

# Did You Know?



1 in 5.5 Oklahomans have a disability

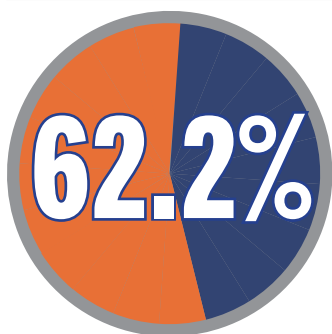
A dark blue silhouette of the state of Oklahoma. The number 373,359 is written in large white font across the center of the map.

**373,359**

Working age  
Oklahomans  
have disabilities

**30.3%**

of Oklahomans with disabilities live in poverty



Of Oklahomans with  
disabilities between  
the ages of 18 and 64  
are unemployed

Based on information collected from the 2020 Census as presented in the 2021 Annual Disabilities Statistics Compendium.

## People with disabilities **WANT** to work!

In 2021, with the support of ORC, DRS assisted

**1,018** Oklahomans in finding employment



The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) delivers quality services to Oklahomans with disabilities, increasing opportunities to achieve productivity and independence

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!

What is the solution?

Naturally, the solution will be different for each individual. However, many options do exist in today's society to overcome employment-related barriers – thereby providing a career opportunity for ALL. Successful solutions include: new or modified equipment; physical access changes to the workplace; technological access changes to the workplace; policy changes to the workplace; changes in work tasks; job structure; access to bus routes; changes in communication or information sharing; training; additional education; work from home; flexible work schedule; temporary and/or part time employment.

In FY 2021, DRS successfully placed 1,018 clients in employment by individually overcoming work-related barriers. This unique 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.

We would like to remind you of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) efforts to lead their clients to have successful careers. ORC's mission, as a partner with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), is to assure the services of DRS are of high quality leading to employment of individuals with disabilities. Additionally, ORC facilitates consumer education and empowerment.

*\*2021 Annual Disabilities Statistics Compendium*



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