OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services

Commissioners
Janet Barresi, Wanda Felty,
Lindsay Hanna, Kelsey Lee, Lance Robertson,
Noel Tyler, and Kevin Wallace

Regular Meeting

There is no video conferencing for this meeting

DRS State Office
7301 NW Expressway, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

November 18, 2026

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

State of Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Department of Rehabilitation Services
7301 NW Expressway, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

Commissioners: Lindsay Hanna, Chair; Noel Tyler, Vice Chair; Dr. Janet Barresi, Wanda Felty, Kelsey Lee, Lance Robertson, and Kevin Wallace.

There is no virtual option for this meeting. Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility.

Public Comment: Please sign up on arrival prior to the start of the meeting. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.**
   Lindsay Hanna, Chair

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Lindsay Hanna, Chair

3. **Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act**
   Kathleen Arrieta, Commission Assistant

4. **Public Comments**
   Public Audience - Under Oklahoma Open Meeting Laws, the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services cannot respond to or discuss any matter not on today's agenda.

5. **Presentation of Longevity Certificates**
   Lindsay Hanna, Chair

6. **Success Story**
   Jaden Biffle, Public Information Officer III, Communications
   a) Video - Shanna Lloyd DRS Client
   b) Possible discussion

7. **Executive Director's Report** Page 5
   Sterling Zearley, Executive Director
   a) Certificates of Appreciation
   b) Report includes meetings, and organizational, legislative, budget updates.
   c) Possible discussion

8. **Interagency Agreement re: Financial Services**
   Sterling Zearley, Executive Director
   a) Interagency agreement between the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) for DHS Chief Financial Officer Danielle Durkee to provide financial oversight of DRS operations
   b) Possible discussion

Action Items

9. **Adoption of Amended Internal Policy Related to OKDRS Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace.** Page 11
   LaChelle Westfahl, Human Resources Director
   a) Discussion and possible action to approve the amended internal policy.

10. **Review of the October 14, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes** Page 18
    Lindsay Hanna, Chair
    a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.

Reports

11. **Finance Committee Report**
    Kevin Wallace, Commissioner
    a) Financial Status Reports for FY 26 and FY 27.
    b) Possible discussion

12. **Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report** Page 23
    Danielle Durkee, CFO, DHS
    a) Financial Status Reports for FY 26 and FY 27.
    b) Possible discussion

13. **Human Resources Report** Page 41
    LaChelle Westfahl, HR Director
    a) Personnel Activity report & current FTE Status.
    b) Introductions of new staff
    c) Possible discussion

14. Communications Report

Mark Beutler, Director of Communications

a) Report includes events, projects and media/publicity.
b) Possible discussion

15. Priority Group and Portal Updates

Mark Kinnison, Division Administrator, Vocational Rehabilitation

a) Possible discussion

16. New Business

Lindsay Hanna, Chair

a) Any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting as per 25 O.S. § 311.

17. Proposed Executive Session

Lindsay Hanna, Chair

a) Discussion and possible vote to enter Executive Session pursuant to 74 O.S. § 166.8(A)(2) and 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussing the nominations for the annual Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services Award.
b) Vote to reconvene into Regular Session
c) Discussion and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

18. Adjourn

Lindsay Hanna, Chair

a) Discussion and possible action

Note: "Possible action" by the Commission includes, but is not limited to, approval, authorization, adoption, rejection, denial, amendment, taking no action, or tabling the item for disposition at a later date or time.

Next Commission meeting:
Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Executive Director's Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Commission Meeting | November 18, 2026

Submitted by Sterling Zearley, Executive Director

I. Meetings and Agency Engagements

The Executive Director participated in or scheduled the following meetings and agency engagements during the reporting period:

Date	Meeting / Engagement
Oct. 2	Oklahoma Works Partners Conference – Frontline Staff Awards Presentation
Oct. 5	Meetings with Sen. Paul Rosino and Rep. Daniel Pae
Oct. 6–7	Oklahoma Transition Institute
Oct. 8	Workforce Transformation Partnership Meeting; Capitol Meeting
Oct. 9	Sterling Conversations; DRS-related meetings
Oct. 13	OSB Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Oct. 14	Commission Meeting at OSB
Oct. 19	OSD Foundation Annual Golf Tournament
Oct. 21	Governor's Disability Employment Awards of Excellence
Oct. 22	DRS Legislative Policy Committee Meeting
Oct. 23	Governor's Council Meeting
Oct. 26	Executive Team (E-Team) Meeting
Oct. 28	Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC) Quarterly Meeting
Oct. 29	Budget Request Discussion; Workforce Meeting
Oct. 31–Nov. 6	CSAVR Fall Conference, Frisco, Texas
Nov. 3	Finance Review Committee Meeting
Nov. 10	OCCY OJSO Work Group Meeting
Nov. 12	Stakeholder Committee Meeting; Workforce Transformation
Nov. 13	Director's Update / Sterling Conversations featuring Stephanie Roe
Nov. 16	Executive Team (E-Team) Meeting
Nov. 17	Human Services Agencies Monthly Meeting
Nov. 18	Commission Meeting at DRS State Office

These engagements support agency partnerships, strategic planning, legislative coordination, employee communication, and collaboration with Commissioners and external stakeholders.

II. Legislative Update and Engagement

We will have an update on the following information at the *December meeting* regarding legislative updates

- LegisOK Tracking
- Dashboard
- Meeting and coordinating with key legislative leadership

Legislative Leadership Engagement

Legislative Leader	Meeting Date / Status
Sen. Chuck Hall, Appropriations Chair	Oct. 8
Rep. Trey Caldwell, Appropriations Chair	Oct. 28
Sen. Paul Rosino, Committee Chair	Met Oct. 5
Rep. Daniel Pae, Committee Chair	Met Oct. 5

2027 House and Senate Legislative Deadlines

Date	Deadline
Dec. 4, 2026	Bill Request Deadline
Jan. 5, 2027, noon	Organizational Day
Jan. 14, 2027, 4 p.m.	Bill Introduction Deadline
Feb. 1, 2027, noon	First Day of Session
Mar. 25, 2027	Third Reading – House of Origin
May 6, 2027	Third Reading – Opposite House
May 28, 2027, 5 p.m.	Sine Die Adjournment

DRS will continue engaging legislative leaders and stakeholders to communicate agency priorities and the needs of Oklahomans with disabilities.

III. Administrative Rules

Planning and development of the proposed 2027 administrative rules are complete. Proposed changes have been provided to the Commission for review in accordance with the administrative rulemaking process. Commissioners may refer to the previously distributed Administrative Rules Process Calendar for key dates, review periods, and required actions.

IV. Deferred Maintenance

Agency leadership has developed a comprehensive five-year Deferred Maintenance Plan. Campus meetings and tours at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) and Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) inform the review of facility conditions and priorities. OSD visits were planned for November 10 and 13, and an OSB tour is scheduled for November 19, 2026.

The plan will support future budget development, better use of agency-owned facilities, prioritization of critical infrastructure needs, and long-term cost management.

V. Sterling Conversations

Sterling Conversations is a monthly Zoom webinar that provides DRS employees with agency updates and direct access to the Executive Director and agency leadership. On November 13, 2026, the Director's Update and Sterling Conversations were combined into one session featuring Stephanie Roe, DRS Project Coordinator.

Future sessions will continue to feature DRS employees, Commissioners, organizational leaders, and guests with expertise relevant to the agency's mission. The series is intended to strengthen internal communication, employee engagement, and transparency.

VI. Organizational Improvement

Agency leadership continues to identify opportunities to improve internal operations, strengthen consistency across programs, support collaborative problem-solving, and reinforce accountability for agency priorities.

VII. Budget Request Submission

DRS submitted its budget request on November 2, 2026.

VIII. Commission Planning Session

Planning is underway for a Commission session focused on governance training, organizational priorities, and development of a long-range agency plan. The session is expected to provide an opportunity to:

- Participate in governance and agency-related training.
- Review current priorities and operational challenges.
- Discuss long-range goals and strategic priorities.
- Establish a framework for a long-range DRS plan.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen governance, accountability, and organizational effectiveness.

The Commission Planning Session has been scheduled for February 23 and 24, 2027. Additional details will be shared as arrangements are finalized.

IX. Partnerships and Professional Engagement

Engagements throughout October and November supported workforce partnerships, transition services, legislative outreach, and vocational rehabilitation leadership.

Oklahoma Works Partners Conference | October 2

Director Zearley was scheduled to join CareerTech Director Brent Haken and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Chief Executive Officer Trae Rahill in presenting Frontline Staff Awards, highlighting collaboration across Oklahoma's workforce system.

Oklahoma Transition Institute | October 6–7

The Institute focuses on coordinated services for students with disabilities transitioning from high school to postsecondary life, aligning with DRS transition services.

Senate Democratic Caucus Tour of OSB | October 27

The planned campus tour offered an opportunity to highlight OSB programs, services, and the needs of its students.

CSAVR Fall Conference | October 31–November 6

Director Zearley was scheduled to participate in the national conference, themed "Resilience: Charting a Steady Course Through Vocational Rehabilitation Leadership and Innovation," to connect with other vocational rehabilitation leaders and learn about emerging practices.

These engagements help strengthen partnerships, raise awareness of DRS services, and keep agency leadership informed of state and national developments.

X. Oklahoma Attorney General's Office – Legal Support

DRS is coordinating an agreement with the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office (OAG) to provide legal support and contract review services to the Department and its Commission. The proposed scope of services will include the following:

1. Part-Time Legal Counsel to the Commission

- Assign an attorney to work directly with the Commission on a part-time basis.
- Attend regularly scheduled Commission meetings and provide legal guidance and support to the Board.
- Provide legal advice on matters before the Commission, including governance, policies, procedures, and other issues requiring legal review.
- Assist the Commission in addressing legal questions and matters arising in the performance of its responsibilities.

2. Agency Contract Review

- OAG attorneys will review all existing DRS agency contracts scheduled for renewal within the next 120 days.
- Prioritize contracts approaching expiration or renewal to ensure sufficient time for legal review, revisions, and any necessary action before renewal.
- Identify potential legal concerns, risks, inconsistencies, and opportunities to improve contract language and terms.

3. Next Phase of Contract Support

- Following completion of the initial review, OAG attorneys will proceed with reviewing the remaining DRS agency contracts.
- Provide continued legal assistance with contract development, review, revisions, and other contractual matters as identified by DRS.
- Establish an ongoing process for coordinating and prioritizing contract reviews between DRS and the OAG.

4. Development of Standardized Contract Templates

- OAG attorneys will work with DRS to review and develop standardized contract templates for future agency use.

- Ensure templates incorporate appropriate legal language, terms, conditions, and provisions.
- Develop consistent contract formats and language to promote efficiency, uniformity, and compliance in future contracting activities.

Expected Outcomes

The partnership between DRS and the OAG is intended to:

- Provide consistent legal support to the DRS Commission.
- Ensure timely legal review of agency contracts, beginning with those scheduled for renewal within the next 120 days.
- Identify and address potential contractual and legal risks.
- Establish standardized contract templates for future agency use.
- Improve the efficiency, consistency, and oversight of DRS contracting processes.

XI. Executive Director Summary

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services continues to advance agency priorities through strategic leadership, legislative preparation, fiscal responsibility, and strengthened partnerships with state and national stakeholders.

Recent efforts have focused on preparing for the 2027 legislative session, including development of the DRS Legislative Platform, enhanced bill tracking through LegisOK, and improved legislative monitoring and reporting. The agency also submitted its budget request on November 2, 2026.

Additional priorities include advancing the agency's five-year Deferred Maintenance Plan, strengthening legal oversight and contract management through coordination with the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, and improving communication and collaboration across agency operations.

Through continued engagement with the Commission, agency employees, legislative leaders, and community partners, DRS remains committed to responsible stewardship of resources, operational excellence, and improving services and opportunities for Oklahomans with disabilities.

DRS Internal Policy

CHAPTER 3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

SUBCHAPTER 3. HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

PART 12. DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES – ~~DRUG-FREE WORK PLACE~~OKDRS DRUG- AND ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY [AMENDED]

DRS:3-3-121. ~~Drug-free work place~~OKDRS Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy [AMENDED]

(a) ~~It is the policy of the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) to provide a safe and productive work environment free of alcohol and "controlled substance" abuse. It is our goal not to jeopardize the safety of employees, clients, or students because an employee is impaired due to substance abuse in the work place.~~**Purpose and Authority.** OKDRS is committed to a safe, healthy, drug- and alcohol-free workplace. This policy establishes conduct standards, testing procedures, employee protections, and response requirements consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Oklahoma Standards for Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Act, 40 O.S. § 551 et seq., related rules by the Oklahoma Department of Health 310 O.S. § 638-1-1 et seq., and the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act, 63 O.S. § 420 and including 63 O.S. § 427.8.

(b) ~~All employees are expected and required to report to work unimpaired by the effects of alcohol abuse or any controlled substance. The term "controlled substance" means any drug listed in the Federal Schedules of Controlled Substances. Generally, these are drugs, which have a high potential for abuse. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, heroin, crack\cocaine, PCP, marijuana and amphetamines and various derivative compounds of these drugs. This may also include legal prescription drugs, which are not prescribed for the employee's personal use by a licensed physician.~~**Scope.** This zero-tolerance policy applies to all OKDRS employees, applicants when testing is authorized, volunteers, interns, and any persons performing work on behalf of OKDRS. It applies during work time; on state-owned, leased, or controlled property; in state vehicles; while conducting state business; and at any location where an employee performs official duties.

(c) ~~The abuse of alcohol or unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance on agency premises or while conducting agency business is absolutely prohibited. Such activities shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including discharge, even for the first offense.~~**Prohibited Conduct.** Employees may not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, sell, solicit, possess, use, or be impaired by alcohol, marijuana, or a controlled substance while working, operating a state vehicle, on state property, or performing OKDRS duties. Employees may not misuse prescription or over-the-counter medication or share or solicit prescription medication. Violations may result in removal from duty, testing, referral, discipline up to and including termination, and referral to law enforcement when appropriate.

(1) The lawful use of prescribed or over-the-counter medication is permitted only when it does not prevent safe and effective performance.Employees must promptly inform Human Resources when a medication may affect safe performance; disclosure of a diagnosis is not required unless necessary for an accommodation process.

(d) ~~Any DRS employee convicted under a criminal drug statute for violations occurring on agency property or while conducting agency business will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action. The convicted employee must report such conviction in writing to the appropriate Division Administrator\Superintendent within five (5) days of said conviction.~~**Employee and Supervisor Responsibilities.**

(1) Employees must report fit for duty, comply with testing directions, and notify their supervisor within five calendar days of a workplace-related criminal drug or

alcohol conviction. Federal grant or contract reporting requirements will be handled by OKDRS within required timeframes.

(2) Supervisors must document specific, contemporaneous observations, protect confidentiality, remove an employee from safety-sensitive duties when necessary, and contact Human Resources before directing testing or taking disciplinary action.

(3) Employees are encouraged to request help before a policy violation occurs. Voluntary use of the Employee Assistance Program or treatment resources is confidential to the extent permitted by law but does not prevent action for an existing violation.

(e) ~~Each Division Administrator\Superintendent, operating programs funded in whole or in part by a federal program or agency, who receives a report of a work-place related drug conviction shall, within ten (10) days of receiving such notice, notify the appropriate federal funding agency in writing of the conviction and the actions taken against the employee. Copies of the notice shall be provided to the Director and the Administrator of Human Resources.~~**Drug and Alcohol Testing.** Testing will be conducted in accordance with applicable Oklahoma and Federal requirements. Authorized testing may include applicant, for-cause, post-accident, return-to-duty, follow-up, random, or scheduled testing when legally permitted. Job performance concerns alone should be evaluated with Human Resources and must not substitute for the legal standard for testing.

(1) Testing will not be used to discourage injury reporting or workers' compensation claims.

(f) ~~In compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988 the Department of Rehabilitation Services, in cooperation with Human Capital Management, will offer to all employees drug-free awareness training.~~**Testing Process and Employee Protections.**

(1) OKDRS will pay the cost of required testing and treat required travel and testing time as work time for employees.

(2) Collection, laboratory analysis, cutoff levels, confirmation testing, chain of custody, and review will follow methods authorized by law.

(3) Before final action, the employee will have a confidential opportunity to provide relevant information, including lawful medication information, to the appropriate medical review or testing professional.

(4) Refusal to test, failure to cooperate, adulteration or substitution, or a confirmed positive result may result in discipline up to and including termination, consistent with law and this policy.

(5) Testing information will be shared only with individuals who need it to administer the policy, respond to legal process, or comply with law.

(g) ~~Employees whose violation of this policy did not result in discharge or forfeiture of position may be required to successfully complete a recognized drug treatment or rehabilitation program. Failure of an employee to successfully complete a drug abuse treatment or rehabilitation program as required by this policy shall be cause for disciplinary action.~~ **Records and Confidentiality.** OKDRS will evaluate each matter based on verified facts, safety risk, legal requirements, and consistent application of

policy. Available responses may include removal from duty, referral for assessment, a last-chance or return-to-duty arrangement when appropriate, and discipline up to and including termination. Employees may use applicable OKDRS grievance or appeal procedures. Nothing in this policy limits rights to request a reasonable accommodation, report a safety concern, or exercise rights protected by law.

(h) ~~All DRS employees with a drug or alcohol related problem are encouraged to contact the DRS Employee Relations Office for referral or use the EAP offered by the State Human Capital Management (HCM). Human Capital Management's EAP provides confidential assessment, referral, and limited short term counseling at no cost to employees and their families whose personal or health problems are interfering with the employee's job performance. The decision to participate in the EAP is completely voluntary and will not affect an employee's status nor will it be grounds for any disciplinary action. However, participation will not protect the employee from disciplinary action for violation of this policy.~~**Definitions.** Alcohol means an intoxicating beverage or liquor. Controlled substance means a substance listed in Schedules I through V of the federal Controlled Substances Act and applicable Oklahoma law. Impaired means observable or reliably supported diminished ability to safely or effectively perform job duties. Workplace includes all state-owned, leased, or controlled property, vehicles, and locations where OKDRS business is conducted. For-cause means observed workplace conduct relating to performance, behavior, and safety. Safety-sensitive position has the meaning provided by 63 O.S. § 427.8 and other applicable federal or state law. Zero-tolerance means any confirmed positive concentration above the cut-off limit of 0.00.

~~(i) When an employee reports for or is on duty in an apparent impaired condition from the abuse of alcohol or use of controlled substance, the supervisor shall notify the Employee Relations Office and the next person in the chain of command in order to determine appropriate course of action. The employee shall be advised of the reasons why such action is being taken and that disciplinary action may result in addition to referral to the EAP office.~~

~~(j) It is the duty of every employee to report any knowledge of a violation of this policy to the immediate supervisor, or when such knowledge relates to the immediate supervisor, report the same to the next highest supervisor. Failure to do so is a violation of this policy.~~

~~(k) Supervisors are to ensure that current and new employees receive a copy of this policy. A copy of this policy and any updates shall be posted in a prominent area accessible to all employees.~~

Commission Minutes

Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2026

Oklahoma School for the Blind
3300 Gibson Street, Gymnasium
Muskogee, OK 74403

Welcome, Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
Lindsay Hanna, Chair
The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m. by Commissioner Hanna with a quorum present: Janet Barresi, Wanda Felty, Lindsay Hanna, Kelsey Lee, and Kevin Wallace. Noel Tyler and Lance Robertson were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance
Lindsay Hanna, Chair
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act
Commission Assistant Kathleen Arrieta confirmed the Commission for Rehabilitation Services was in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Presentation of Longevity Certificates
Lindsay Hanna, Chair
There were no longevity awards. Part of Superintendent Pearce report, awards and recognitions, was moved up on the agenda to accommodate several recipients who needed to leave early.

Superintendent Pearce, DRS, and the Commission recognized several individuals and organizations for their support of Western Heritage Day, including Roy and Rose Anna Webb and the Silver Spur Lodge, Jake Walker, Connors State College, the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association, Roy's Chicken, and Love Bottling Company.

Superintendent Pearce also recognized three OSB staff who are retiring: Mike Bynum - 24 years of service; Karen Sanders - 14 years of service. and Lynette Cooper - 8 years of service.

Executive Director's Report
Sterling Zearley, Executive Director
Report highlights:

- Meetings with legislators were being arranged to discuss agency priorities, the FY 2028 budget request, and deferred maintenance.
- The agency was reconciling deferred-maintenance and capital requests after identifying omitted or inconsistent items and was permitted to submit corrected information.
- Budget considerations included federal matching funds, office relocation and rent, targeted salary adjustments, benefit costs, and payroll conversion.
- The Director discussed a potential mobile assistive-technology assessment unit to expand services in rural Oklahoma.

Legislative Committee Report
Sterling Zearley, Executive Director
Report highlights:

- Proposed legislative priorities addressed employee accommodation reimbursement, surplus property proceeds, school assessments, telecommunications support, and IT purchasing.
- A county-level dashboard showing DRS services and outcomes was developed to help explain agency programs to legislators.

Finance Committee Report
Kevin Wallace, Commissioner
Commissioner Wallace reviewed FY 2026 expenditures and carryover funds, FY 2027 appropriations, and financial comparisons by division. The FY 2027 agency budget was approximately $184.5 million, about $9.8 million below FY 2026. A five-year comparison was also discussed.

Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report
Danielle Durkee, CFO, DHS
Report highlights:

- Financial Status Report FY 2026 - As of August 31, 2026 the agency spent $150.5 million of the $194.2 million budget, with remaining encumbrances of $17.7 million. Together, expenditures and encumbrances represented 90.7% of the $194.2 million budget.
- Financial Status Report FY 2027 - As of August 31, 2026 the agency spent $19.6 million of the $184.4 million budget, with remaining encumbrances of $137.3 million. Together, expenditures and encumbrances represented 85.1% of the budget.
- FY 2028 Budget Request - The proposed request included federal matching funds, building rent and relocation, targeted compensation adjustments, employee benefit costs, and conversion from monthly to biweekly payroll.

Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the FY 2028 budget request for submission. Commissioner Lee seconded. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Acceptance of Notice of Rulemaking Intent – 2027 Administrative Rules Amended

Tina Calloway, Administrative Programs Officer, Policy, Administration and Development Section

Presentation highlights:

- Reviewed proposed amendments to Oklahoma Administrative Code Title 612, Chapters 1, 10, and 25, and the proposed Chapter 17 concerning interpreter services.
- The public hearing is scheduled for December 17, 2026, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Staff reviewed public-comment requirements and the anticipated rulemaking schedule.

Commissioner Felty moved to authorize DRS to initiate the 2027 Permanent Rulemaking process. Commissioner Wallace seconded. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Review of the September 9, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes

Lindsay Hanna, Chair

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the September 9, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Barresi seconded. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Oklahoma School for the Blind Report

Brent Pearce, Superintendent

Report highlights:

- The Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser held on October 13, 2025 raised a record $12,188.
- Enrollment included 53 residential students, 31 day students, and eight adult students. Outreach services reached 57 of Oklahoma's 77 counties.
- A replacement chiller was installed, with temporary equipment used to prevent disruption to students.
- OSB, along with other schools for the blind, is exploring alternative assessment methods with such tests as the ACT, which might be better suited to students with visual impairments.
- Student achievements, athletics, and school activities were highlighted.

Human Resources Report

LaChelle Westfahl, Human Resources Director

Report highlights:

In September 2026, 12 vacant positions were filled and 64 positions are in the announcement or selection process. There were 866 current employees and

17 separations, including four discharges, five retirements, and eight resignations.

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Report
Tracy Brigham, Division Administrator, SBVI
Priority Group Update: On October 7, 25 clients were cleared from the Priority Group 3 waiting list. As of October 12, Priority Groups 1 and 2 remained open, and eight clients were waiting in Priority Group 3.
Portal Referral Update: Of 101 portal referrals, 74 were active assignments, 12 were pending assignments, 15 applications were closed due to application taken, failure to cooperate/no show, refused services, and already an active case.

Report highlights:
- White Cane Awareness activities were discussed, including changes to the planned event because of weather.
- New library and field management appointments were announced.
- The State Use program was discussed as both a procurement program and an employment opportunity for people with disabilities. A preliminary review estimated potential savings, and a broader economic-impact study was being considered.
- Staff discussed expanding access to assistive-technology assessments for rural and homebound clients and Business Enterprise Program opportunities.

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Report
Renee N. Samson Briscoe, Transition Coordinator
Report highlights:
- Summer programs received 876 applications and served 431 students.
- The programs included 402 interns at 35 locations in 35 BEST locations.
- Staff discussed barriers to participation, including transportation, scheduling, and communication, and possible improvements to onboarding and program formats.
- Updates included school-based work experiences, Project SEARCH partnerships, and opportunities for year-round transition activities.

New Business
Lindsay Hanna, Chair
There was no new business.

Adjournment
Lindsay Hanna, Chair
Commissioner Barresi moved to adjourn. Commissioner Felty seconded. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative, and the meeting was adjourned.

Acting Chief Financial Officer's Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

Agency Summary

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**95,000,151.00**	**48.9%**	**84,794,173.40**	**581,689.64**	**89.87%**	**158,795.33**	**90.0%**
Travel	**1,824,046.00**	**0.9%**	**1,594,952.48**	**139,058.38**	**95.06%**	**3,686.10**	**95.3%**
General Operating	**28,542,337.37**	**14.7%**	**18,212,695.72**	**1,652,216.89**	**69.60%**	**5,533,528.57**	**89.0%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**3,502,257.00**	**1.8%**	**1,902,343.91**	**297,565.67**	**62.81%**	**447,719.41**	**75.6%**
Client / General Assistance	**56,029,813.00**	**28.8%**	**34,623,985.99**	**6,131,916.35**	**72.74%**	**10,031,505.85**	**90.6%**
Indirect Cost	**9,345,466.63**	**4.8%**	**9,345,466.63**	**0.00**	**100.00%**	**0.00**	**100.0%**
Total	**194,244,071.00**	**100.0%**	**150,473,618.13**	**8,802,446.93**	**82.00%**	**16,175,235.26**	**90.3%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**30,795,704.00**	**32.5%**	**27,437,239.11**	**122,287.37**	**89.5%**	**76,188.90**	**89.7%**
Travel	**1,280,300.00**	**1.4%**	**1,208,057.00**	**108,390.16**	**102.8%**	**250.00**	**102.8%**
General Operating	**10,454,437.14**	**11.0%**	**7,503,078.29**	**719,858.02**	**78.7%**	**2,218,639.78**	**99.9%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**1,672,200.00**	**1.8%**	**999,269.87**	**58,069.31**	**63.2%**	**290,619.77**	**80.6%**
Client / General Assistance	**46,730,813.00**	**49.3%**	**28,547,806.00**	**5,880,315.70**	**73.7%**	**7,383,501.04**	**89.5%**
Indirect Cost	**3,785,300.86**	**4.0%**	**3,785,300.87**	**0.00**	**100.0%**	**-0.01**	**100.0%**
Total	**94,718,755.00**	**100.0%**	**69,480,751.14**	**6,888,920.56**	**80.6%**	**9,969,199.48**	**91.2%**

Vocational Rehabilitation Grant

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**27,947,251.00**	**31.2%**	**24,934,465.27**	**92,646.23**	**89.6%**	**21,838.47**	**89.6%**
Travel	**1,245,300.00**	**1.4%**	**1,183,886.26**	**105,913.36**	**103.6%**	**250.00**	**103.6%**
General Operating	**9,681,209.54**	**10.8%**	**6,885,255.20**	**599,350.89**	**77.3%**	**2,100,438.46**	**99.0%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**1,417,330.00**	**1.6%**	**821,527.55**	**52,830.11**	**61.7%**	**290,619.77**	**82.2%**
Client / General Assistance	**45,944,667.00**	**51.2%**	**28,137,086.91**	**5,831,208.18**	**73.9%**	**7,345,846.00**	**89.9%**
Indirect Cost	**3,475,840.46**	**3.9%**	**3,475,840.46**	**0.00**	**100.0%**	**0.00**	**100.0%**
Total	**89,711,598.00**	**100.0%**	**65,438,061.65**	**6,681,948.77**	**80.4%**	**9,758,992.70**	**91.3%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Oklahoma School for the Blind

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**7,565,178.00**	**63.0%**	**7,228,907.26**	**43,927.09**	**96.1%**	**2,866.96**	**96.2%**
Travel	**111,200.00**	**0.9%**	**75,206.80**	**9,500.78**	**76.2%**	**0.00**	**76.2%**
General Operating	**2,868,868.04**	**23.9%**	**1,674,193.26**	**160,380.12**	**63.9%**	**355,400.46**	**76.3%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**568,968.00**	**4.7%**	**218,188.60**	**51,508.41**	**47.4%**	**0.00**	**47.4%**
Client / General Assistance	**42,000.00**	**0.3%**	**35,947.40**	**0.00**	**85.6%**	**0.00**	**85.6%**
Indirect Cost	**849,080.96**	**7.1%**	**849,080.96**	**0.00**	**100.0%**	**0.00**	**100.0%**
Total	**12,005,295.00**	**100.0%**	**10,081,524.28**	**265,316.40**	**86.2%**	**358,267.42**	**89.2%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Oklahoma School for the Deaf

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**9,578,719.00**	**49.5%**	**8,247,610.76**	**62,364.34**	**86.8%**	**5,619.11**	**86.8%**
Travel	**248,540.00**	**1.3%**	**194,030.87**	**7,041.75**	**80.9%**	**0.00**	**80.9%**
General Operating	**6,990,714.25**	**36.1%**	**4,153,473.92**	**467,476.89**	**66.1%**	**1,547,103.10**	**88.2%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**816,457.00**	**4.2%**	**463,556.62**	**183,099.97**	**79.2%**	**155,792.99**	**98.3%**
Client / General Assistance	**672,000.00**	**3.5%**	**175,528.73**	**40,954.38**	**32.2%**	**134,738.50**	**52.3%**
Indirect Cost	**1,039,003.75**	**5.4%**	**1,039,003.75**	**0.00**	**100.0%**	**0.00**	**100.0%**
Total	**19,345,434.00**	**100.0%**	**14,273,204.65**	**760,937.33**	**77.7%**	**1,843,253.70**	**87.2%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Disability Determination Services

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**38,154,742.00**	**68.5%**	**33,588,797.19**	**290,701.57**	**88.8%**	**9,196.66**	**88.8%**
Travel	**52,001.00**	**0.1%**	**16,044.01**	**2,427.28**	**35.5%**	**2,036.10**	**39.4%**
General Operating	**4,859,492.94**	**8.7%**	**2,921,259.27**	**187,986.74**	**64.0%**	**608,990.05**	**76.5%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**381,164.00**	**0.7%**	**205,359.85**	**4,180.40**	**55.0%**	**0.00**	**55.0%**
Client / General Assistance	**8,585,000.00**	**15.4%**	**5,861,537.42**	**210,196.27**	**70.7%**	**2,513,266.31**	**100.0%**
Indirect Cost	**3,664,515.06**	**6.6%**	**3,664,515.05**	**0.00**	**100.0%**	**0.01**	**100.0%**
Total	**55,696,915.00**	**100.0%**	**46,257,512.79**	**695,492.26**	**84.3%**	**3,133,489.13**	**89.9%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
DRS Support Services

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	2026 Expenditures in FY 27	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**8,905,808.00**	**71.4%**	**8,291,619.08**	**62,409.27**	**93.8%**	**64,923.70**	**94.5%**
Travel	**132,005.00**	**1.1%**	**101,613.80**	**11,698.41**	**85.8%**	**1,400.00**	**86.9%**
General Operating	**3,368,825.00**	**27.0%**	**1,960,690.98**	**116,515.12**	**61.7%**	**803,395.18**	**85.5%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**63,468.00**	**0.5%**	**15,968.97**	**707.58**	**26.3%**	**1,306.65**	**28.3%**
Client / General Assistance	**0.00**	**0.0%**	**3,166.44**	**450.00**	**0.0%**	**0.00**	**0.0%**
Indirect Cost	**7,566.00**	**0.1%**	**7,566.00**	**0.00**	**100.0%**	**0.00**	**100.0%**
Total	**12,477,672.00**	**100.0%**	**10,380,625.27**	**191,780.38**	**84.7%**	**871,025.53**	**91.7%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 26

As of September 30, 2026

Personnel

Salary Expense

Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc

FICA-Retirement Contributions

Travel

Travel - Agency Direct

Travel - Reimbursements

General Operating

AFP Encumberances

Bond Indebtness and Expenses

Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation

General Operating

Inter/Intre Agency Payment for Personal Services

Maintenance & Repair

Miscellaneous Administration Fee

Professional Services

Production, Safety, Security

Refunds, Indemnities, Restitution

Rent Expense

Scholarships, Tuition and Other Incentive-Type Payments

Shop Expense

Specialized Supplies & Materials

Office Furniture & Equipment

Library Equipment & Resources

Office Furniture & Equipment

Client / General Assistance

Social Service and Assistance Payments

Indirect Cost

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

Agency Summary

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**89,333,241.00**	**47.8%**	**19,975,348.90**	**22.4%**	**68,728,008.90**	**99.3%**
Travel	**1,854,650.00**	**1.0%**	**237,871.43**	**12.8%**	**27,948.56**	**14.3%**
General Operating	**23,589,540.00**	**12.6%**	**2,719,109.53**	**11.5%**	**15,137,796.26**	**75.7%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**1,745,897.00**	**0.9%**	**187,789.35**	**10.8%**	**324,526.08**	**29.3%**
Client / General Assistance	**60,855,891.00**	**32.6%**	**6,254,600.82**	**10.3%**	**36,343,920.22**	**70.0%**
Indirect Cost	**9,545,703.00**	**5.1%**	**2,221,238.18**	**23.3%**	**7,324,464.82**	**100.0%**
Total	**186,924,922.00**	**100.0%**	**31,595,958.21**	**16.9%**	**127,886,664.84**	**85.3%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**30,034,644.00**	**30.1%**	**6,293,598.63**	**21.0%**	**23,270,941.17**	**98.4%**
Travel	**1,374,350.00**	**1.4%**	**184,889.23**	**13.5%**	**13,796.81**	**14.5%**
General Operating	**10,884,632.00**	**10.9%**	**1,287,025.79**	**11.8%**	**7,703,021.93**	**82.6%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**1,203,051.00**	**1.2%**	**103,647.27**	**8.6%**	**161,115.13**	**22.0%**
Client / General Assistance	**52,237,391.00**	**52.4%**	**5,009,567.21**	**9.6%**	**29,373,575.56**	**65.8%**
Indirect Cost	**4,019,032.00**	**4.0%**	**874,742.31**	**21.8%**	**3,144,289.69**	**100.0%**
Total	**99,753,100.00**	**100.0%**	**13,753,470.44**	**13.8%**	**63,666,740.29**	**77.6%**

Vocational Rehabilitation Grant

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**27,400,776.00**	**29.0%**	**5,774,663.50**	**21.1%**	**21,420,971.43**	**99.3%**
Travel	**1,347,300.00**	**1.4%**	**177,562.94**	**13.2%**	**13,216.81**	**14.2%**
General Operating	**9,537,908.00**	**10.1%**	**1,195,266.46**	**12.5%**	**6,888,217.71**	**84.8%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**916,044.00**	**1.0%**	**93,166.02**	**10.2%**	**128,265.13**	**24.2%**
Client / General Assistance	**51,491,667.00**	**54.6%**	**4,952,097.99**	**9.6%**	**29,023,511.90**	**66.0%**
Indirect Cost	**3,692,668.00**	**3.9%**	**808,115.04**	**21.9%**	**2,884,552.96**	**100.0%**
Total	**94,386,363.00**	**100.0%**	**13,000,871.95**	**13.8%**	**60,358,735.94**	**77.7%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Oklahoma School for the Blind

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**7,575,644.00**	**69.2%**	**1,739,663.88**	**23.0%**	**5,761,464.27**	**99.0%**
Travel	**83,500.00**	**0.8%**	**11,841.85**	**14.2%**	**0.00**	**14.2%**
General Operating	**2,202,392.00**	**20.1%**	**219,862.10**	**10.0%**	**1,145,766.90**	**62.0%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**162,258.00**	**1.5%**	**65,902.98**	**40.6%**	**57,111.00**	**75.8%**
Client / General Assistance	**50,500.00**	**0.5%**	**5,414.25**	**10.7%**	**0.00**	**10.7%**
Indirect Cost	**875,570.00**	**8.0%**	**220,882.62**	**25.2%**	**654,687.38**	**100.0%**
Total	**10,949,864.00**	**100.0%**	**2,263,567.68**	**20.7%**	**7,619,029.55**	**90.3%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Oklahoma School for the Deaf

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**9,635,167.00**	**64.5%**	**2,000,331.87**	**20.8%**	**7,603,735.29**	**99.7%**
Travel	**222,800.00**	**1.5%**	**14,225.90**	**6.4%**	**0.00**	**6.4%**
General Operating	**3,362,684.00**	**22.5%**	**234,372.83**	**7.0%**	**1,997,733.25**	**66.4%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**199,639.00**	**1.3%**	**12,667.53**	**6.3%**	**101,661.87**	**57.3%**
Client / General Assistance	**483,000.00**	**3.2%**	**6,946.02**	**1.4%**	**118,018.00**	**25.9%**
Indirect Cost	**1,029,160.00**	**6.9%**	**255,012.09**	**24.8%**	**774,147.91**	**100.0%**
Total	**14,932,450.00**	**100.0%**	**2,523,556.24**	**16.9%**	**10,595,296.32**	**87.9%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
Disability Determination Services

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**33,058,345.00**	**67.6%**	**7,565,855.43**	**22.9%**	**25,463,323.69**	**99.9%**
Travel	**64,000.00**	**0.1%**	**5,943.14**	**9.3%**	**13,656.75**	**30.6%**
General Operating	**3,970,092.00**	**8.1%**	**604,545.79**	**15.2%**	**1,861,198.52**	**62.1%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**109,518.00**	**0.2%**	**0.00**	**0.0%**	**0.00**	**0.0%**
Client / General Assistance	**8,085,000.00**	**16.5%**	**1,232,673.34**	**15.2%**	**6,852,326.66**	**100.0%**
Indirect Cost	**3,613,050.00**	**7.4%**	**868,329.55**	**24.0%**	**2,744,720.45**	**100.0%**
Total	**48,900,005.00**	**100.0%**	**10,277,347.25**	**21.0%**	**36,935,226.07**	**96.5%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

All Programs
DRS Support Services

	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	**9,029,441.00**	**72.9%**	**2,375,899.09**	**26.3%**	**6,628,544.48**	**99.7%**
Travel	**110,000.00**	**0.9%**	**20,971.31**	**19.1%**	**495.00**	**19.5%**
General Operating	**3,169,740.00**	**25.6%**	**373,303.02**	**11.8%**	**2,430,075.66**	**88.4%**
Office Furniture & Equipment	**71,431.00**	**0.6%**	**5,571.57**	**7.8%**	**4,638.08**	**14.3%**
Client / General Assistance	**0.00**	**0.0%**	**0.00**	**0.0%**	**0.00**	**0.0%**
Indirect Cost	**8,891.00**	**0.1%**	**2,271.62**	**25.5%**	**6,619.38**	**100.0%**
Total	**12,389,503.00**	**100.0%**	**2,778,016.61**	**22.4%**	**9,070,372.60**	**95.6%**

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Financial Status Report FY 27

As of September 30, 2026

Personnel

Salary Expense

Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc

FICA-Retirement Contributions

Travel

Travel - Agency Direct

Travel - Reimbursements

General Operating

AFP Encumberances

Bond Indebtness and Expenses

Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation

General Operating

Inter/Intre Agency Payment for Personal Services

Maintenance & Repair

Miscellaneous Administration Fee

Professional Services

Production, Safety, Security

Refunds, Indemnities, Restitution

Rent Expense

Scholarships, Tuition and Other Incentive-Type Payments

Shop Expense

Specialized Supplies & Materials

Office Furniture & Equipment

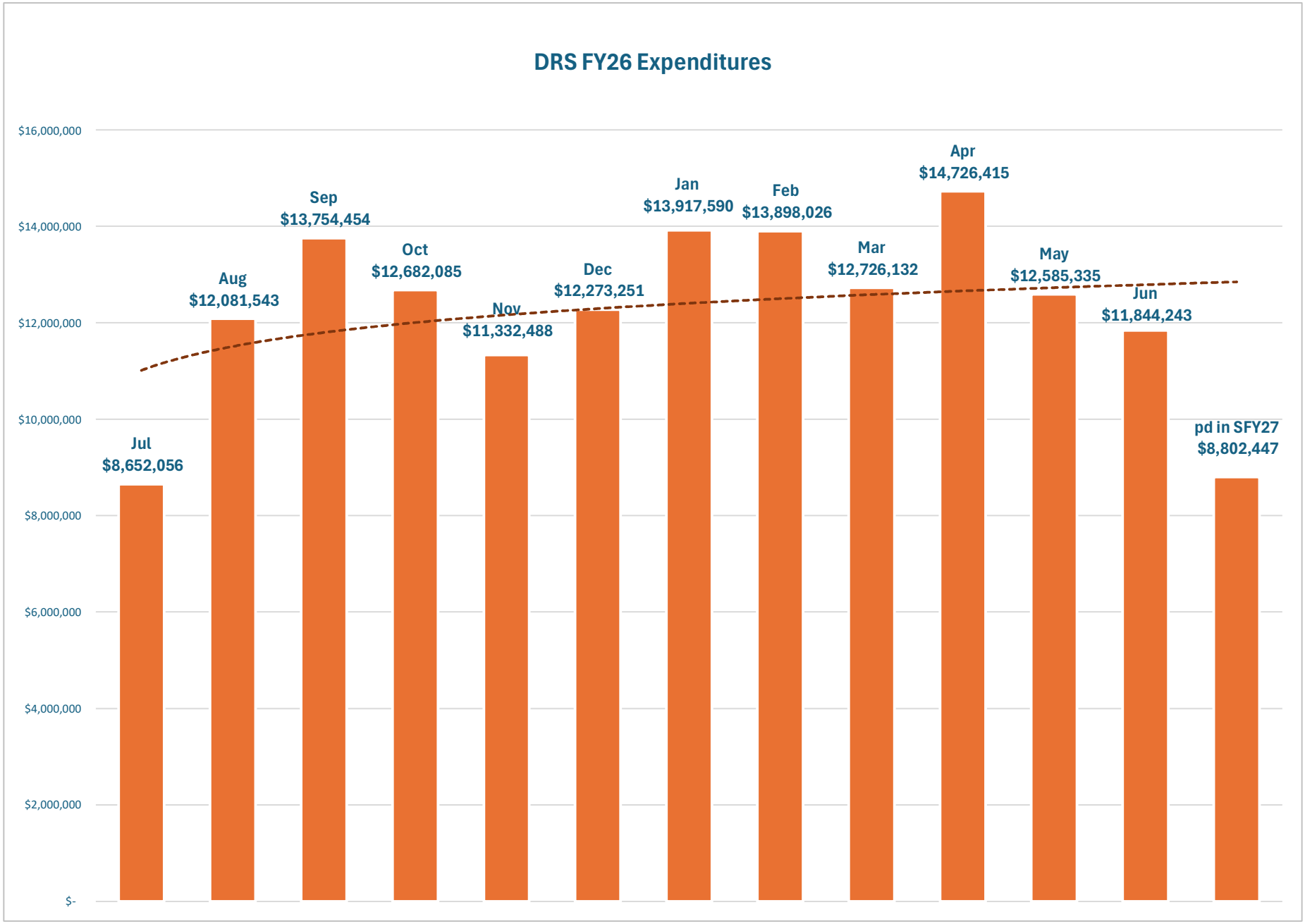
Library Equipment & Resources

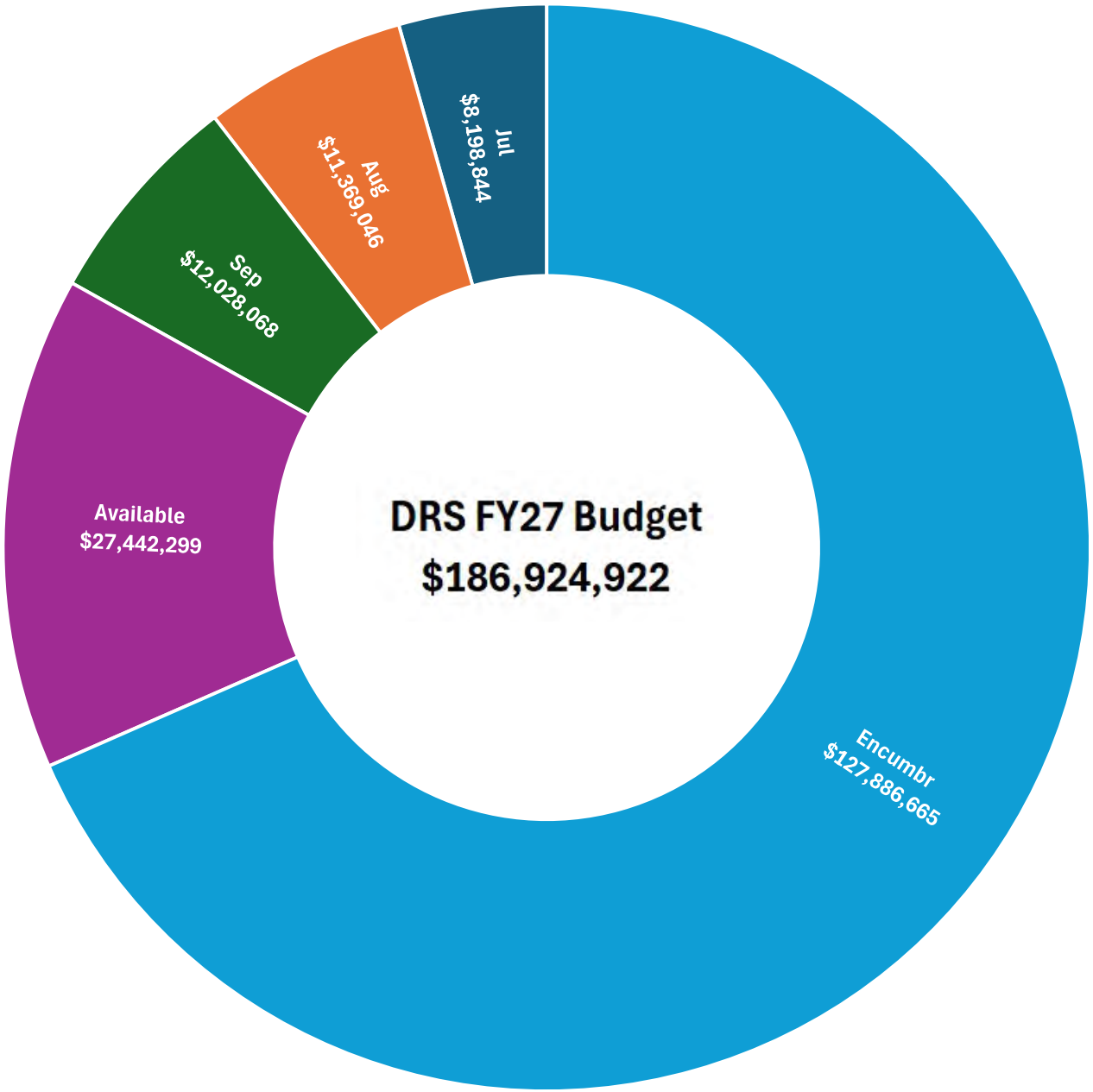
Office Furniture & Equipment

Client / General Assistance

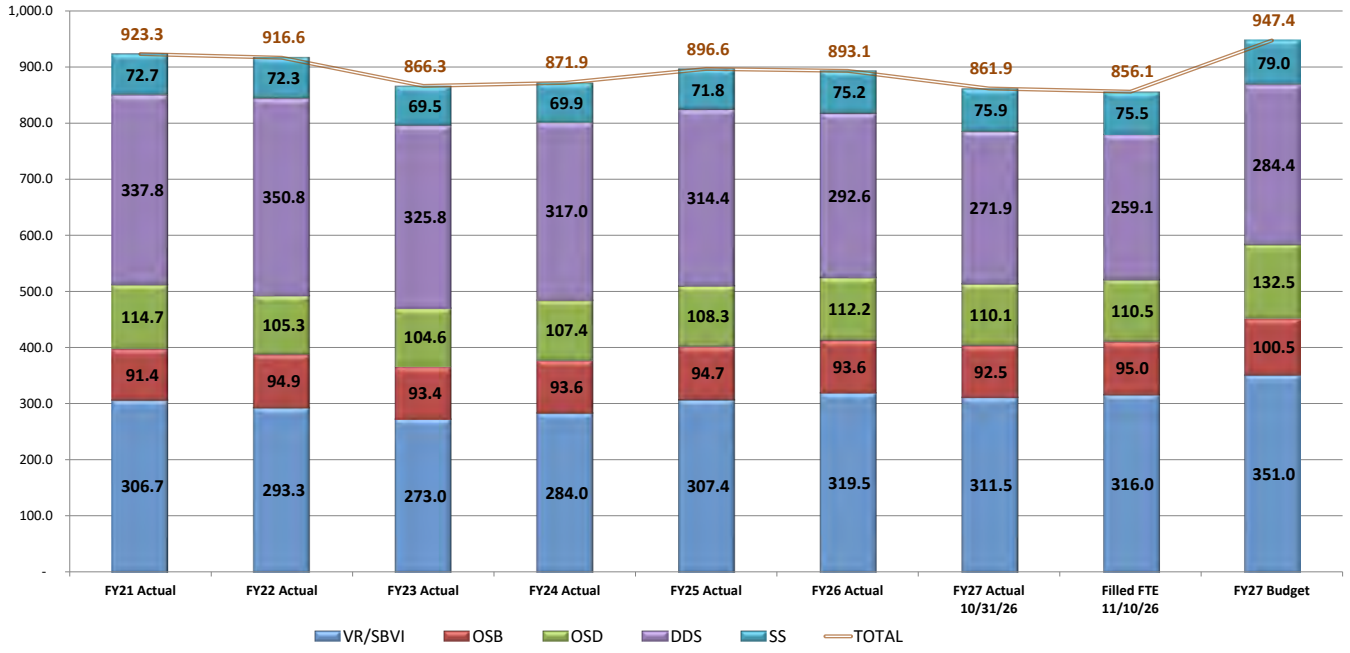
Social Service and Assistance Payments

Indirect Cost


DRS FY26 Expenditures
$16,000,000
$14,000,000
$12,000,000
$10,000,000
$8,000,000
$6,000,000
$4,000,000
$2,000,000
$-
Jul
$8,652,056
Aug
$12,081,543
Sep
$13,754,454
Oct
$12,682,085
Nov
$11,332,488
Dec
$12,273,251
Jan
$13,917,590
Feb
$13,898,026
Mar
$12,726,132
Apr
$14,726,415
May
$12,585,335
Jun
$11,844,243
pd in SFY27
$8,802,447


DRS FY27 Budget
$186,924,922
Jul
$8,198,844
Aug
$11,369,046
Sep
$12,028,068
Available
$27,442,299
Encumbr
$127,886,665

DRS FTE History



Division	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Actual	FY27 Actual 10/31/26	Filled FTE 11/10/26	FY27 Budget
VR/SBVI	306.7	293.3	273.0	284.0	307.4	319.5	311.5	316.0	351.0
OSB	91.4	94.9	93.4	93.6	94.7	93.6	92.5	95.0	100.5
OSD	114.7	105.3	104.6	107.4	108.3	112.2	110.1	110.5	132.5
DDS	337.8	350.8	325.8	317.0	314.4	292.6	271.9	259.1	284.4
SS	72.7	72.3	69.5	69.9	71.8	75.2	75.9	75.5	79.0
TOTAL	923.3	916.6	866.3	871.9	896.6	893.1	861.9	856.1	947.4



Human Resources Report

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2026

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 18 vacant positions filled / 54 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
DDS	Disability Program Administrator / 0345	09/28/2026	DDS	10/14/2026	10/22/2026	27-042	In Selection Process	
DDS	Deputy Administrator / 1282	07/31/2025	DDS	08/03/2026	08/20/2026	27-012	In Selection Process	
DDS	Disability Determination Specialist / 0637, 0763, 1279, 1383, 1407, 0524	01/01/2025 05/01/2025 01/14/2025 06/30/2025 05/01/2026 08/13/2026	DDS	08/17/2026	09/03/2026	27-020	Krishain Roth Chris Allen Zachary Barth Thomas Hanhausen Carol Kennedy Kristen Miller	10/12/2026 10/12/2026 10/12/2026 10/12/2026 10/12/2026 10/12/2026
EXEC	Chief Financial Officer / 0853	07/10/2026	EXEC	08/04/2026	Continuous	27-014	In Selection Process	
FSD	Budget Analyst / 1110	03/01/2026	FSD	10/02/2026	Continuous	27-039	Currently Open	
MSD	HR Programs Manager / 1334	07/31/2015	MSD-HR	Waived	Waived	Waived	Michelle Jones	10/12/2026
MSD	Contracting & Acquisitions Agent / 0502	10/01/2026	MSD-CDS	Waived	Waived	Waived	LeAnna Robinson	10/22/2026
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 0479	09/03/2026	MSD-CDS	Waived	Waived	Waived	Kimberly Coulter	10/01/2026
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 1013	09/13/2026	MSD-CDS	09/02/2026	Continuous	27-029	Ronald Opperman	10/12/2026
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 0992	07/28/2026	MSD-CDS	08/27/2026	Continuous	27-028	Elizabeth Beach	10/01/2026
OSB	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0131	09/30/2026	OSB	09/10/2026	Continuous	27-032	Paige Staton	10/19/2026
OSB	LPN / 0017	11/30/2026	OSB	09/22/2026	Continuous	27-036	Currently Open	
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0576, 0586, 0729, 0552, 0069	03/04/2026 04/27/2026 07/01/2026 09/13/2026 05/31/2026	OSB	07/13/2026	Continuous	27-008	Tammy Gragg	10/04/2026
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0069	05/31/2026	OSB	06/12/2026	Continuous	26-086	Currently Open	
OSB	LPN / 0420	04/08/2026	OSB	04/01/2026	Continuous	26-064	Mekayla Chastain	10/05/2026
OSD	Administrative Assistant / 0172	08/01/2026	OSD	08/10/2026	Continuous	27-015	Julie Winton-Ozbirn	10/01/2026

OSD	Construction/Maintenance Technician / 0245	07/20/2026	OSD	08/10/2026	Continuous	27-016	Currently Open	
OSD	Food Service Manager / 0224	07/31/2026	OSD	08/11/2026	Continuous	27-017	Currently Open	
OSD	Transportation Officer / Student Aide / 0460	08/11/2026	OSD	08/24/2026	Continuous	27-024	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0542	07/01/2026	OSD	07/09/2026	Continuous	27-002	William Sumners	10/12/2026
OSD	Sign Language Specialist / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Classroom) / P106372, 0111	06/30/2026 06/30/2026	OSD	12/02/2024	Continuous	25-055	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Dorm) / 0028, 1028, 0941	06/30/2026 08/04/2026 08/06/2026	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0890, 0022, 0282, 0666	08/01/2021 07/31/2026 07/31/2026 07/31/2026	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0545	10/12/2026	VR86 – Ada	10/12/2026	Continuous	27-041	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Manager / 1182	10/31/2026	VR – TBD	10/27/2026	Continuous	27-043	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0149	10/05/2015	VR12 – Lawton	09/03/2026	Continuous	27-030	Currently Open	
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0165	03/01/2011	TBD	09/14/2026	Continuous	27-033	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0769	09/28/2026	VR26 – Claremore	09/28/2026	Continuous	27-038	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0220	08/17/2026	VR80 – Tulsa	08/24/2026	Continuous	27-025	Currently Open	
VR	Customer Service Representative / 0125	N/A	VR45 – Tulsa	08/27/2026	Continuous	27-027	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0708	06/22/2026	VR05 – Weatherford	07/14/2026	Continuous	27-010	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0820	04/28/2026	VR56 – Woodward	05/15/2026	Continuous	26-075	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0627	04/30/2026	VR18 – Muskogee	05/15/2026	Continuous	26-077	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0776	05/15/2026	VR86 – Ada	05/26/2026	Continuous	26-079	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0671	04/30/2026	VR77 – Miami	04/24/2026	Continuous	26-068	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0011	04/21/2026	VR08 – Enid	04/29/2026	Continuous	26-069	Nick Maner	10/01/2026
VR	Programs Field Representative / 0786	08/31/2024	VR – TBD	05/01/2025	Continuous	25-093	Currently Open	
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0925	05/31/2023	VR86 – Ada	05/09/2025	Continuous	25-098	Currently Open	

VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0165	03/01/2011	VR13 – McAlester	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-101	Currently Open	
VR	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0263	02/01/2025	VR36 – OKC	04/22/2025	Continuous	25-089	Currently Open	
VR	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0085	05/01/2024	VR36 – OKC	04/18/2025	Continuous	25-085	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0567	09/01/2020	VR67 – Tulsa	11/01/2023	Continuous	21-028.1	Currently Open	
SBVI	Library Technician / 0008	09/04/2026	SBVI72 – OKC	10/09/2026	Continuous	27-040	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0935	08/17/2026	SBVI65 – Stillwater	09/11/2026	Continuous	27-034	Currently Open	
SBVI	Job Placement Specialist / P108431	NEW PIN	SBVI59 – Enid	09/17/2026	Continuous	27-035	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Spec / 0695	09/14/2026	SBVI90 – OKC	09/25/2026	Continuous	27-037	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0407	02/01/2016	SBVI65 – Stillwater	08/20/2026	Continuous	27-021	Currently Open	
SBVI	Assistive Technology Trainer / 0498	03/01/2022	SBVI90 – OKC	08/20/2026	Continuous	27-022	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0285	08/31/2026	SBVI91 – Tulsa	08/21/2026	Continuous	27-023	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 1075	07/06/2026	SBVI33 – OKC	08/24/2026	Continuous	27-026	Currently Open	
SBVI	Programs Manager / 0006	06/30/2026	SBVI72 – OKC	07/13/2026	Continuous	27-007	Andrew Shockley	10/01/2026
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0563	05/08/2026	SBVI – TBD	06/02/2026	Continuous	26-084	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vending Facility Business Consultant / 0134	05/04/2026	SBVI33 – OKC	06/02/2026	Continuous	26-083	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Spec / 0812	03/06/2026	SBVI69 – Weatherford	03/25/2026	Continuous	26-055	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0267	02/13/2026	SBVI64 – Tulsa	02/19/2026	Continuous	26-051	Currently Open	
SBVI	Mechanical Systems Technician / 0560	08/11/2017	SBVI33 – OKC	06/03/2025	Continuous	25-114	Currently Open	

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 13

As of October 31, 2026

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
Retirement = 1
1 = 27 years

Resignation = 1
1 = 2 years 11 months

Discharge = 2
1 = 18 years 7 months
1 = 3 years 7 months

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION
Trial Period Discharge = 2
1 = 1 year 1 month
1 = 5 years 4 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
Resignation = 1
1 = 1 year 1 month

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES
Resignation = 4
1 = 20 years 1 month
1 = 19 years 9 months
1 = 6 years 5 months
1 = 8 years 5 months

Retirement = 2
1 = 6 years
1 = 32 years 6 months

CURRENT FTE STATUS
FY 2027

FTE as of October 31, 2026

DIVISION	BUDGETED FTE	FILLED	PENDING	EXEMPT FTE	TOTAL FILLED PLUS PENDING MINUS EXEMPT FTE
Support Services (Executive/MSD/FSD)	79.0	77.00	2.00	(1.00)	78.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	232.5	209.00	18.00	0.00	227.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	115.5	97.00	13.00	0.00	110.00
VR/SBVI-DP	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	100.5	94.00	6.00	0.00	100.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	132.5	113.00	13.00	0.00	126.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	663.0	593.00	52.00	(1.00)	644.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	284.4	271.00	2.00	(273.00)	273.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	947.4	864.00	54.00	(274.00)	917.00

FY 27 Budgetary Limit = 1000

*** Authorized agency FTE limit does not include Executive Fellow and SWIP appointments**

ROUTING TO: Sterling Zearley, Executive Director
Danielle Durkee, Fractional Chief Financial Officer
Randy Weaver, Chief of Operations
LaChelle Westfahl, Human Resources Program Director
Mark Beutler, Director of Communications
Kathleen Arrieta, Executive Assistant
Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III

Communications Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services

Office of Communications Report for November 2026

- Public Service Announcement campaign, “See Me, Not My Disability” resulted in 4,411 spots in September, at a broadcast value of $91,000. Spots continue to run on statewide television and radio stations.
- Met with Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters President Wayne Bell, and KOCO-TV General Manager Brent Hensley. KOCO will produce a new series of PSAs for us, at significant savings over a private contractor. New campaign should be on the air in early ’27.
- Met with Spectrum, formerly Cox, to plan a series of digital ads aimed at awareness and education. These will be online ads mainly targeting members of the state legislature, letting them know who we are and what we do. Will meet with Spectrum, Sterling Zearley and Stephanie Roe to discuss logistics and will have more information then on what the campaign will look like.
- Media blitz in October for Disability Employment Awareness Month. Appearances on KAUT-TV, KFOR-TV, KOKH-TV and KOCO-TV. Anchors are more aware of DRS now and welcome us back for more regular appearances. This helps educate the public about DRS and our mission.
- Social Media: Engagement remains high and we continue to gain new followers. We have high engagement across most major platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X. Posts are consistent and engaging. Considering adding Threads to the feed.
- Work started this summer on the Annual Report. In the process now of collecting data and new success stories.
- People with Disabilities Awareness Day is set for March 9, 2027, at the Oklahoma History Center. We already have 47 vendors to date with space for 72. Working on entertainment, and once again hope to have students from Oklahoma School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind perform.

Submitted by Mark Beutler, Communications Director

Handout at the 11/18/2026 Commission Meeting

LegisOK Keyword Tracking Assignments

Shared agency-wide searches + four focused assignments

SHARED AGENCY-WIDE SEARCHES *Include these in every person's tracking set.*

- Rehabilitation Serv
- DRS!
- Vocational or Employ
- VR!
- Disabil
- Rehabilitation/3/appropriations or Rehabilitation/3/fund or Rehabilitation/3/matching
- FTE!
- State/3/employee
- Accessib or accommodate or handicap
- Administrative/1/rules

Group 1 Blindness, deafness, and communication

FOCUSED SEARCHES • 14 TERMS

- Blind or visual/1/impair
- Orientation/1/mobility
- SBVI!
- OSB!
- Deaf or hear or cochlear or deafblind
- OSD!
- Braille
- Sign/3/language
- ASL!
- Interpret
- caption!
- State use!
- mediat
- state facilities

Group 2 Education, transition, workforce, and staffing

FOCUSED SEARCHES • 14 TERMS

- Special/3/education
- Transition/3/age
- Employment/3/transition
- CareerTech or career/5/development
- IEP!
- transition services
- transition planning
- student disabil
- Workforce/1/develop
- salary OR salaries
- hiring
- vacan
- personnel fund
- Benefit/3/allowance

Group 3 Disability supports, technology, and access FOCUSED SEARCHES • 14 TERMS	Group 4 Benefits, funding, and agency operations FOCUSED SEARCHES • 14 TERMS
• Assistive/3/technology • Independent/1/living • Accessible/1/transportation • Develop/1/disabil • Disabil/1/determine • TBI! Or traumatic/1/brain • Autism • Intellectual/1/disabil • Disabil/1/veteran • adaptive technology • accessible technology • screen reader • accessible instructional material • State/1/purchasing	• DDS! • SSDI! or SSI! • Employee/3/compensation • DRS! appropriation • DRS! fund • disability services appropriation • disability services fund • contract • procure • agency reorganization • agency transfer • agency consolidation • civil service • progressive discipline