

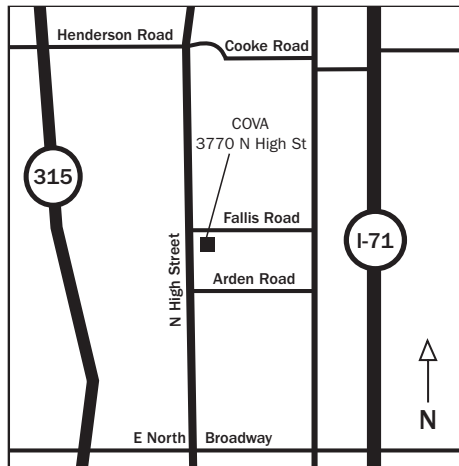
FAST FACTS

Location, Parking, Hours

COVA offices are located at 3770 N. High St. in Clintonville, and 27 W. Winter St. in Delaware. COTA buses stop directly in front of COVA on High Street.

Parking is available in lots adjacent to COVA or across High Street at the parking lot on the north side of Smith's Deli.

Most of our services are provided in the central Ohio region, and our Benefits and Financial Consulting program serves clients in 63 counties in Ohio.



Business Hours

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Columbus Orientation

Mondays, 1:30 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
Fridays, 11 a.m. - noon

Delaware Orientation

Mondays, 1:30 p.m.

No appointment is needed.



Center of Vocational Alternatives

3770 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 294-7117 main
(877) 521-2682 toll-free
(614) 294-7443 fax
(614) 298-6884 tty
27 W. Winter St.
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 363-5562
www.cova.org

COVA's Mission

COVA is the central Ohio region's leader in vocational rehabilitation services for people with mental illnesses and other disabilities that pose a barrier to employment. We serve nearly 3,000 clients and 200 employers each year.

A private, nonprofit agency founded in 1983, COVA's mission is to assist and support the community in overcoming mental, emotional and other challenges to a productive life, focusing on employment, economic stability and life skills.

COVA Staff

Our highly trained, multi-disciplinary team is composed of about 60 staff members, including certified rehabilitation counselors, licensed professional counselors, licensed social workers and a dedicated administrative team.

Employment Services

COVA career developers assist program participants to find and retain satisfying employment. We provide career evaluation and assessment, career planning, skills training, job placement, job coaching, vocational case management, benefits consulting, counseling, transition services and more.

Our participants come from all walks of life, with widely varying levels of experience and expertise, and are placed in many diverse types of positions, including professional, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled jobs.

Employers

Employers are integral to COVA's success. In addition to hiring participants, employers throughout the region provide mock job interviews, mentoring relationships, sites for job shadowing and job tryouts, volunteer positions and offer opportunities for advancement.

COVA also provides services for employers, including assistance with psychiatric disability management, return-to-work programs and employee recruitment.

National Recognition

COVA's innovative programs are recognized nationally. Recent awards include: 2006 and 2007 Lilly Reintegration Award: Eli Lilly and Company recognized COVA's Careers for the Future technology initiative for its role in helping individuals with mental illness develop the skills necessary to find and keep meaningful employment.

2007 Organization of the Year: Selected by the Ohio Rehabilitation Association.

2005 New Freedom Initiative Award: U.S. Secretary of Labor New Freedom Initiative Award is given annually to only seven organizations for exemplary and innovative efforts in furthering the employment and workplace environment for people with disabilities.

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FAST FACTS

COVA Programs

Services can be divided among three categories: career preparation, career initiation and career advancement. Most COVA services are paid through public funding. If a person does not qualify for funding by an external source, options are available for COVA's services through self-pay.

Career Development – From assessment, to skill and confidence building, COVA works toward satisfying long-term employment suited to each individual.

Benefits Consultation – COVA provides assistance to those who want to become or stay employed by determining how benefits will be affected by earned income. The goal is to enable individuals to maximize their current or potential benefits from sources such as Social Security, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Medicare and others, while becoming or staying employed. For those not ready for immediate employment, COVA can assist with applying for alternative health and income programs.

Rehabilitation Readiness – This course offers participants a structured, counselor-led class that meets twice weekly for four weeks to identify needs, barriers, skills and other issues related to returning to work. Open to any Franklin County resident experiencing a mental illness.

Careers for the Future Training Program – A unique recovery-based health, wellness and computer training program designed to give participants the education, support and equipment they need to succeed in today's job market.

Computer Equipment Contribution Program – Community and business partners can donate used computers that are less than three years old to be repaired and given to COVA program participants for home use.

Resource Center – Staff-facilitated, walk-in computer center with Internet access. Open to all local residents.

Services for Employers – COVA's expertise brings qualified, skilled employees to the work force with the support of COVA training and staff. COVA also offers employers special services for psychiatric disability management, linkage to tax incentives, added diversity and disability management seminars.

Funding Partners

COVA's budget exceeds \$4.4 million annually, operating with both public and private funding. Sources of funding include: ADAMH - Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, Job Leaders/Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corp., Columbus Foundation, Columbus Public Schools, Delaware-Morrow County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, Franklin County Children Services, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Possitivity, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Social Security Administration, U.S. Bureau of Justice Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, contracts with private industry and self-paying clients. COVA receives charitable donations from corporations and individuals.