of living adjustment.

The executive proposal earmarks funds for three organizations that will provide outreach to the community of individuals with blindness or low vision. The earmarks are summarized in the table below.

Earmarks from ALI 415617, Independent Living Older Blind		
Earmark Purpose	FY 2026	FY 2027
Cleveland Sight Center	\$10,000	\$10,000
Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$10,000	\$10,000
Sight Center of Northwest Ohio	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$30,000	\$30,000

Category 4: Program Management

This category provides administrative support to the programs within OOD, including fiscal operations, legislative affairs, human resources, and information technology.

C4:1: Program Management (ALI 415606)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
4W50 ALI 415606, Program Management	\$20,191,107	\$17,083,462	\$17,539,339
% change	--	-15.4%	2.7%

This item supports OOD's administrative support functions including information technology, fiscal, and human resources. A portion of certain federal grant moneys are deposited into Fund 4W50 based on a percentage of payroll spending from employees that provide direct

services and are paid from various federal funds. This item allows OOD to pay agency operating expenses that are nondirect VR or DDD program-related costs that cannot be covered by other appropriation items. The proposed appropriations will support estimated expenditures in the upcoming biennium.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

General Revenue Fund

GRF 415402 Independent Living Council

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$292,380	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000
% change	-13.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 117 of the 121st G.A.)

Purpose: This line item supports the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council. A portion of this line item is used as state match for the Independent Living Program, which helps individuals with disabilities maintain or increase independence. Some expenditures from this line item are counted as state match to draw down federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) dollars.

GRF 415406 Assistive Technology

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$25,819	\$25,819	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
% change	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 94 of the 124th G.A.)

Purpose: This line item is used to provide assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities. H.B. 33 requires that these funds be provided to Assistive Technology of Ohio, which is part of The Ohio State University.

GRF 415431 Brain Injury

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: R.C. 3335.60 and 3335.61; Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 298 of the 119th G.A.)

Purpose: This line item is used for the Brain Injury Program. The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) provides these dollars to The Ohio State University College of Medicine, which carries out the program. This program plans and coordinates head-injury-related services provided by state agencies and other government or private entities and sets priorities in the brain injury area.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

General Revenue Fund

GRF 415506 Services for Individuals with Disabilities

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$18,418,034	\$18,418,244	\$26,820,000	\$32,015,000	\$40,015,000	\$40,015,000
% change	0.0%	45.6%	19.4%	25.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and obtain employment. Vocational rehabilitation services include: medical, psychological, and vocational evaluation; physical or mental restoration; vocational training; occupational tools and equipment; transportation and interpreter services; and, job placement and follow-up. The VR Program provides counseling throughout the rehabilitation process. Expenditures from this line item are counted as state match to draw down federal VR dollars.

GRF 415508 Services for the Deaf

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$36,772	\$27,580	\$506,093	\$527,000	\$527,000	\$527,000
% change	-25.0%	1,735.0%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to provide funding to community centers for the deaf located throughout Ohio. These centers provide independent living services and communication services to Ohioans who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind. Funds are used in conjunction with those in federal line item 415604, Community Centers for the Deaf.

GRF 415511 Centers for Independent Living

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$571,439	\$504,929	\$1,112,264	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
% change	-11.6%	120.3%	34.9%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to provide support directly to the Centers for Independent Living and is used in conjunction with funds appropriated through line items 415402, Independent Living Council, and 415613, Independent Living.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

General Revenue Fund

GRF 415512 Visually Impaired Reading Services

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to support VOICEcorps Reading Services to provide reading services for blind individuals.

GRF 415513 Accessible Ohio

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
% change	N/A	N/A	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to support the establishment of the Accessible Ohio Initiative. OOD provides customized consultations for local governments, attractions, and venues to identify barriers and establish goals for accessibility.

GRF 415515 DeafBlind Fund

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
% change	N/A	N/A	0.0%	-100.0%	N/A

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is distributed to the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center and used to establish a pilot program for the recruitment and training of support service providers and to connect support service providers with DeafBlind individuals.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

4670 415609 Business Enterprise Operating Expenses

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$502,795	\$645,132	\$738,862	\$1,555,368	\$913,127	\$918,806
% change	28.3%	14.5%	110.5%	-41.3%	0.6%

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Operator service charges for the Business Enterprise Program based on gross sales and janitorial, maintenance, and utility fees paid by operators

Legal Basis: R.C. 3304.29 through 3304.35; Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by the Controlling Board in September 1983)

Purpose: This line item is used for the Business Enterprise Program, which provides people who are legally blind with employment opportunities as managers and operators of food service facilities, often in government buildings and at roadside rest stops. Funds are used to maintain, repair, and remodel vending stands and to purchase new equipment. Some expenditures from this line item are counted as state match to draw down federal VR dollars.

4680 415618 Third Party Services Funding

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$7,555,651	\$6,942,364	\$9,055,354	\$12,680,000	\$3,725,233	\$3,725,233
% change	-8.1%	30.4%	40.0%	-70.6%	0.0%

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Funds transferred to OOD under state and local partnership agreements; other gifts and grants

Legal Basis: R.C. 4503.44; Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is mainly used to provide VR services. The revenues that primarily support this line item are moneys transferred to OOD under interagency cash transfer agreements (ICTAs) with state and local government partners. OOD also receives revenue from donations made through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when applying for or renewing a windshield placard or license plate authorizing a motor vehicle to park in a location reserved for persons with disabilities. Most expenditures from this line item are counted as state match to draw down federal VR dollars.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

4L10 415619 Services for Rehabilitation

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$2,702,562	\$2,009,152	\$1,561,648	\$2,200,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
% change	-25.7%	-22.3%	40.9%	-9.1%	0.0%

- Source:** Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: License reinstatement fee revenues transferred to OOD from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (\$75 of each \$475 reinstatement fee)
- Legal Basis:** R.C. 4511.191; Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by S.B. 275 of the 120th G.A.)
- Purpose:** H.B. 33 permits OOD to use money in the Services for Rehabilitation Fund (Fund 4L10) for any of OOD's purposes or programs, rather than only purposes and programs that rehabilitate persons with disabilities to become employed and independent. Some expenditures from this line item are counted as state match to draw down federal VR dollars. Some expenditures from this line item are used for state match to draw down federal Independent Living/Older Blind (ILOB) grant dollars. Some expenditures from this line item are also used for state match to draw down Federal Supported Employment grant dollars, which are expended through line item 415615, Federal-Supported Employment.

Internal Service Activity Fund Group

4W50 415606 Program Management

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$14,855,226	\$14,719,560	\$15,103,977	\$20,191,107	\$17,083,462	\$17,539,339
% change	-0.9%	2.6%	33.7%	-15.4%	2.7%

- Source:** Internal Service Activity Fund Group: A portion of certain federal grant monies are deposited into Fund 4W50 every pay period. The amount deposited is based on a percentage of payroll from employees who provide direct services and are paid from these federal funds. The percentage rate is approved by the United States Department of Education.
- Legal Basis:** Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 215 of the 122nd G.A.)
- Purpose:** This line item is used to pay the expenses of OOD's administrative support functions (e.g. Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Fiscal, Director's Office, etc.) related to the provision of vocational rehabilitation, disability determination, and independent living programs.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Federal Fund Group

3170 415620 Disability Determination

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$81,541,920	\$80,210,614	\$83,394,333	\$86,000,000	\$88,981,907	\$90,733,204
% change	-1.6%	4.0%	3.1%	3.5%	2.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: Social Security Administration funds

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used for operating the Division of Disability Determination. The Division determines eligibility for federal Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income through an agreement with the Social Security Administration.

3790 415616 Federal-Vocational Rehabilitation

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$112,399,133	\$108,137,517	\$144,275,251	\$164,500,000	\$170,000,000	\$175,100,000
% change	-3.8%	33.4%	14.0%	3.3%	3.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 84.126, Rehabilitation Services - Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and obtain employment. Services include: medical, psychological, and vocational evaluation; physical or mental restoration; vocational training; occupational tools and equipment; transportation and interpreter services; and, job placement and follow-up. The VR Program provides counseling throughout the rehabilitation process. This line item is supported by federal VR dollars that are drawn down based on state matching expenditures for VR. For every \$1 in state match, OOD receives \$3.69 in federal VR funds. Matching funds are spent from various GRF and Dedicated Purpose line items.

3GH0 415602 Personal Care Assistance

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$2,598,958	\$2,971,274	\$3,201,031	\$3,336,051	\$3,995,399	\$4,017,337
% change	14.3%	7.7%	4.2%	19.8%	0.5%

Source: Federal Fund Group: Social Security reimbursement funds

Legal Basis: R.C. 3304.41; Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by the Controlling Board on September 23, 2013)

Purpose: This line item is used to fund the Personal Care Assistance Program, which provides payments to people with disabilities to subsidize the wages of their personal attendants. The amount received is based upon the person's ability to pay for attendant care.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Federal Fund Group

3GH0 415604 Community Centers for the Deaf

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$795,130	\$942,928	\$703,598	\$772,420	\$772,420	\$772,420
% change	18.6%	-25.4%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: Social Security reimbursement funds

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by the Controlling Board on September 23, 2013)

Purpose: A portion of this line item is used to support the Community Centers for the Deaf in Ohio for services to individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Deaf Disabled. These funds are used in conjunction with those provided through GRF line item 415508, Services for the Deaf. This line item also supports special projects related to independent living services.

3GH0 415613 Independent Living

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$525,443	\$762,989	\$390,988	\$737,411	\$2,737,411	\$2,737,411
% change	45.2%	-48.8%	88.6%	271.2%	0.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 93.369, ACL Independent Living State Grants

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by the Controlling Board on September 23, 2013)

Purpose: This line item provides funding for local independent living centers and programs for the provision or expansion of services.

3GH0 415627 Independent Living Projects

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$0	\$0	\$513	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
% change	N/A	N/A	48,680.5%	-60.0%	0.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 93.369, ACL Independent Living State Grants

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to provide support for projects related to the IL Program intended to engage and educate the public regarding IL services, address accessibility pertaining to individuals with disabilities, and other related efforts. Prior to H.B. 33, these efforts were supported under line item 415604, Community Centers for the Deaf.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Federal Fund Group

3ILO 415629 Works4Me Disability Innovation Fund Grant

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$0	\$82,336	\$711,572	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
% change	N/A	764.2%	223.2%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 84.421, Disability Innovation Fund

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on November 7, 2022)

Purpose: This line item is used to implement a “Works4Me” demonstration project, which is intended to bridge the skill gap for individuals with disabilities earning subminimum wage who want to make the move to competitive integrated employment. The program focuses on workplace readiness and career development, paid community-based/integrated work experiences, work incentives counseling, and other wrap-around services.

3L10 415608 Social Security Vocational Rehabilitation

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$6,348,453	\$15,861,992	\$5,901,853	\$13,000,000	\$0	\$0
% change	149.9%	-62.8%	120.3%	-100.0%	N/A

Source: Federal Fund Group: Social Security reimbursement funds

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to fund vocational rehabilitation services, including the following: medical, psychological, and vocational evaluation; physical or mental restoration; vocational training; occupational tools and equipment; transportation and interpreter services; and, job placement and follow-up.

3L40 415614 Business Enterprise Federal Relief

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$1,031,161	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% change	-100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Federal Fund Group: Randolph-Sheppard Financial Relief and Restoration Payments

Legal Basis: Discontinued line item (originally established by H.B. 110 of the 134th G.A.)

Purpose: This line item provided relief payments to business enterprise operators that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closures of state and federal office buildings, colleges and universities, and reduced travel on Ohio’s highways.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Federal Fund Group

3L40 415615 Federal-Supported Employment

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$730,912	\$1,266,411	\$622,251	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
% change	73.3%	-50.9%	92.8%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 84.187, Supported Employment Services for Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities

Legal Basis: Section 353.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to assist individuals with disabilities who are identified as needing on-the-job supports. Expenditures from this line item supplement state VR dollars for the costs of providing supported employment services. 50% of supported employment grant funds must be spent on youth with a disability, which also requires matching funds that are expended through line item 415619, Services for Rehabilitation.

3L40 415617 Independent Living Older Blind

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
\$2,158,988	\$1,734,605	\$2,248,116	\$2,680,226	\$2,567,746	\$2,908,622
% change	-19.7%	29.6%	19.2%	-4.2%	13.3%

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 84.177, Rehabilitation Services - Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind

Legal Basis: Sections 353.10 and 353.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to support services to the older blind. Services to older individuals who are blind include orientation and mobility skills training to enable independent travel, skills in Braille, handwriting and other means of communication, and training to perform activities of daily living. Matching funds for this grant are spent from line item 415619, Services for Rehabilitation. H.B. 33 earmarks \$10,000 in each fiscal year for each of the following: Cleveland Sight Center, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio.

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced
All Fund Groups - Detail**

Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	Estimate FY 2025	Introduced FY 2026	Introduced FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
OOD Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities								
GRF	415402	Independent Living Council	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	415406	Assistive Technology	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	415431	Brain Injury	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	415506	Services for Individuals with Disabilities	\$26,820,000	\$32,015,000	\$40,015,000	\$40,015,000	24.99%	0.00%
GRF	415508	Services for the Deaf	\$506,093	\$527,000	\$527,000	\$527,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	415511	Centers for Independent Living	\$1,112,264	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	415512	Visually Impaired Reading Services	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	415513	Accessible Ohio	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	100.00%	0.00%
GRF	415515	DeafBlind Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$29,916,357	\$35,520,000	\$43,920,000	\$43,920,000	23.65%	0.00%
4670	415609	Business Enterprise Operating Expenses	\$738,862	\$1,555,368	\$913,127	\$918,806	-41.29%	0.62%
4680	415618	Third Party Services Funding	\$9,055,354	\$12,680,000	\$3,725,233	\$3,725,233	-70.62%	0.00%
4L10	415619	Services for Rehabilitation	\$1,561,648	\$2,200,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-9.09%	0.00%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal			\$11,355,863	\$16,435,368	\$6,638,360	\$6,644,039	-59.61%	0.09%
4W50	415606	Program Management	\$15,103,977	\$20,191,107	\$17,083,462	\$17,539,339	-15.39%	2.67%
Internal Service Activity Fund Group Subtotal			\$15,103,977	\$20,191,107	\$17,083,462	\$17,539,339	-15.39%	2.67%
3170	415620	Disability Determination	\$83,394,333	\$86,000,000	\$88,981,907	\$90,733,204	3.47%	1.97%
3790	415616	Federal-Vocational Rehabilitation	\$144,275,251	\$164,500,000	\$170,000,000	\$175,100,000	3.34%	3.00%
3GH0	415602	Personal Care Assistance	\$3,201,031	\$3,336,051	\$3,995,399	\$4,017,337	19.76%	0.55%
3GH0	415604	Community Centers for the Deaf	\$703,598	\$772,420	\$772,420	\$772,420	0.00%	0.00%
3GH0	415613	Independent Living	\$390,988	\$737,411	\$2,737,411	\$2,737,411	271.22%	0.00%
3GH0	415627	Independent Living Projects	\$513	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	-60.00%	0.00%
3ILO	415629	Works4Me Disability Innovation Fund Grant	\$711,572	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	0.00%	0.00%
3L10	415608	Social Security Vocational Rehabilitation	\$5,901,853	\$13,000,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced
All Fund Groups - Detail**

Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency	FY 2024	Estimate FY 2025	Introduced FY 2026	Introduced FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
OOD Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities						
3L40 415615 Federal-Supported Employment	\$622,251	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	0.00%	0.00%
3L40 415617 Independent Living Older Blind	\$2,248,116	\$2,680,226	\$2,567,746	\$2,908,622	-4.20%	13.28%
Federal Fund Group Subtotal	\$241,449,505	\$274,776,108	\$272,654,883	\$279,868,994	-0.77%	2.65%
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Total	\$297,825,703	\$346,922,583	\$340,296,705	\$347,972,372	-1.91%	2.26%
Main Operating Appropriations Bill Total	\$297,825,703	\$346,922,583	\$340,296,705	\$347,972,372	-1.91%	2.26%