



**Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation  
OOD Council Briefing- January 20, 2021**

**Program Performance:** The following table summarizes Federal Fiscal Year 2021 performance for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Due to COVID-19, new applications and plans are down significantly. The number served and closed with employment are only down slightly. Average wage and hours worked have increased.

Metric	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	Percent Change
<b>Eligibility Decisions</b>	5,004	3,335	-33.4%
<b>Plans Written</b>	3,042	2,329	-23.4%
<b>Eligible + Served</b>	24,320	23,565	-3.1%
<b>Closed with Employment</b>	1,436	1,433	-0.2%
<b>Average Wage</b>	\$11.83	\$12.06	1.9%
<b>Average Hours</b>	26.46	26.8	1.3%

**Programmatic Updates:**

- The Rehabilitation Services Administration recently released the Annual Reports of all state VR agencies along with national averages. According to Ohio’s report:
  - 57.7% of individuals exiting the program in PY 2019 were working 2Q after exit, which is 6.4% above the national average of 51.3%
  - 55.9% of individuals exiting the program in PY 2019 were working 4Q after exit, which is 12.3% higher than the national average of 43.6%
- OOD recently communicated to staff and providers about plans for Summer Youth programming for students with disabilities this year. Students will be able to select work experiences in the community and/or remote Pre-Employment Transition Services. A variety of flexibilities have been offered including reduction in the duration and/or the minimum number of hours per week for work experiences where needed, and an increase in the maximum number of hours for Pre-Employment Transition Services.
- ODO staff gathered feedback from VR participants regarding informed choice. In addition, discussions occurred with local field staff and supervisors conducted targeted case reviews on the topic. This information is being reviewed in preparation for updating OOD’s Informed Choice Policy. This policy will go out for public comment in March.
- OOD’s Vehicle Modification Administrative Rules were recently approved by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). These changes will eliminate the need for individuals to file appeals to get approval for certain types of modifications. We are also changing the bidding process to allow the time it will take a provider to complete the modification to be a selection factor.