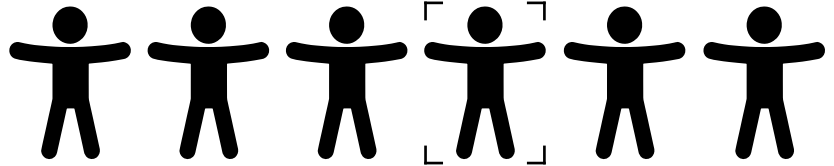


# People with disabilities WANT to work!

**Did you know...**

**1 in 6 Oklahomans has a disability**



The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) programs assist Oklahomans in achieving independent lives, independent living skills, and obtaining economic freedom through work. DRS delivers these services to Oklahomans with disabilities through educated, trained, and qualified Rehabilitation Professionals.

In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022, DRS assisted 1,191 Oklahomans in finding employment. These successful cases resulted in \$3,026,469.84 in revenue coming back to the state of Oklahoma. This is the impact of Federal funding received:

## Federal Funding Impact

**\$4 to \$1**

Federal match to state funds for VR and SBVI employment programs in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022.

**\$16,344**

Average cost of services per VR and SBVI client. Federal government pays 78.7% of that with the state paying 21.3%

**\$7 to \$1**

Taxpayers are saved \$7 for every \$1 that would have been paid out in benefits over the lifetime of a person who gets off SSA benefits



The Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council's (ORC) mission, as a partner with DRS, is to ensure the services of DRS are of high quality leading to the employment of individuals with disabilities. Additionally, ORC facilitates consumer education and empowerment.

There are a number of challenges in finding and maintaining successful employment for an individual with a disability. The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics reports significant barriers as lack of education or training; lack of transportation; the need for special features (accommodations) at the job; the disability itself; and difficulty completing work duties because of their disability.

Yet, people with disabilities unanimously report they WANT to work and be independent, productive citizens who can make a meaningful contribution to society!

DRS, through its VR and SBVI programs, helps Oklahomans with disabilities by:

- Providing guidance to disabled Oklahomans as they work to achieve their full potential
- Retraining and reintegrating injured and disabled Oklahomans back into the workforce
- Stimulating local economies by partnering with vendors across the state to provide client services
- Reducing the future needs for social supports when employers learn of the potential of Vocational Rehabilitation clients and by transforming the disabled employee into a taxpayer

In FFY22, DRS successfully placed **1,191 clients** in employment by individually overcoming work-related barriers. This partnership strives to provide Access for ALL under the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the OK Workforce System, increasing household wealth and independence for Oklahomans with disabilities.

**Carolina Colclasure, ORC Program Manager**  
**3535 NW 58th St., Suite 500, Oklahoma City, OK 73112**  
**405-951-3579 • carolina.colclasure@okstate.edu • orc@okstate.edu**