

## Spotlight on TPAC Member

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Opportunity Village

Opportunity Village (OV) is a not-for-profit organization in Las Vegas, Nevada serving people with intellectual, developmental, and related disabilities. Founded in 1954 by seven families, the organization now serves more than 3,000 people a year. Specializing in day habilitation and employment supports, OV created a school to work transition program for high school-age youth and a wide array of adult services. The organization's adult programs include day habilitation, job skills training, fine and performing arts, contract services, job development and placement, and employment. A business to business partner, OV contracts with many organizations including state agencies to provide employment and training activities for both adults and youth. The business services provided include document imaging and document destruction, packaging and assembly, building services (custodial), mailing services, food manufacturing, rag reclamation, and others.



### **Please describe what information that Opportunity Village has that could help the members of the TPAC?**

The organization's clientele often faces multiple barriers to mobility and access to transportation. When planning new projects, interacting with people who have diverse needs has proven to be helpful. Outside of transportation, the organization is a great example for community engagement. Its fundraising events are often lauded across the country as examples for organizations. While the in-person events were postponed in 2020, many went virtual. The Las Vegas Great Santa Run is an outstanding example of how the organization works to bring the community together. The Magical Forest has been a local favorite for the last 30 years and is now a family holiday tradition for many.

### **Which programs are the most beneficial for the members of the TPAC?**

Unless you have a person with a disability in your life, it is easy to not recognize the barriers people face or have an understanding of their complex needs. All of the programs created by OV help to engage people with disabilities and their families in productive activities, socialization, recreation, or employment. OV clientele can be found at more than 60 locations across southern Nevada. Employing people with disabilities



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often positively changes the dynamic of a team. Many employers return to find more employees citing the high level of productivity. The organization hosts virtual tours for people interested in learning more about the services available. The sales team is always ready to share contract capabilities. If you have a project, we are happy to discuss ways to meet your needs.

### **How is Opportunity Village helping with COVID-19?**

COVID-19 has been devastating to members of the disability community. Many times, people with disabilities have complex medical needs and underlying health conditions that increase their risks. OV has worked to provide in-home, remote, and individualized services to people unable to leave their residences. Created to care for people, OV takes that mission seriously and committed to retaining every staff member and person served throughout the pandemic. Additionally, the organization mobilized a family engagement and outreach plan to ensure every family received the necessary supports. The OV team found food, supplies, PPE, and worked to meet the individualized needs of families. Currently operating at approximately 30% capacity, many work teams have been repurposed until their contract sites reopen. The custodial team assigned to McCarran International Airport is currently working at an OV campus location until passenger counts increase at the airport. This is only one example of the commitment OV has made to both the community and the team.

The team at OV has worked for many years to lift people with disabilities and their needs as a way to improve inclusion and community integration. The numbers of people served by the organization continue to grow and the services provided evolve as the needs and goals of people with disabilities evolve.

### **RTC Southern Nevada, NDOT Receive \$6 Million Grant**

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC), the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and partners received a \$6 million grant to expand emerging technologies on Las Vegas freeways. These technologies will help enhance safety by mitigating congestion, decreasing the number of crashes, reducing travel time, and increasing overall efficiency of the freeway. [Link to full release](#)

