

State of Alaska FY2012 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Vocational Rehabilitation Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Vocational Rehabilitation Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

To assist people with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

Core Services

- Provide individualized services to enable people with disabilities to secure employment.
- Grant funds to the Independent Living Centers throughout the state to serve the most severely disabled.
- Adjudicate claims for social security benefits.
- Provide training and guidance on the Americans with Disability Act.

Results at a Glance

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <http://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

END RESULT A: Alaskans with disabilities enter employment and become more economically self-sufficient.

- The number of individuals exiting the Vocational Rehabilitation program employed in FY2010 was 548, a 0.2 percent increase over the prior year. This exceeded the target of maintaining the prior year performance level.
- The FY2010 average wage for DVR consumers exiting the program as employed was 64.4 percent of the state's average wage which misses the target of 65 percent by 0.6 percent although it is up from 61.1 percent in FY2009.

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 94.2 percent of DVR's consumers were made eligible in FY2010 within 60 days of applying for services which misses the target of 95 percent by 0.8 percent although it is an increase from FY2009's 92.3 percent.
- 73.4 percent of the FY2010 Individualized Plans for Employment were developed within 180 days which is down from 80.1 percent in FY2009 and below the target of 85 percent.
- In FY2010, 61.4 percent of the of the Individualized Plans for Employment were completed successfully resulting in an employment outcome which is down slightly from the 62.9 percent in FY2009 although it exceeds the target of 56 percent.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Improve customer service through integrated services at Job Centers to increase employment opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities.
- Educate employers, partners and customers to assist people with disabilities to achieve their career goals.
- Develop partnerships with employers to allow clients to explore actual work environments.
- Build partnerships with Centers for Independent Living.

Key RDU Challenges

Ensure statutes, regulations, and program policies are reflective of current business practices and law. For example, the definition for a "person with a disability" (AS 36.30.170(k) for the purpose of determining who is eligible for the disability preference in state procurement is difficult to administer. It requires individuals to provide medical and other information to the division for an individual determination of eligibility. Alaska statute does not allow the use of recognized determinations of permanent disability such as those made by the United States Social Security Administration or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The division is interested in updating AS 36.30.170(K) to streamline the administration of the disability preference program.

ADVR has recognized a significant need to improve vocational rehabilitation service delivery in rural Alaska communities. A study was done to evaluate natural partners in remote communities where there are no ADVR offices. It is on this fiscal year's work plan to examine the potential of using existing partners in these communities and to develop other networks to increase the efficacy and availability of services in communities that are currently underserved. At this time numbers of individuals served are reflective of the State's overall population distribution, however, we recognize the need and challenges involved in our efforts to strive towards equitable service delivery as

a Statewide program.

Improve training, demonstration, access, acquisition and sustained use of appropriate assistive technology throughout Alaska that includes schools, Independent Living (IL) centers, veterans, seniors and various other disability groups so they can effectively utilize assistive technology to obtain independence.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2012

The number of applications for Social Security benefits is expected to increase due to the rise in the number of people unemployed. Unemployed individuals with disabilities who anticipate being out of work in excess of twelve weeks will likely apply for disability benefits. The Disability Determinations Services will prepare for an increase in the number of individuals applying for services by refining business practices, communicating with the Anchorage Field Office regarding weekly application trends and promoting training at all staff levels.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2010

The division assisted in the passage of SB 83. This legislation brought state statutes regarding the membership composition of the State Rehabilitation Council into compliance with federal regulations and changed the name of the council to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee.

529 individuals that exited the program were successfully employed for 90 days or more, and the average wage was \$14.48 per hour.

In the south central region of the state, 180 individuals received services that assisted them in leaving or prevented them from entering a nursing home or other long term care facility. On the Kenai Peninsula, five individuals received services that enabled them to move from nursing homes and other long-term care facilities back to their homes.

The Social Security Administration recognized Alaska Disability Determination Services (DDS) for its dedication and exemplary service to the citizens of Alaska by awarding the DDS Management Team with Regional Commissioner Citations.

Aired two non-commercial service announcements regarding disability access and accessible parking through the public broadcasting Community Voice program. These public ads were well-received, increased traffic on the ADA website, and improved understanding of disability access and the appropriate use of accessible parking.

Contact Information

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**Vocational Rehabilitation
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2010 Actuals				FY2011 Management Plan				FY2012 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Voc Rehab Administration	3.9	0.0	1,358.5	1,362.4	3.9	52.9	1,555.6	1,612.4	3.9	20.0	1,362.8	1,386.7
Client Services	4,257.1	152.1	10,210.4	14,619.6	4,335.3	330.0	11,114.6	15,779.9	4,426.9	330.0	10,900.4	15,657.3
Independent Living Rehabilitat	918.3	0.0	693.3	1,611.6	987.7	0.0	848.7	1,836.4	987.7	0.0	771.9	1,759.6
Disability Determination	1.9	233.2	4,033.5	4,268.6	1.9	241.4	5,004.6	5,247.9	1.9	245.3	5,079.4	5,326.6
Special Projects	117.9	0.0	296.6	414.5	118.4	0.0	1,077.6	1,196.0	118.4	0.0	577.6	696.0
Assistive Technology	0.0	141.2	420.1	561.3	0.0	171.5	461.3	632.8	0.0	171.5	442.9	614.4
Americans With Disabilities	0.0	174.0	0.0	174.0	0.0	231.4	0.0	231.4	0.0	211.9	0.0	211.9
Totals	5,299.1	700.5	17,012.4	23,012.0	5,447.2	1,027.2	20,062.4	26,536.8	5,538.8	978.7	19,135.0	25,652.5

Vocational Rehabilitation
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2011 Management Plan to FY2012 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2011 Management Plan	5,447.2	0.0	1,027.2	20,062.4	26,536.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-Voc Rehab Administration	0.0	0.0	0.0	-192.8	-192.8
-Client Services	91.6	0.0	0.0	-214.2	-122.6
-Independent Living Rehabilitat	0.0	0.0	0.0	-76.8	-76.8
-Disability Determination	0.0	0.0	3.9	74.8	78.7
-Special Projects	0.0	0.0	0.0	-500.0	-500.0
-Assistive Technology	0.0	0.0	0.0	-18.4	-18.4
-Americans With Disabilities	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0	5.5
Proposed budget decreases:					
-Voc Rehab Administration	0.0	0.0	-32.9	0.0	-32.9
-Americans With Disabilities	0.0	0.0	-25.0	0.0	-25.0
FY2012 Governor	5,538.8	0.0	978.7	19,135.0	25,652.5