NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES (OOD) AGENCY

Date: October 10, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: OOD and Microsoft Teams videoconference

150 E. Campus View Boulevard, 3rd Floor conference room 0306

Columbus, Ohio 43235

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Agency will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments regarding the amendment of rules 3304-2-66, 3304-4-01, 3304-4-02, 3304-4-03, 3304-4-04, and 3304-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

The public hearing will be conducted on Friday, October 10, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the 0306 conference room located at 150 E. Campus View Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43235 and continue until all those attending have had an opportunity to be heard. You may also join the public hearing via Microsoft Teams videoconference. If you would like to attend virtually, or if you would like to request reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing, please notify ood.administrativerules@ood.ohio.gov to make arrangements.

This notice of public hearing announces OOD's intention to file amended rules 3304-2-66, 3304-4-01, 3304-4-02, 3304-4-03, 3304-4-04, and 3304-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code, in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code. The reasons for the filing of the rules are as follows:

Ohio Adm. Code 3304-2-66 (Conditions for providing self-employment services)

Amended Rule 3304-2-66 describes the requirements for supporting participants in pursuing and receiving financial support in self-employment endeavors as an employment goal. The change in the rule relates to a reduction in regulatory burden for some future business owners whereby a business plan would no longer be mandatory.

3304-4-01 (Definitions for the personal care assistance program)

Amended Rule 3304-4-01 includes the definitions for the personal care assistance (PCA) program. For the purpose of the PCA program, competitive employment requires at least twenty-five hours per week at the minimum wage. Additionally, a change in the rule permits deferral of PCA services, which permits the program to notify an eligible individual that they are eligible; however, the program may not have resources or funding available at that time.

3304-4-02 (Personal care assistance program)

Amended Rule 3304-4-02 describes the priority categories for eligible individuals to receive services through the PCA program. The changes streamline the priority groups, modify the job-seeking time period to 12 months from 18, and eliminate the existing third priority group, which

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includes those who are self-employed but not earning competitive wages. The changes realign the rule with the agency's mission of supporting those seeking competitive employment.

3304-4-03 (Grievances)

Amended Rule 3304-4-03 describes the grievance process an individual may take should he or she disagree with an OOD action that affects the provision or denial of his or her PCA service. The modifications include reduced procedural burdens. Additionally, the changes enable the individual to engage in dispute resolution through an informal review with PCA program staff. The rule continues to ensure that the PCA participant has due process through an administrative hearing, even if the individual elects to forgo the informal process.

3304-4-04 (Disciplinary infractions)

Amended Rule 3304-4-04 describes the review process and any subsequent action OOD may take should it be determined that the PCA program's requirements were not met. The modifications clarify the actions the PCA program may take while considering the severity and pattern of noncompliance.

3304-5-01 (Independent living services for older individuals who are blind)

Amended Rule 3304-5-01 describes eligibility requirements for the independent living older blind (ILOB) program. The changes are being made to ensure compliance with the federal government permitting independent living services to be provided to individuals who are blind.

The hearing provides an opportunity for any interested person to give testimony for or against these proposed Ohio Administrative Code rules. Testimony for the proposal or against the proposal may be made at the public hearing, or written comments may be emailed to the Executive Director at ood.administrativerules@ood.ohio.gov. Written comments will be accepted until the start of the hearing.

Please find the proposed rules on OOD's website using the following link: OOD Proposed Rules. If you would like to receive a copy of the rules in a special format (e.g., Microsoft Word format, regular or large print), please email ood.administrativerules@ood.ohio.gov.