

IOWA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

A newsletter brought to you by the State Rehabilitation Council and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

JANUARY 2021



WHO WE ARE



Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) is the largest division of the Iowa Department of Education focused on serving individuals with disabilities to optimize competitive integrated employment opportunities and independence. One of our message points for staff is to be at the expanding intersection of disability expertise and business intelligence. We are an integral piece of the labor exchange system and a collaborative partner across state systems improving alignment of employment services and building capacity across programs to meet the needs of eligible Iowans with disabilities.

FUNDING

A total of 535 VR job candidates were receiving public support for living expenses (SSI, SSDI, TANF, General Assistance) and after receiving services, they are now employed and of those, 98 now support themselves, a savings of \$734,036 annually for the state.

We receive federal and state funding at a ratio of 78.7% to 21.3%. That means for every one dollar of state monies, we match almost four dollars of federal money.

Our current state budget is \$6,006,114. This is made of several appropriations related to Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, Independent Living and Independent Living Center Grant.

For 2022/2023 we have approximately an additional \$2.2 million federal dollars available to bring into the State of Iowa if we could provide match of an additional \$600,000. IVRS is planning cash match programs with our school districts to cover approximately \$300,000 of these unmet monies, but an additional \$250,000 targeted for the Juvenile Re-Entry System program (JRES) would match \$924,000 federal monies and the \$50,000 identified for technology enhancement will match an additional \$185,000 for a total of \$1.1 million additional federal monies. The JRES efforts will positively impact outcomes for Juveniles coming from the Department of Correction programs, COMING ATTRACTION: Next week's Newsletter will be highlighting this program idea!

NEED

A Total of 1,930 VR Iowans with disabilities obtained employment in the 2019 program year.

Everyone is going to experience disability at some point.

National data has demonstrated businesses that reflect inclusion have a better bottom line.

The pandemic has revealed a developing revolution in thinking of what employment looks like and will be. This impacts the largest targeted group of individuals of any category – people with disabilities.

IVRS and employment services positively impact both of these statements through our dual customer approach with individuals who have disabilities and our business partners.

WHAT TO EXPECT

For those successful IVRS employment outcomes, there was an income increase of **\$32.1 million** from the time of their application status until their case file closures. This is a 303% increase in their income, as reported at application.

Due to the pandemic, our State Rehabilitation Council will not host an on-site legislative reception this year, so instead we will be sending weekly flyers focused on information pertaining to our budget and service delivery for the next six weeks. We will also archive this information at our legislative 2021 link to our IVRS website. We hope you take a minute or two and scan the information and learn about how we are using state and federal monies to effectively serve Iowans with disabilities. Please remember, we are available for outreach and questions and can be a resource for your constituents on disability, employment and business needs.

Making a Positive Difference for Every Person, One Person at a time.

"I support VR/IVRS because everyone deserves an opportunity to use their abilities to do meaningful work. Employers also benefit from the diverse gifts of our job seekers."

Amy R. Dutton, Regional Director
America's SBDC - Iowa
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