



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

2021 Legislative Session Agency Program Information

Agency Number

805

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Agency History, Mission, Vision and Goals

History:

The Department of Rehabilitation Services was created as a new state agency effective July 1, 1993. Previously the programs had been a division of the Department of Human Services. Five programs are included in the agency. They are:

- Vocational Rehabilitation in existence as a state program since 1927
- Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired in existence as a state program since 1947
- Oklahoma School for the Blind (Parkview School) established in 1897
- Oklahoma School for the Deaf established in 1897
- Disability Determination in existence as a state program since 1954.

Mission:

The Mission of the Department of Rehabilitation Services is to empower Oklahomans with disabilities.

Vision:

DRS delivers innovative, effective and culturally relevant services to enable people with disabilities to become self-sufficient. Our employees view their work as an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life and are accountable for quality results. DRS provides an environment where learning and open, clear and honest communication is the norm. Our customers and stakeholders value our program and our commitment to people with disabilities.

Goals:

Hold monthly Performance Review meetings to review available resources that will allow for the VR Waiting List to be reduced.

As part of the IEP and intake process, students that transfer to the schools are assessed as to their academic status, and individual needs to graduate are identified and addressed.

The OK DDS determines annual workloads with input from SSA. Monthly and quarterly financial reports and budget plans are submitted to SSA. Ongoing communication regarding the placement of resources to ensure performance accountabilities are met.

Update and distribute the DRS protocols to adapt the schools and work locations to address the ongoing threat of COVID-19 to best protect students, staff and consumers.

Assuring that Program Information is in an accessible format for the public and consumers regardless of their disability. Students and staff are provided the necessary equipment and training for them to perform successfully whether they are working on-site or remotely.

Program Overview

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

FY2021 Budgeted FTE: 238.8

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is the employment agency for Oklahomans with disabilities. DVR provides vocational rehabilitation services for individuals needing support to enter careers of their choice. As a result, thousands whose disabilities were barriers to employment become taxpayers each year, eliminating or reducing their need for disability benefits and social assistance. DVR includes three career planning centers, a transition school to work program, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, coordination with the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation program, and outreach to minority and underserved populations.

Clients:

Oklahomans with disabilities. Consumers are evaluated and served on a priority basis, from most severe to least severe.

Funding Source:

Basic Support	State Match 21.3%	Federal 78.7%
Other Grants	State Match 10.0%	Federal 90.0%

A formula based on state population is used to determine the amount of basic support federal funding. Each year there is a cost of living adjustment to the federal funds. If a state cannot fully match available funds, those funds are distributed to other states. The federal program requires a maintenance of effort (MOE) by the state and when the state funding drops below the MOE amount, a penalty is assessed. An additional grant provides funding for independent living.

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

FY2021 Budgeted FTE: 114.5

The Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) offers vocational rehabilitation services to thousands of blind and visually impaired Oklahomans each year to help them enter the workforce. In addition to quality employment services, DSBVI programs include the Business Enterprise Program (vending facilities), the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a rehabilitation technology lab, Older Blind Independent Living Program, rehabilitation teaching services for the visually impaired, and a transition school to work program. Consumers enjoy an enhanced quality of life as a result of the multiple services provided by this division.

Clients:

Oklahomans with visual disabilities who are in need of employment, rehabilitation teaching or orientation and mobility services.

Funding Source:

Basic Support	State Match 21.3%	Federal 78.7%
Other Grants	State Match 10.0%	Federal 90.0%
Other Programs	State Appropriations 100.0%	Federal 0.0%

A formula based on state population is used to determine the amount of basic support federal funding. Each year there is a cost of living adjustment to the federal funds. If a state cannot fully match available funds, those funds are distributed to other states. The federal program requires a maintenance of effort (MOE) by the state and when the state funding drops below the MOE amount, a penalty is assessed. An additional grant provides funding for independent living. Library services are funded through state appropriations.

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a unit within the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Division which provides circulation of books on tape, Braille and large print books, periodicals and other materials to blind adults and children, digital recordings of books, ordering and circulating Braille textbooks and educational materials to blind and visually impaired children in public schools. Library operations are primarily funded through state appropriations. The Library may qualify for certain federal grants as they are available. The state is eligible for money for Braille textbooks through Federal Quota funds, which are set aside through the American Printing House for the Blind for eligible students. Hundreds of children are eligible for textbooks purchased through Federal Quota funds each school year.

Clients:

Adults and children with visual impairments or physical impairments which prevent them from using regular print.

Funding:

State Appropriations

Oklahoma School for the Blind

FY2021 Budgeted FTE: 99.0

The Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) is a residential school in Muskogee that offers education options for children who are blind or visually impaired, ages two through twenty-one. Residential, day and summer school students are served each year. OSB has a residential capacity of 114. OSB provides an educational program to assist students to be equipped for life-long learning, responsible citizenship and productive employment in an ever-changing society. In addition to meeting state curriculum requirements, the following expanded curriculum is provided to each student at OSB: Daily Living Skills Training; Braille and Abacus Instruction, Use of Adaptive Equipment, Tactile Graphic Skills, Mobility and Orientation Training; Assistive Technology Training and Low Vision training as per requirements of the National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youth with Visual Impairments organization. OSB provides services to school systems, students and families in many Oklahoma counties.

Outreach Program:

Outreach services provide evaluations to children from birth to age twenty-one, in-service training programs and recommendations for adaptations and modifications to the child's educational environment. OSB provides direct services, consultations and evaluations, contacts of families, contacts with schools, and contacts with organizations.

Clients:

Oklahoma students who are blind or visually impaired, their families, school districts, businesses, Oklahoma colleges and universities and other teaching facilities.

Funding Source:

Funding for the school's operations is provided through state appropriations. OSB receives IDEA-B funds through the State Department of Education (SDE) for students who are residential, but IDEA funds for day students are kept by the school district where the child lives. The school receives a small amount of funding through Child Nutrition and Career Technology, as well as reimbursement from SDE for Visual Teacher Impairment Institute and Outreach.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf**FY2021 Budgeted FTE: 129.3**

The Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) is a residential school that offers educational options for deaf children ages two through twenty-one. The campus occupies a 37 1/2 acre site in Sulphur, Oklahoma and includes a residential capacity of 154. Residential and day students on campus are served each year, as well as providing three satellite preschool programs.

Outreach Program:

Outreach services provide evaluations to children from age two to twenty-one, in-service training programs and make recommendations for adaptations and modifications to the child's educational environment. OSD provides direct services to deaf or hearing-impaired students, evaluation services, contacts of families, and contacts with hearing-impaired organizations.

Clients:

Oklahoma students who are deaf or hearing-impaired, their families, school districts, businesses, Oklahoma colleges and universities and other teacher training facilities.

Funding Source:

Funding for the school's operations is provided through state appropriations. OSD receives a small amount of funding through Child Nutrition and Career Technology, as well as reimbursement from SDE for Enriching Children's Communication Opportunities (ECCO) and OK Educational Interpreter Training Institute.

Disability Determination Services**FY2021 Budgeted FTE: 378.3**

Disability Determination Services (DDS) provides determination of medical eligibility for Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income Programs. Disability examiner staff obtain medical and vocational information on the person applying for disability benefits and decide if the person meets the medical eligibility criteria.

Clients:

Citizens of Oklahoma

Funding Source:

100% Federal from Social Security Administration

Support Services**FY2021 Budgeted FTE: 75.1**

Support Services provides administrative and programmatic support for the Agency including financial services, human resources, purchasing, contracts, and capital asset management.

Clients:

Department of Rehabilitation staff serving Oklahomans with disabilities

Funding Source:

DRS utilizes an indirect cost rate as the standardized method for individual programs to pay a fair share of general administration costs. FY-21 rate is 10.7%.

Performance Data

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Clients Served	13,936	10,042
Number of Program Applications	4,102	3,577
Employment Plans Completed	3,644	2,224

Successful Placements

Employment Outcomes Achieved	1,015	1,198
Average Yearly Earnings	\$22,910	\$24,292
Average Cost of Services Per Client	\$9,854	\$10,404
Average Yearly Taxes Paid	\$3,437	\$3,644

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Clients Served	1,289	1,490
Number of Program Applications	322	291
Employment Plans Completed	320	196

Successful Placements

Employment Outcomes Achieved	100	112
Average Yearly Earnings	\$28,478	\$27,404
Average Cost of Services Per Client	\$13,089	\$12,799
Average Yearly Taxes Paid	\$4,272	\$4,111

Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Clients Served	15,225	11,532
Number of Program Applications	4,424	3,868
Employment Plans Completed	3,964	2,420

Successful Placements

Employment Outcomes Achieved	1,115	1,310
Average Yearly Earnings	\$23,409	\$24,558
Average Cost of Services Per Client	\$10,145	\$10,609
Average Yearly Taxes Paid	\$3,511	\$3,684

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Services Provided

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Library Patrons	4,798	5,385
Books Circulated Daily to Patrons	580	569
Books Received Weekly by Patrons	2,913	2,726
Daily Inquiries	150	130

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center

AIM Center Children Served	1,158	1,285
Average Days for Child to Receive:		
In-house Book	1	1
Ordered Book - Braille <i>(FY19 is 28 days for books, 1 day for electronic file)</i>	28	42
Ordered Book - Large Print	14	14
Total Books/Items in Collection <i>(FY19 includes 2686 titles and 10,836 products)</i>	13,522	8,560
New Books Purchased:		
Braille <i>(FY19 includes 9 titles and 16 electronic files)</i>	25	22
Large Print	216	160
A&E's <i>(Instructional aids/equipment i.e., talking globe, tactile map, etc. Books and/or A&E's are ordered during one fiscal /school year and received the next fiscal/school year)</i>	1,188	3,105

Federal Quota Funds (Previous School Year)

Children Eligible for Textbooks	819	875
Funding:	\$287,501	\$287,501

Oklahoma School for the Blind

School Census

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Number of Residential Students	63	58
Number of Day Students	31	25
Total Number of Students Enrolled for the Year, Attending All or Part of the Year	94	83
Number of Counties Served	60	77
Number of Students with Multiple Disabilities	5	6
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 4	1 to 4
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 4	1 to 4
Number of Summer School Students*	65	0
Number of Days for Summer School*	10	0

* FY-2020 No summer school due to Covid

Outreach Program:

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Number of Direct Services	4,522	8,410
Number of Consultations and Evaluations	212	200
Number of Services to Families	1,392	1,401
Number of Services to Schools	1,472	2,041
Number of Services to Organizations	1,658	1,141

School Year Graduation Percentage

	FY-2019	FY-2020
OSB Graduation Rate	100.0%	100.0%
Number of Seniors	11	8
Seniors Graduating	11	8

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

School Census

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Number of Residential Students	84	80
Number of Day Students	53	32
Total Number of Students Enrolled for the Year, Attending All or Part of the Year	137	112
Number of Counties Served	53	77
Number of Students with Multiple Disabilities	9	11
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 4	1 to 5
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 4	1 to 4
Number of Summer School Students*	97	0
Number of Days for Summer School*	6	0
Number of Satellite Preschool Programs	2	3
Number of Students in Satellite Preschool Programs	22	21

* FY-2020 No summer school due to Covid

Outreach Program:

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Number of Direct Services	27,396	29,428
Number of Consultations and Evaluations	2,466	2,648
Number of Services to Families	13,150	14,129
Number of Services to Schools	8,219	8,827
Number of Services to Organizations	3,561	3,824

School Year Graduation Percentage

	FY-2019	FY-2020
OSD Graduation Rate	89.0%	100.0%
Number of Seniors	9	11
Seniors Graduating	8	11

Disability Determination Services

	FY-2019	FY-2020
Budgeted Workload	88,122	71,867
Number of Completed Cases	89,997	63,537
Processed Budgeted Workload	102.1%	88.0%

Performance Indicators

Decision Accuracy Rate Oklahoma	92.4%	93.2%
Decision Accuracy Rate National	94.3%	94.0%
Processing Time (days)	89.9	96.0

Based on FFY. Current year is estimated as of 9/3/20; prior year is actual.

Department of Rehabilitation Services Program Activities and Class Funds

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- 95 OSD Capital - Oklahoma School for the Deaf capital projects

Class Fund

- 212 School for the Blind Revolving Fund – Medicaid and Career Technology
- 213 School for the Deaf Revolving Fund – Medicaid and Career Technology
- 216 Donation Fund – Donations given to Department of Rehabilitation Services programs (majority to OSB and OSD)
- 218 Interpreter Certification Fund – Fees from exams for new and existing interpreters
- 235 Telecommunication for Hearing Impaired Fund – Fees from telephone usage
- 340 DRS Medical & Assistance Fund – Medical, Non- Medical, and Client Services disbursing fund
- 35X Rehab Services Disbursing Fund – Annual disbursing fund for state, federal, and other revenue combined to satisfy agency program expenditures
- 410 Rehab Services Federal Fund – Program income for DVR/DSBVI from the Social Security Administration
- 49X Surplus Property Fund – Sales receipts from disposition/replacement of property

Program Budget for Department of Rehabilitation Services

Activity	FY 2019 Actual Expenditures	FY 2020 Actual Expenditures	FY 2021 Projected	FY 2022 Request	Difference FY2021 to FY2022	Budgeted FTE
Federal Programs-IT	\$21,513	\$22,156	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$0	0.0
Independent Living	324,971	330,231	376,352	376,352	0	0.0
Older Blind	617,161	711,807	981,365	981,365	0	9.7
Nonrecurring Grants	61,499	62,574	131,689	131,689	0	0.1
DVR/DSBVI-IT	2,767,925	2,220,928	3,562,148	3,562,148	0	2.0
DVR/DSBVI	24,309,550	24,211,182	33,854,442	45,991,531	12,137,089	306.0
DVR/DSBVI Non-Med/Med	21,580,134	21,904,972	25,016,667	25,016,667	0	0.0
Business Enterprise Program	1,606,333	1,959,547	2,516,233	2,516,233	0	13.0
OLBPH-IT	239,859	243,118	264,000	264,000	0	0.0
OLBPH	1,380,794	1,497,083	1,904,954	1,904,954	0	20.5
ABLE Tech	79,770	100,628	91,021	91,021	0	0.0
Services to the Deaf	138,211	143,476	162,096	162,096	0	2.0
Braille Education	0	25,182	50,000	50,000	0	0.0
DRS Commission	62,266	64,023	80,028	80,028	0	0.8
School for the Blind-IT	196,414	195,229	400,960	400,960	0	0.0
School for the Blind	7,148,160	8,056,968	8,570,065	8,637,065	67,000	99.0
School for the Deaf-IT	155,167	183,575	385,000	385,000	0	0.0
School for the Deaf	8,743,229	8,615,077	10,432,679	10,514,679	82,000	129.3
OSD Hearing Aid Program	22,270	312,188	58,997	58,997	0	0.0
Disability Determination-IT	1,289,250	1,311,604	1,769,467	1,769,467	0	8.0
Disability Determination	34,702,131	34,797,750	41,321,578	42,721,578	1,400,000	248.7
Disability Determination EST	5,251,591	4,924,912	11,508,955	11,508,955	0	121.6
DRS Support Services-IT	1,575,546	1,331,451	1,863,854	1,863,854	0	0.0
DRS Support Services	7,104,490	8,115,340	7,871,003	7,871,003	0	74.3
OSD Capital	0	597,119	4,894,458	4,894,458	0	0.0
TOTAL	\$119,378,234	\$121,938,120	\$158,107,011	\$171,793,100	\$13,686,089	1,035.0

Expenditures by Fund for Department of Rehabilitation Services

Class Fund	Name	FY 2019 Actual Expenditures	FY 2020 Actual Expenditures	FY 2021 Projected	FY 2022 Request	Difference FY2021 to FY2022
212	School for the Blind Revolving	\$27,263	\$7,226	\$13,568	\$13,568	\$0
213	School for the Deaf Revolving	21,644	13,981	30,000	30,000	0
216	Donation Fund	88,507	382,458	158,497	158,497	0
218	Interpreter Certification Fund	21,659	11,689	32,000	32,000	0
235	Telecom for Hearing Impaired Fund	276,409	257,811	350,000	350,000	0
340	DRS Medical & Assistance Fund	28,494,988	28,474,319	31,916,500	31,916,500	0
357	Rehab Services Disbursing Fund	7,777		0	0	0
358	Rehab Services Disbursing Fund	3,393,219	4,339	0	0	0
359	Rehab Services Disbursing Fund	87,046,768	3,919,374	0	0	0
350	Rehab Services Disbursing Fund	0	88,838,262	0	0	0
351	Rehab Services Disbursing Fund	0		125,606,446	0	(125,606,446)
352	Rehab Services Disbursing Fund	0		0	139,292,535	139,292,535
49X	Surplus Property Fund	0	28,661	0	0	0
TOTAL		\$119,378,234	\$121,938,120	\$158,107,011	\$171,793,100	\$13,686,089

Department of Rehabilitation Services

FY 2020 Expenditures

	DVR/DSBVI	OSB	OSD	DDS Support Services		TOTAL
State	\$14,425,573	\$7,713,126	\$8,666,409	\$237,785	\$2,476,002	\$33,518,895
Federal	38,444,475	0	0	40,796,481	6,012,632	\$85,253,588
Other	562,836	539,071	1,041,550	0	1,022,180	\$3,165,637
Total	\$53,432,884	\$8,252,197	\$9,707,959	\$41,034,266	\$9,510,814	\$121,938,120
FTE	315.4	89.6	112.8	303.5	72.7	894.0

Department of Rehabilitation Services

FY 2021 Budget

	DVR/DSBVI	OSB	OSD	DDS Support Services	TOTAL	
State Appropriations	\$14,067,787	\$7,886,532	\$11,913,596	\$540,000	\$467,087	\$34,875,002
State Carryover	\$387,200	\$405,000	\$2,545,537	\$0	\$0	\$3,337,737
Federal	53,705,551	0	0	54,060,000	0	\$107,765,551
Other	789,429	679,493	1,312,001	0	9,347,798	\$12,128,721
Total	\$68,949,967	\$8,971,025	\$15,771,134	\$54,600,000	\$9,814,885	\$158,107,011
FTE	353.3	99.0	129.3	378.3	75.1	1,035.0

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) / Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI)

The majority of funding for this program is eligible for a federal/state match of 78.7% / 21.3%. Oklahoma Library for the Blind (OLBPH), AbleTech, and Services to the Deaf are state funded. Other includes Inter-Agency funds, Interpreter Certification, Deaf Blind Equip-FCC, OLBPH Donations, and Business Enterprise vendor benefits.

Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB)

The majority of funding for this program is state appropriations. Other includes Inter-Agency funds, Donations, E-Rate, and OSB Revolving Fund.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD)

The majority of funding for this program is state appropriations. Other includes Inter-Agency funds, Donations, E-Rate, OSD Revolving Fund, and Telecommunication for Hearing Impaired.

Disability Determination Services (DDS)

This program is federally funded, other than state dollars budgeted to cover expenditures paid to the state's defined benefit plan (OPERS) for employees participating in the state's defined contribution plan (Pathfinder).

Support Services

DRS utilizes an indirect cost rate as the standardized method for individual programs to pay a fair share of support service (general administration) costs. FY-2021 rate is 10.7% for non-state programs and 8.6% for state programs.

Department of Rehabilitation Services

FY 2022 Budget Request

Priority	Division	Funding Description	State Appropriated Funding	Federal Funding	FTE
1	OSB	Annual maintenance request	67,000	0	0.0
2	OSD	Annual maintenance request	82,000	0	0.0
3	DVR/DSBVI	Maintain necessary state match and maintenance of effort funding	2,500,000	9,237,089	0.0
4	DVR/DSBVI	State funding to offset the federal unallowable portion of Pathfinder	400,000	0	0.0
5	DDS	State funding to offset the federal unallowable portion of Pathfinder	1,400,000	0	0.0
TOTAL			\$4,449,000	\$9,237,089	0.0

Agency Priority:	1
Program Description	Oklahoma School for the Blind
Requested FTE	0.0
State Appropriations	\$67,000
Funding Description	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose	Annual Maintenance Request

The Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee provides effective education options for children with all levels of blindness or visual impairments. The goals of the school are to provide an environment that maximizes the learning opportunities for children with disabilities, certify their learning in accordance with State standards and provide a solid foundation of knowledge that the students can lean on well into adulthood. OSB also serves as a resource center to complement to the spectrum of services provided within common education for the State of Oklahoma. Communication and literacy are the two most crucial components for learning. OSB is able to tailor the education to the needs of the student. Students learn to be literate through braille and experience different levels of communication technology that establish a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. OSB is 100% state appropriated. They do not receive funding from local ad valorem taxes or the State Department of Education funding formula.

The School received the teacher pay raise that was offered during SFY-2019 and SFY-2020. The schools also received the employee raise and the requested CPI adjustment for SFY-2021. Without the CPI maintenance funding, operating budgets must be shifted as necessary to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. The CPI request allows for incremental economic adjustments to the school's funding that would not otherwise be available. The Covid-19 pandemic has put additional stressors on the staff and students to adapt and continue a productive learning environment. CARES Act funds were utilized when possible but are no longer available.

As a residential facility, OSB has the same budgetary challenges as all the other local school districts in regards to the rising cost of food, fuel and utilities, but with the additional challenge of operating a residential facility. The Oklahoma Constitution mandates that the State provide for and support the School for the Blind. A maintenance appropriation adjustment based on this most recent increase of 0.85% would result in an increase of \$67,000 dollar budget request for the School for the Blind. This would allow for economic adjustments to the school's funding that are not otherwise available.

Agency Priority:	2
Program Description	Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Requested FTE	0.0
State Appropriations	\$82,000
Funding Description	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose	Annual Maintenance Request

The Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur provides effective education options for children with all levels of deaf or hard of hearing impairments. The goals of the school are to provide an environment that maximizes the learning opportunities for children with disabilities, certify their learning in accordance with State standards and provide a solid foundation of knowledge that the students can lean on well into adulthood. OSD also serves as a resource center to complement to the spectrum of services provided within common education for the State of Oklahoma. Communication and literacy are the two most crucial components for learning. OSD is able to tailor the education to the needs of the student. Students learn and communicate using sign language and experience different levels of communication technology that establish a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. OSD is 100% state appropriated. They do not receive funding from local ad valorem taxes or the State Department of Education funding formula.

The School received the teacher pay raise that was offered during SFY-2019 and SFY-2020. The schools also received the employee raise and the requested CPI adjustment for SFY-2021. Without the CPI maintenance funding, operating budgets must be shifted as necessary to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. The CPI request allows for incremental economic adjustments to the school's funding that would not otherwise be available. The Covid-19 pandemic has put additional stressors on the staff and students to adapt and continue a productive learning environment. CARES Act funds were utilized when possible but are no longer available.

As a residential facility, OSD has the same budgetary challenges as all the other local school districts in regards to the rising cost of food, fuel and utilities, but with the additional challenge of operating a residential facility. The Oklahoma Constitution mandates that the State provide for and support the School for the Deaf. A maintenance appropriation adjustment based on this most recent increase of 0.85% would result in an increase of \$82,000 dollar budget request for the School for the Deaf. This would allow for economic adjustments to the school's funding that are not otherwise available.

Agency Priority:	3
Program Description	Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Requested FTE	0.0
State Appropriations	\$2,500,000
Funding Description	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose	Maintain Necessary State Match and Maintenance of Effort Funding Associated with Title I Federal Funds

Increased funding maximizes services to Oklahomans with disabilities, enhancing their opportunity to become self-sufficient through employment and become independent in their homes and communities. This means more Oklahomans can terminate their dependence on state and federal programs and move towards becoming taxpayers. This funding increase will positively impact the stability of the Oklahoma economy. The ratio of funding available is \$4 federal dollars to every \$1 dollar of state matching funds. Funding this request will allow DRS to fully match all of the federal funds available to the State of Oklahoma and keeps DRS in a position to put Oklahoman's with disabilities to work each year. The SFY-2022 appropriation increase requested is \$2,500,000. This increase will allow DRS to fund all obligations associated with the federal funds awarded to the State of Oklahoma, including match and maintenance of effort. Oklahoma forfeited \$5.7 million in unmatched funds from the FFY-2020 grant. Not providing this funding would cause the State of Oklahoma to forfeit additional federal funds from the 2021 and 2022 grants and severely reduce the services available to disabled Oklahomans that want to return to work.

DRS continues to work with other state agencies to coordinate services to common participants and to improve efficiencies. The Agency is an active participant in the Oklahoma Workforce System as well as the Governor's Council on Workforce. The Workforce and Opportunity Improvement Act, the guiding federal regulation for the VR program, requires DRS to participate with 19 different programs across the State to better prepare individuals for successful employment outcomes. Providing this necessary funding would allow for the full access to available funds to continue to serve the existing clients and expand services to better reach underserved populations.

Agency Priority:	4
Program Description	Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Requested FTE	0.0
State Appropriations	\$400,000
Funding Description	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose	State Funding to Offset the Federal Unallowable Portion of Pathfinder

VR/SBVI assists Oklahomans with disabilities in finding gainful employment. Funding received for Basic Support is part of an entitlement grant that supports the activities of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act reauthorized as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The level of support provided to the State of Oklahoma is 78.7% Federal dollars with a 21.3% State match. Employees hired after November 1, 2015 are enrolled in the Defined Contribution plan administered through OPERS as pathfinder participants. The pathfinder program has an overage billed by OPERS that has been ruled unallowable by the federal partners. For state programs, this is not a problem. For federal programs, the overage must be paid with state funds. The overage is a static 6% annually and these funds are not eligible for match or MOE. As staff hired before November 1, 2015 age out through attrition and are replaced, the required pathfinder contribution has been incrementally increasing each year.

As new employees are hired in VR/SBVI, it is expected that these hires will not have prior state service and will all be required to take the pathfinder option for retirement. Without additional funding the Vocational Rehabilitation program would be limited in the number of positions that could be filled and funds available for match would be reduced, further impacting the program's ability to fully match the federal allotment granted to Oklahoma. The FY-2022 pathfinder costs for this program is anticipated to be \$400,000.

Agency Priority:	5
Program Description	Disability Determination Services
Requested FTE	0.0
State Appropriations	\$1,400,000
Funding Description	Funding Request for State Appropriations
Purpose	State Funding to Offset the Federal Unallowable Portion of Pathfinder

The Disability Determination Services Division of DRS is responsible for adjudicating the applications for Social Security Disability claims. This program was 100% federally funded by the Social Security Administration prior to November 1, 2015. Employees hired after that date are enrolled in the Defined Contribution plan administered through OPERS as pathfinder participants. The pathfinder program has an overage billed by OPERS that has been ruled unallowable by the federal partners. For state programs, this is not a problem. For federal programs, the overage must be paid with state funds. For DDS this requires the state dollars be utilized in place of federal funds. The overage is a static 6% annually and these funds are not eligible for match or MOE. As staff hired before November 1, 2015 age out through attrition and are replaced, the required pathfinder contribution has been incrementally increasing each year.

SSA has offered Oklahoma the opportunity to hire an additional 222 full time professional positions. It is expected that these hires will not have prior state service and will all be required to take the pathfinder option for retirement. The FY-2022 pathfinder costs for this program is anticipated to be \$1.4 million dollars. Without additional funding, Oklahoma would lose the opportunity to add 222 professional positions to the Oklahoma workforce through the DDS program. These are professional positions that have long term stability.

Program Locations

Department of Rehabilitation Services State Office
3535 N.W. 58th, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Division of Rehabilitation Services
43 offices in 28 counties, serving 77 counties across Oklahoma

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
15 offices in 11 counties, serving 77 counties across Oklahoma

Oklahoma School for the Blind
Muskogee, OK

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Sulphur, OK

Disability Determination Services
Oklahoma City, OK
Tulsa, OK



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

