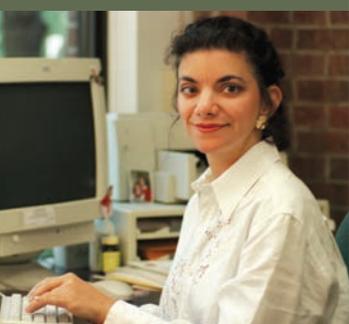
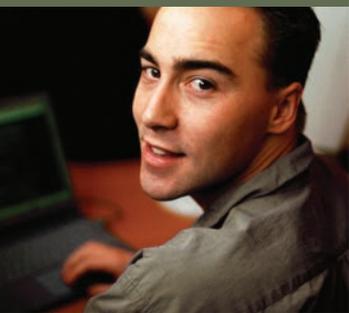


Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development



Vocational Rehabilitation Services consists of three distinct programs, all working together to assist Minnesotans with significant disabilities to secure and retain employment, live independently, and reduce their dependence on government supports. The three programs are:

- **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):** The largest of the three programs provides short-term, time-limited job placement employment and training services for persons with significant disabilities. VR serves about 22,000 people in all 87 Minnesota counties each year.
- **Extended Employment (EE):** This program provides ongoing job supports to employed persons with significant disabilities. It's a statewide, outcome-based program run by 28 community rehabilitation organizations. More than 6,000 people participate annually, collectively earning more than \$27 million in annual wages paid by private employers.
- **Independent Living (IL):** This is a statewide program with core services (independent living skills training, peer mentoring, advocacy services, and information and referral) delivered through eight Centers for Independent Living. IL serves more than 7,000 people annually, including 150 who were relocated from nursing homes into homes of their choice.

VALUE PROPOSITION

Vocational Rehabilitation Services is uniquely positioned to provide **statewide and community leadership** that results in employment and greater independence for people with disabilities. As the **designated steward of public resources**, Vocational Rehabilitation Services is the **primary facilitator** of a broad stakeholder coalition that promotes choice, equal opportunity, self-sufficiency and full community integration for people with disabilities.

STATE GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Goal 1 is the primary goal. Goals 2 through 5 support the achievement of Goal 1. Progress in achieving the goals is measured by establishing outcome measures for Goal 1 and process measures for the remaining goals.

GOAL 1: MORE JOBS, BETTER JOBS

The result of this goal is expanded job opportunities and improved employment outcomes for Minnesotans with disabilities. *VRS will:*

- A. Increase the number of employment outcomes
- B. Increase the quality of employment outcomes
- C. Improve service to minority and underserved populations
- D. Expand development of long-term supports
- E. Improve consistency of transition services received by students who are in high school



GOAL 2: ORGANIZATIONAL VITALITY

The result of this goal is a vibrant organization providing the best possible services to Minnesotans with disabilities. *VRS will:*

- A. Provide VRS staff with the training and resources to do their job
- B. Increase VRS staff diversity in line with demographic normative data
- C. Enhance internal and external communication
- D. Strengthen organizational leadership capacity



GOAL 3: EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The result of this goal is collaborative partnerships that fully use resources to serve Minnesotans with disabilities. *VRS will:*

- A. Increase availability of ongoing or long-term supports through policy, practice or resource changes
- B. Provide VRS, WFC and community partner staff with training that advances our shared mission
- C. Develop a process to evaluate consumer outcomes and satisfaction with services provided by community partners
- D. Emphasize partnerships that support transition services
- E. Identify and expand consumer service best practices



GOAL 4: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

The result of this goal is high quality placement services that we can count on. *VRS will:*

- A. Identify potential jobs and needed skills at the regional level
- B. Increase the quality of placement services by “raising the bar” through staff training and development activities
- C. Capitalize on the VRS/CRP partnership and provide leadership to placement providers by exploring options for sharing business advisory groups and exploring options for using temporary agencies for work experience and initial placements



GOAL 5: ENGAGED COUNCILS

The result of this goal is robust, participatory councils — the State Rehabilitation Council and as appropriate the Statewide Independent Living Council — fulfilling their missions and statutory roles. *VRS will:*

- A. Invite participation and seek advice as outlined in the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
- B. Provide operational and reporting transparency to the councils
- C. Develop and revise policy and procedures with active council involvement
- D. Meet the resource and membership needs of the councils
- E. Increase inter-council coordination