



January 9, 2019

During the past several legislative sessions, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) was asked to submit a report of its outreach efforts to work with community rehabilitation program providers for job placement and retention services for individuals with significant and the most significant disabilities.

Senate File 2415: For purposes of optimizing the job placement of individuals with disabilities, IVRS shall make its best efforts to work with community rehabilitation program providers for job placement and retention services for individuals with significant disabilities and most significant disabilities. By January 15, 2019, the division shall submit a written report to the general assembly on the division’s outreach efforts with community rehabilitation program providers.

IVRS has continued efforts to establish, create and maintain partnerships with over 80 Iowa community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) in 2018. IVRS continued efforts to promote and encourage collaboration by reaching out to CRPs, external vendors and other service providers. The result of this focus has contributed positively to enhancing partnerships, in addition to expanding competitive, community employment-related options for Iowans with disabilities. IVRS has a dedicated staff position performing the outreach activities in collaboration with our CRPs.

IVRS is the lead agency for the federal monies received from the Department of Labor’s Office of Disability and Employment Policy. During the past six years, Iowa has received technical and financial assistance dollars that was directed to community provider transformation to help individuals with the most significant disabilities access community, competitive, integrated employment.

FFY	Amount Expended to CRP’s	Number of Job Candidates with CRP Services
2018	\$3,237,902	2,059
2017	\$3,363,602	2,010
2016	\$2,961,365	1,871
2015	\$2,836,035	1,432
2014	\$1,845,630	988

The data in the chart is calculated differently than in previous years. The federal legislation required a change in how we report Period of Performance so the numbers being reported are slightly different from in past years. In reviewing the data, there is

also the recognition that vocational rehabilitation service delivery operations created a number of changes, which affected numbers served. This includes the period of performance change; an increased emphasis required by federal legislation on transition services and pre-employment transition services for students in our secondary school system; and an increase in time staff is spending to meet data collection requirements. The actual figures for 2018 are expected to change as authorizations are still being processed for service delivery, but these numbers are accurate as of November 30, 2018.

IVRS provided financial support to 33 different Occupational Skills training programs, which included eleven Project Search exploration and training programs. Our CRPs are integral to the success of these training efforts to meet the business skill gap and prepare a Future Ready Iowa workforce.

IVRS implemented a variety of in-service, webinar, onsite and video conference training opportunities available to CRPs throughout the year, as well as performance data specific to each partner. Vendor data is shared annually by IVRS with providers to stimulate conversations with partners, ensure consistent business practices, promote transparency for purchased services, and provide a statewide basis for comparisons and quality assurance improvement. This year, IVRS included additional data points to share with vendors based on similar criteria our federal partners use to measure VR services. Standards that document a CRP's effectiveness, quality, timeliness and outcomes were included to help ensure that IVRS continues to expend state and federal dollars judiciously, as well as keep communication lines open between IVRS and CRP vendors.

IVRS will continue to collaborate and proactively respond to the demands of an ever-changing job market to fulfill our mission and effectively provide the necessary services to help individuals with disabilities achieve full integration into community employment. Towards this end, IVRS has put forth a dedicated effort to expand opportunities to collaborate, innovate and network with entities and align resources with community partners. With implementation of the federal legislation, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, it is vital to align service delivery efforts, avoid duplication, and leverage funding to maximize the capacity of all employment service providers to meet the needs of Iowans with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Mitchell, M.S., CRC
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