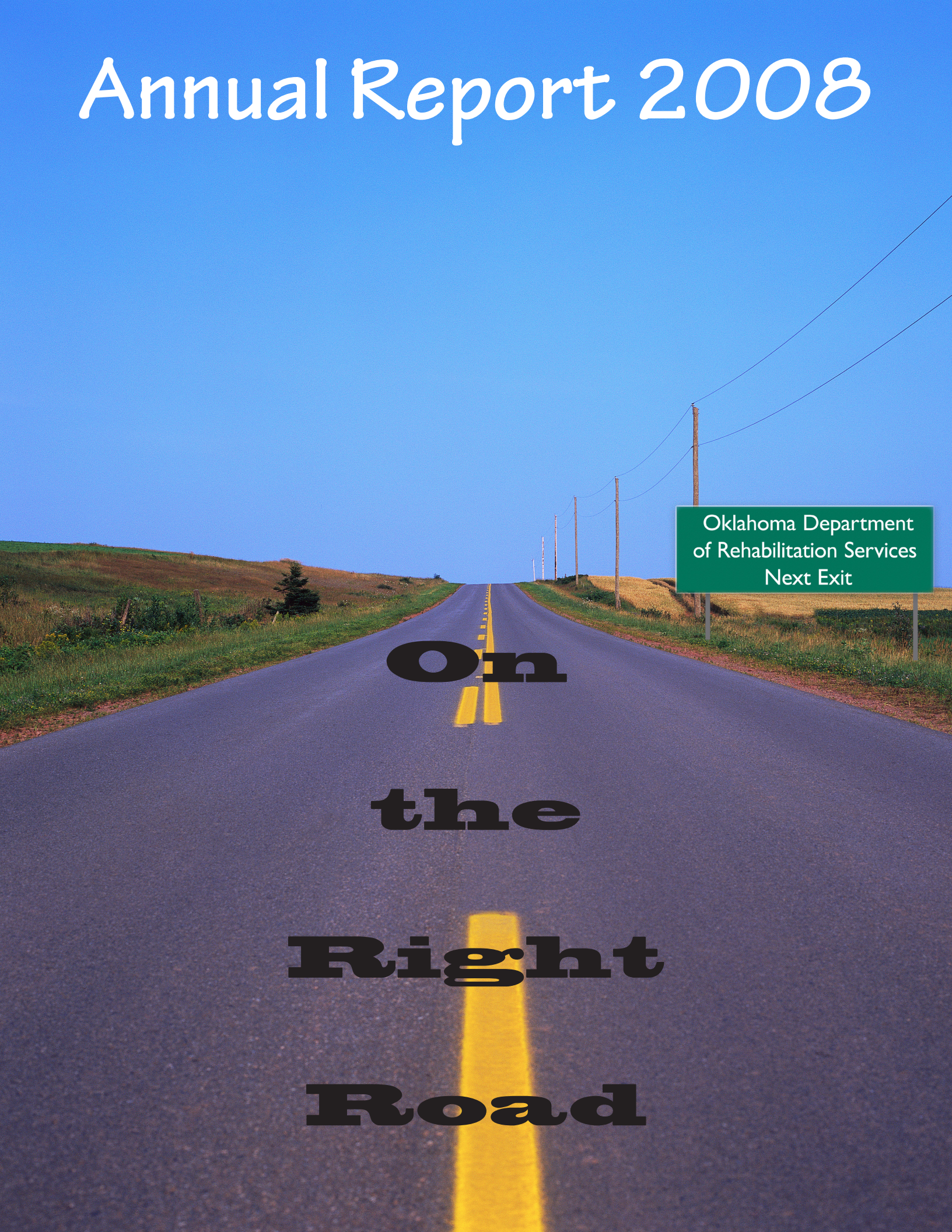
Annual Report 2008



DRS Disability Resource Guide

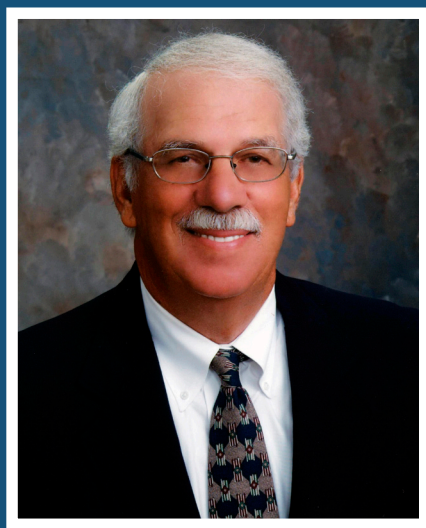
Find local, state and national disability information on: Employment and Training, Specialized Educational Services, Financial Assistance, Housing, Transportation, Health, Disability Laws and Legal Aid, Support Groups, Accessibility, Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation, Personal Assistance, Disability Organizations, Sports and Recreation

Go on-line and search for a topic

The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation Services is to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to achieve productivity, independence and an enriched quality of life.

Oklahoma Resident
Your Hometown, OK

Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services



Chair Ray F. Kirk of Muskogee

Appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate

A native of northeastern Oklahoma, Kirk owns and operates a 585-acre cattle and thoroughbred horse ranch southeast of Muskogee. He was employed as a State Farm Insurance Companies agent for 32 years before retirement.

Vice Chair Steve Shelton of Edmond

Appointed by the Speaker of the State House of Representatives

Shelton is a senior application programmer and consultant with Fidelity National Information Services. He was a client of the DRS' Visual Services/Vocational Rehabilitation program, which assisted him with his education and job placement. This assistance was a key factor in building the foundation for a successful information technology career.

The Road Traveled

Department of Rehabilitation Services

It's been a great trip this year and the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) has seen and accomplished much.

March 26th marked the date for the 14th Annual DRS People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2008. It was a resounding success with more in attendance than in past years. Attendees magnified their presences by a unified stand in wearing green clothing. Sarah Getto,wowed the audience with outstanding musical talent as did the Oklahoma School for the Blind Jazz Band and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf's Performing Arts Company. The event proved successful by bringing people with disabilities or those who work with them to the State Capitol to provide the state's lawmakers with a personal insight into the needs of the disability community.

In May, a group of six from the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration blazed the highways of Oklahoma on a fact-finding mission regarding DRS. Since then the agency has been working closely with them to improve our service for the clients.

Thanks to the Oklahomans for Special Library

Services, the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped now owns their very own Automated External Defibulator, donated at a cost of $1,569.

DRS and Disability Determination Division (DDD) successfully raised $8,871.89 to benefit the March of Dimes-March for Babies Campaign this year. This marks the 10th year that DDD has participated in this fundraising effort and has contributed more than $20,000 to support the March of Dimes' fight to prevent premature births and infant mortality. Team DDD received five Awards in the following Division II categories: $8,000 Club Award, Team with the Highest Increase over 2007, Team with the Highest Walker Dollars Raised, Outstanding Team Leadership and People's Choice Award – Best T-Shirt Design – 1st Place.

The Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf witnessed another year of excellence in education as another class graduated and the seniors proudly accepted their diplomas with mom and dad and grandparents beaming with pride in the audience.

In August, new life was returned to an old favorite with the major renovation being completed on the 1,000-page "Disability Resource Guide." The Guide shares disability information on the local, state and national levels comprised of more than 3,000 entries. This guide is available on-line at www.okdrs.gov. It includes information on housing and legal issues, as well as where to find adaptive clothing or equipment, or acquire information on specific diseases or conditions.

Along the way, we made great friends at the agency by serving many Oklahomans. More than 635,000 Oklahomans have a disability.

Member Ben C. White of Lawton

Appointed by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma

Ben C. White served as Executive Vice President of Comanche County Memorial Hospital, where he was instrumental in developing the Center for Disability and Rehabilitation. He owned and operated The Center of Good Health, a full service family fitness and wellness center, which offered physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation services.

DRS Director Linda S. Parker

Linda S. Parker has served as the DRS chief executive officer since 1996. Under the guidance of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services, she leads 900 employees who assisted 68, 753 Oklahomans with disabilities during the State Fiscal Year 2008.

Characteristic of Persons Rehabilitated in the VR and VS Programs

	Total Persons Rehabilitated	Persons w/Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
Gender		
Male	1,132	1,018
Female	1,114	1,000
Race		
White	1,729	1,541
African American	287	258
Asian	25	24
American Indian or Alaska Native	256	242
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3	3
Hispanic Ethnicity	59	55
*Clients may indicate up to six races/ethnicities.		
Age at Application		
Younger than 20	714	604
20 to 21	133	105
22 to 34	416	376
35 to 44	333	311
45-64	555	527
65 and older	95	95
Education Level at Application		
No formal schooling	10	10
Elementary education (Grades 1 through 8)	53	48
Secondary Education, no diploma (Grades 1 through 12)	738	672
Special education certificate of completion/diploma or in attendance	48	46
High school graduate or Equivalency certificate (regular education students)	711	619
Post-secondary education, no degree	427	376
Associate degree or Vocational/ Technical Certificate	176	167
Bachelor's degree	61	59
Master's degree or higher	22	21
Primary Disability		
Blind/Visual Impairment	405	371
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	92	86
Deaf-Blindness	5	5
Communicative Impairments	24	23
Orthopedic Impairment	452	383
Respiratory Impairments	63	42
General Physical Debilitation	80	76
Other Physical Impairments	179	155
Cognitive Impairments	561	517
Psychosocial Impairments	318	298
Other Mental Impairments	67	62

New digital reading machines on display at the Oklahoma Library For the Blind and Physically Handicapped

DRS Produces American Sign Language Video Media Release For the Deaf community.

DRS in Review

DRS is comprised of five divisions, Vocational Rehabilitation, Visual Services, Disability Determination, Oklahoma School for the Blind and Oklahoma School for the Deaf. These divisions operate dozens of programs that help Oklahomans lead more independent and productive lives.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services help Oklahomans with disabilities prepare for good jobs in the careers of their choice. These two divisions served 12,500 clients resulting in 2,246 clients finding employment and becoming taxpayers.

These divisions also operate programs that help people adjust to blindness and hearing loss by learning new skills that lead to independence.

Disability Determination reviews medical records to see if applicants are eligible for Social Security disability benefits because they are not able to work. This division completed a workload of 54,185 case determinations.

The Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee and Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur help residential students, those who commute and summer school students achieve their educational and career goals. Both schools offer outreach services to families, local schools and their students who are blind or deaf across the state.

In the late 1940s, the Travis Harris Blind Stand was the place to be!

In 2008, approximately 74 percent of services provided by Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services were funded by federal dollars while 26 percent came from the state.

Disability Determination was 100% federally funded.

State funding for Oklahoma School for the Blind averaged 98 percent and funding for the Oklahoma School for the Deaf averaged 96 percent.

DRS has 900 employees and leads by example, with 12 percent of the agency's personnel being people with disabilities. There are 42 Vocational Rehabilitation offices in 26 counties and 19 Visual Services offices in 13 counties.

With rapidly escalating costs in tuition and fees, medical treatment and other services required to help our clients reach employment goals, DRS had to delay services to new clients from February 11 to September 16, 2008 due to budget constraints. This was to ensure that current clients already in the system would be able to receive the proper services they required and deserved. In September, DRS began serving new clients who were considered the most severe in terms of disabilities. Services to those considered severe or less severe were delayed all of 2008.

In 1993, the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services was created as an independent agency. However, its history runs very deep. Vocational Rehabilitation began in 1927, while Visual Services started in 1947. The Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf were established in 1897. Disability Determination began operating in 1954. Through the years, DRS has helped many Oklahomans gain dignity through the power of self-sustaining employment and independent living.

Vocational Rehabilitation

DRS' Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is the place to go for Oklahomans who have a physical or mental disability and need assistance finding or keeping employment. People with visual impairments receive similar services from Visual Services.

To qualify for services, a person has a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment and he or she must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in ways that leads to finding and obtaining employment.

VR services primarily consist of career counseling, vocational education and training, medical services to improve employment opportunities, special technology and job placement to help Oklahomans with their career goals. As a result, thousands whose disabilities were barriers to employment become taxpayers each year, eliminating or reducing their need for disability benefits and government assistance.

VR is there to point the way for high school students with disabilities with a head-start on work experience through the Transition School to Work program. VR also provides employment assistance and interpreter certification from Services for the Deaf and free recruitment, job-related training and information about tax credits for employers from the Business and Employment Services Team.

Division staff also operate three career planning centers and coordinate services with eight tribal vocational rehabilitation programs.

Ribbon Cutting at the newly relocated Weatherford DRS office!

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

	FY-2008
Clients Served	10,145
Program Applications	3,632
Employment Plans	1,093

VR Clients Who Became Employed

	FY-2008
Employment Outcomes	1,708
Average Yearly Earnings	$21,421
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$9,796
Average Taxes Paid	$3,213

Combined VR/VS Statistics
VR and VS Clients Served

	FY-2008
Clients Served	12,500
Program Applications	4,369
Employment Plans	1,413

VR and VS Clients Employed

	FY2008
Employment Outcomes	2,246
Average Yearly Earnings	$20,250
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$9,306
Average Taxes Paid	$3,038

*Statistical information based on Federal Fiscal Year 2008

BUSINESS IS GOOD IN BLACKWELL FOR ENTHUSIASTIC ENTREPRENEUR AND VR CLIENT!

Dale Oard Success Story!

"You may not believe this, but totaling that 1995 Blazer was the best thing that ever happened to me," Dale Oard said, adjusting his Kay County Farm Bureau cap as he smiled, dimples showing in both cheeks.

"I'd been on Social Security disability for five years – told everybody I was retired – but I'm bipolar and was having a lot of problems. I'd been doing a little drinking when I had that wreck, which landed me in the hospital up in Wichita for three or four weeks."

A thorough medical assessment at the hospital led to a change in Oard's medication. The new drug, Seroquel, treats depressive and manic episodes by regulating the balance of chemicals in the brain. Another medication helps control the urge to drink.

"Instead of my mind bouncing around like a BB in a box car, I got where I could focus," Oard said. "And I knew it was time to do something other than sitting around all day reading the newspaper and watching TV."

Oard said the epiphany that led to his new business, All Star Advertising and Promotions came at a garage sale. He spotted a novelty item there so ingenious that he refuses to talk about it because it's not yet copyrighted.

"When I saw it, a little light went off in my head," Oard said. "You know that guy who came up with the pet rock? All he had was a rock and a damn good marketing idea. I figure I'm next."

Oard's research showed that south of Wichita, north of Oklahoma City and west of Tulsa the market was "wide open" for laser engraved awards and personalized items. His next step was contacting the DRS.

Vocational Rehabilitation Technician Christy Baugh encouraged Oard and introduced him to Program Manager Terri Miller. Miller completed a vocational evaluation and helped Oard tweak his business plan to "check for potholes that might trip him up and sabotage an otherwise excellent business venture," Oard said.

His Enid-based vocational rehabilitation counselor, Stacey Birchfield, provided career counseling and guidance. As part of Oard's employment plan, Birchfield paid for business start-up expenses, including a laptop computer, office equipment, materials for engraving, utilities, bookkeeping and phone book advertising.

Oard's high-dollar laser engraver dominates what had once been his master bedroom. He purchased the laser engraver, added dedicated electrical service to handle the new equipment's power requirements and enlarged the front door to get the scanner through it with funds from a low-interest Access to Telework Fund loan.

Stillwater-based Oklahoma ABLE Tech operates the loan program in partnership with BancFirst and the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation to increase access to computers and adaptive equipment so Oklahomans with disabilities can work from home.

His ultimate goal, Oard said, "is to get off disability benefits and be a self-sufficient taxpayer."

"Enthusiasm is contagious," he said. "Let's start an epidemic!

HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF THE BLIND AND VISUAL SERVICES SPONSOR WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE PUBLIC.

Visual Services

Oklahomans who are blind or visually impaired turn to Visual Services for assistance through vocational rehabilitation, employment and other programs that encourage confidence and independence.

Through employment people who are blind or visual impaired can support themselves or their families just like any other person. Visual Services (VS) offers employment assistance to help those who want employment reach their goals through the use of career counseling, vocational education and training, medical services to improve employment opportunities, special technology and job placement.

Our VS program is customized to help Oklahomans with visual impairments adjust to vision loss and develop skills needed to get or keep quality jobs.

Clients are eligible for the vocational rehabilitation program if their visual impairments make it difficult to work. They must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, which are required to prepare for and find jobs.

VS helps high school students get valuable vocational training and work experience, and assists business owners who are blind in operating food service businesses in government buildings through the Business Enterprise Program.

The Business and Employment Services Team and VS staff provide recruitment assistance free to employers, along with information on tax credits and training on the latest adaptive technology to help employees with disabilities get the job done.

Rehabilitation teachers offer free classes and in-home instruction to help Oklahomans adjust to vision loss, while Orientation and Mobility specialists teach clients techniques for traveling safely. Oklahomans who are 55 years of age or older get assistance through the Older Blind Independent Living Services program.

VS' Vision Center concentrates a variety of services in one convenient location. The center features a Rehabilitation Technology Lab, which enables clients to try out the latest technology and receive hands-on training.

Visual Services operates the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which mails thousands of free recorded books to patrons and provides free braille textbooks and classroom materials to public school students.

Division of Visual Services (VS) Services

	FY-2008
Clients Served	2,355
Program Applications	737
Employment Plans	320

VS Clients Who Became Employed

	FY-2008
Employment Outcomes	538
Average Yearly Earnings	$16,531
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$7,751
Average Taxes Paid	$2,480

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Services Circulation

	FY-2008
Library Patrons	5,646
Books Circulated Daily to Patrons	801
Books Received Weekly by Patrons	4,005
Daily Inquiries	86

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center

	FY-2008
Children Served	1,327
Average Days for Child to Receive:	
In-house Book	2
Ordered Book - Braille	14
Ordered Book - Large Print	14
Total Books/Items in Collection	21,462
New Books Purchased - Braille	349
New Books Purchased - Large Print	396
Instructional Aids and Equipment *	592

*Books and instructional aids/equipment, such as talking globes, tactile maps, etc., are ordered during one fiscal/school year and received the next fiscal/school year.

Federal Quota Funds (Previous School Year)

	FY-2008
Children Eligible for Textbooks	846
Funding	$214,678

The State Department of Education provides supplemental funding annually for Braille Education materials. For FY08 and FY09 the funding amount was $250,000.

*Statistical information for VS based on Federal Fiscal Year 2008 and OLBPH based on State Fiscal Year 2008.

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped shows off the new Digital Talking Book Player at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Visual Services staff prepare to demonstrate assistive technology at their People with Disabilities Awareness Day exhibit booth.

2008 marked the 10th year DDD participated in March of Dimes

What an outstanding year. DDD is ranked 4th in the Nation for initial claims accuracy!

Disability Determination

In the "disability determination" world the goal is to process as many claims as possible accurately and quickly. Why? A claim actually represents a person who has applied for disability benefits for Social Security Disability Income and Supplemental Security Income benefits. It is DRS' Disability Determination Division's job to determine if that person is eligible under the government requirements.

Our disability examiners and consulting physicians or psychologists review applicants' medical and vocational information and work as a team on the medical review process. They decide whether or not applicants qualify as disabled or blind based on medical evidence using federal guidelines. Here accuracy, speed and expert opinions are critical.

Children are evaluated based on their ability to perform age-appropriate activities and their medical evidence.

Disability Determination met their initial clearance target by clearing 37,310 initial claims in federal fiscal year 2008. They ended the year with only 7,710 initial claims pending. This was lower than their target of 8,530 – meaning they cleared 800 more claims than the target.

This division also found itself in good standing when it was announced that they were ranked fourth in the nation in initial claims accuracy through August 2008 at 96.5 percent – exceeding their target of 95 percent. They also were ranked second in the nation at 98.4 in reconsideration of claims and ninth in the nation at 98.8 percent for Continuing Disability Review (CDR).

What does this really mean? When a person applies for disability benefits in Oklahoma he or she gets an accurate evaluation. Allowing for their benefits to begin timely or for him or her to find alternative income means.

The law requires Disability Determination to perform a CDR approximately every three years to establish if the medical condition of the claimant has improved or not. Disability Determination completed their assigned share of this Region's CDR workload by processing 3,027 CDRs.

Disability Determination had a Mean Processing Time (MPT) of 85.2 days. This is 7.2 days less than their time in 2007. Most exceptional was the final quarter of 2008 where Disability Determination had a MPT of 76.6 days. This is a tremendous accomplishment considering that two years ago in 2006, their MPT was 106.7 days.

In support of the Commissioner of Social Security's goal of reducing backlogs in the Office of Disabilities Adjudication Review (ODAR), Disability Determination voluntarily reviewed 1,451 informal remands resulting in 446 fully favorable reversals. This year they have volunteered to review 2,000 informal remands for ODAR.

Disability Determination has also taken the lead in expanding the use of electronic services in Oklahoma. In September, 31.7 percent of the medical evidence of record was received electronically from the vendors and 88.4 percent of the consultative examination reports were sent electronically. This is the result of the diligent efforts of the Disability Determination to educate the medical community concerning the advantages, for themselves and their patients, of submitting evidence electronically.

Disability Determination helps Oklahomans cope with loss of income due to disability. As a result, they gain more independence and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Disability Determination Division Performance

	FY-2008
Budgeted Workload	54,396
Completed Workload	54,185
Processed Budgeted Workload	99.6%

	FY-2008
Decision Accuracy Rate Oklahoma	96.5%
Decision Accuracy Rate National	94.4%
Processing Time (days)	76.6

*Statistical information based on Federal Fiscal Year 2008

Language No Barrier For Deaf And Hearing Friends

It's been nine, long years since Wilma Rehman last saw Jaime Lopez. The friendship that made them as close as family has survived double language barriers, a near-fatal illness and relocation to the other side of the country. In spite of the strong bond between them, Lopez, who is deaf, has never spoken to Rehman.

At their recent reunion in Oklahoma City, they communicated through a sign language interpreter who joined them, Lopez's fiancé Anparo Amaya and other family members.

When they first met, Rehman, then age 21, was a certified bilingual instructor, working with non-English speaking students in the language lab at Clinton Middle School. When Lopez came to Rehman's lab at age 13, his hearing loss had prevented him from learning English or Spanish, which was his family's first language.

"I'm deaf, and when I came to Clinton Middle School in 1992 I didn't know how I was going to fit in," Lopez explained. "All I could do was work on math because I didn't understand anyone. It was very hard."

Rehman, who was not trained in sign language, worked with the school counselor to identify the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur as the best educational option for Lopez.

By coincidence, the School for the Deaf and the Disability Determination Division, where Rehman works as a customer service representative today, are both divisions of this agency. In addition, DRS' Vocational Rehabilitation division provided career counseling and paid for Lopez' technical training after high school.

"There was a deaf teacher there [at School for the Deaf], Jeff Cooper, who taught 7th grade," Lopez said. "My first deaf teacher! He had a lot of patience. He had a hearing aid, but he was deaf."

For seven years, Lopez enjoyed attending OSD classes Monday through Friday and went home to his family on the weekend.

"I was happy to be at the school," Lopez said. "I liked math and history and science. I was in football, played basketball and track."

Rehman, Lopez and their families stayed in touch. She attended the junior prom with Lopez and sat with the family when he graduated from the School for the Deaf in 1997.

When Lopez graduated again in 1999 from the two-year automotive collision technology program at Moore Norman Technology Center, Rehman was there. Shortly after graduation, Lopez followed family members to Atlanta and accepted a job at Abra Auto Body and Glass.

DDD's Wilma Rehman and Jaime Lopez remember old times.

"Moore-Norman's body shop program was a good program," Lopez explained. "They really trained you, so once I showed my boss that I could communicate well in my own way, the job worked out. Now the boss wants me to get more training, learn more about body shop work to get another certificate."

After a video phone romance, Lopez returned to Oklahoma to claim his future bride, Anparo Amaya, in late August. Their wedding will take place in Atlanta, but, first, Lopez wanted her to meet his good friend, Wilma Rehman, the teacher who cared.

"She is a special person," he said "I really appreciate that she helped me find the School for the Deaf when I needed it."

"I am so happy for Jaime," Rehman said, "-- happy for him because she makes him happy."

Man Alive! That Jazz Band can play!

Oklahoma School for the Blind

The trip to Muskogee, Oklahoma is well worth the drive. The Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB), sometimes called Parkview School by the locals, provides students who are blind or visually impaired an outstanding education tailored to meet their individual needs. This is a public school, meaning no tuition or transportation costs.

Students may commute from home daily if they live close by or they can live at the school during the week and on Friday afternoon return to their hometowns to be with their families on the weekend.

OSB is a fully accredited school that teaches all the state mandated education requirements with individual training that will ensure a student has every opportunity at his or her fingertips. Whether it is with assistive technology, such as computer screen readers or audio books or magnifiers that enlarge printed material to braillers for note taking – students at OSB can get their hands on equipment that is not always available at public schools.

In small classes, students are taught subjects from special skills such as mobility and orientation to core subjects such as math and English. At OSB, students are regular kids, to each other and the staff. OSB also has a Summer Enrichment Program for students who attend public schools during the regular school year.

The school provides special events and activities to bring the public and students together. Each year, OSB hosts Future Shock where the high-school-aged students get to visit with workplace professionals and college recruiters to prepare the students for life after high school.

This year, the American Quarter Horse Association held its first ever Horse Day at the Barefoot Ranch in Haskell. That was a great field trip for the elementary-age students. They enjoyed being outdoors, riding horses, fishing in the pond and eating a super picnic lunch.

OSB provides thousands of free outreach services each year for students attending local public schools, their families and local school systems. Qualified staff offer free student evaluations, in-service training for teachers and recommendations for classroom modifications and special equipment that help students reach their full potential.

Oklahoma School for the Blind

School Census

	FY-2008
Residential Students	45
Day Students	51
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year	96
Counties Served	31
Students with Multiple Disabilities	13
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 6
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 10
Summer School Students	22
Days for Summer School	20

Outreach Program

	FY-2008
Direct Services	1,596
Consultations anad Evaluations	141
Services to Families	167
Services to Schools	390
Services to Organizations	898

School Year Graduation Percentage

	FY-2008
OSB Graduation Rate	100.0%
State Graduation Rate	76.6%
National Graduation Rate	70.6%

*Statistical information based on School Year 2007-08

Oklahoma's Future - Graduating Class of 2008

Horse Day was F U N !

Students test out the lastest tech stuff at Future Shock

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

When you visit the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, you can see first hand how great this school is. OSD is both a neighborhood school where students commute from home and a residential school where students live during the week and on Friday afternoon return to their hometowns to spend the weekends with their families. There is no cost for tuition or room and board at OSD, nor is there a fee for transporting students to and from home.

At OSD, a child's communication needs are met so he or she can have the school experiences every child deserves -- classroom instruction, between class gossip, sweating it out in sports defending the school colors or acting in the high school play and taking a bow to a standing "wave."

Here, school is school with a few specialized courses designed to meet unique communication needs. OSD is a fully accredited public school that follows all the state mandated education requirements.

For a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, the value of OSD comes with its offering of specific skills training, including American Sign Language (ASL) and use of adaptive technology. Students may receive remediation or skills reinforcement, and staff work effectively with students who have varying degrees of hearing loss using the child's communication method.

In 2008, OSD hit the century mark. With a long history of educating Oklahoma's children, the school relies on its experience to advance forward for the students' future. OSD expanded its educational reach with three satellite preschools strategically placed throughout the state, one in the north at Collinsville, one in the center at Edmond and now one in the southwest at Chickasha. These satellite preschools help to keep children at home during their early childhood years while providing the needed education in communication that is critical at this time in their young lives and usually not available in the public school arena.

The National Accessible Learning Center, operated through OSD in collaboration with the Oklahoma School for the Blind, houses and distributes 70,000 educational videos specially formatted for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, with captioning and for students who are blind or visually impaired with descriptive narrative. This center is the only educational video library of its kind in the United States.

OSD accepts its responsibility to the community which includes the deaf or hard of hearing beyond the high school years. Housed on the campus is the Equipment Distribution Program where adaptive equipment for telephone and communication access for those of any age is provided. Also, the Hearing Aid Program for Senior Adults provides assistance for those needing hearing aids who meet eligibilty guidelines.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

School Census

	FY-2008
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year	147
Residential Students	80
Day Students	67
Counties Served	75
Students with Multiple Disabilities	30
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 5
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 7
Summer School Students	95
OSD	53
Public Schools	42
Days for Summer School	8

Preschool Programs

	FY-2008
Satellite Preschool Programs	2
Students	29

Outreach Program

	FY-2008
Direct Services	64,316*
Consultations and Evaluations	2,504
Services to Families	27,807
Services to Schools	28,395
Services to Organizations	5,610

*Includes videos shipped to patrons nationwide by OSD's National Accessible Learning Center.

School Year Graduation Percentage

	FY-2008
OSD Graduation Rate	100.0%
State Graduation Rate	76.6%
National Graduation Rate	70.6%

*Statistical information based on School Year 2007-08

Oklahoma's Future!
Graduating Class of 2008

Formal language education begins in preschool!

OSD Performing Arts Company performs at the State Capitol

Department of Rehabilitation Services
2008 Actual Expenditures

	DVR/DVS	OSB	OSD	DDD	Support Services	Total
State	14,092,379	6,654,116	8,509,470			29,255,965
Federal	39,157,621	142,930	391,240	21,477,000		61,168,791
Other		26,954	880,290*		5,620,000	6,527,244
Total	53,250,000	6,824,000	9,781,000	21,477,000	5,620,000	96,952,000

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) / Division of Visual Services (DVS) -The majority of funding for the program is eligible for a federal/state match of 78.7 percent / 21.3 percent. DVS' Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) receives 100% state funding.

*Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) - The majority of the Other funding goes to the Equipment Distribution program, which provides telecommunications and other equipment to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and severely speech impaired individuals.

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.

*Statistical information based on *State Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request.*

What We Do

Opening doors to opportunity -- that's what we do at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

We are proud of dedicated staff – including 12% who have disabilities – because they understand and care about the people we serve.

Our programs and services help people with their life's journey lead more self-sufficient and fulfilling lives.

We are DRS. We guide people with a roadmap to employment, but each person we serve deserves the credit for traveling the path to reach their destination.

Good Times! Good Friends! Good Trip!

DRS Disability Resource Guide

Find local, state and national disability information on: Employment and Training, Specialized Educational Services, Financial Assistance, Housing, Transportation, Health, Disability Laws and Legal Aid, Support Groups, Accessibility, Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation, Personal Assistance, Disability Organizations, Sports and Recreation.

Go on-line and search for a topic or simply explore chapters that interest you.

www.okdrs.gov

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