

Quick facts

Mission: The mission of VocRehab Vermont is to help Vermonters with disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain meaningful employment and to help employers recruit, train, and retain employees with disabilities. We believe employment is the key to breaking cycles of benefits dependence, Corrections involvement, substance abuse and generational poverty.

Funding: VocRehab Vermont is funded through the Rehabilitation Services Administration under the U.S. Department of Education. Funding is 79% federal and 21% state match.

Population served: Any Vermonter with a qualifying disability who is seeking to obtain or maintain employment

Number of Vermonters served in FFY 2016: 9,254

Customer satisfaction:

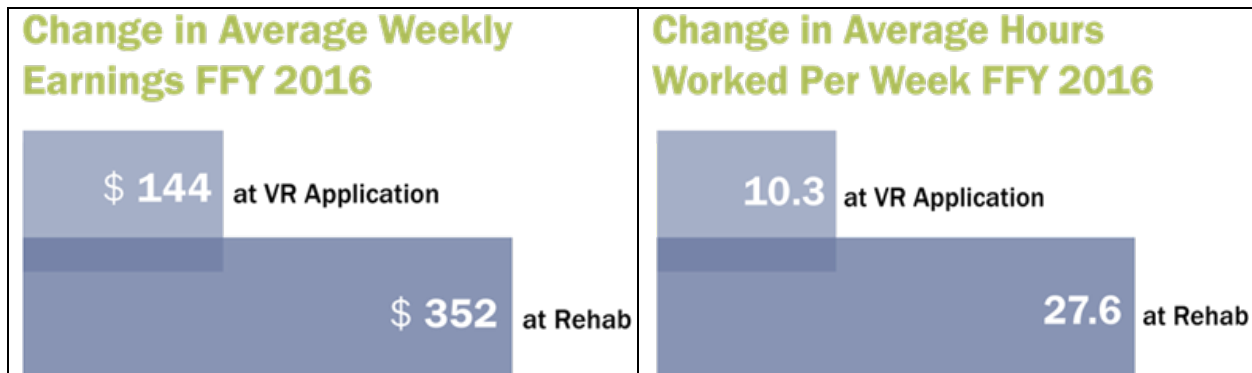
- 97% of customers felt welcome when they went to VR for services;
- 95% of customers would tell their friends with disabilities to go to VR for help with employment;
- 94% of customers indicate it is easy to access vocational rehabilitation services;
- 88% of customers are very satisfied or satisfied with the services provided by DVR.;
- 97% of customers indicate that the DVR staff treated them with dignity and respect;
- 81% of consumers said VR helped them achieve their job goal.

National Rankings:

#1 in the nation for DVR applicants per million population

#1 in the nation for employment outcomes per million population

How our customers are better off:



Program Highlights

Pre-Employment Transition Services: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires the Vocational Rehabilitation program to devote at least 15% of total federal award to providing Pre-Employment Transition Services to students with disabilities. VocRehab Vermont has developed a model for serving students that includes dedicated Transition Counselors and Youth Employment Specialists who provide services to every high school in Vermont.

The State as a Model Employer: VocRehab Vermont is collaborating with the Governor's Workforce Equity and Diversity Council and the State of Vermont Department of Human Resources to pilot a diversity recruitment model that offers State Hiring Managers a range of options to introduce potential candidates with disabilities to working for state agencies and departments. The pilot has been launched in the Barre-Berlin-Montpelier corridor, with plans to expand statewide this summer.

Mature Worker Program: VocRehab Vermont manages the state's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) in partnership with Vermont Associates for Training and Development. With increasingly more seniors needing employment to supplement retirement, or for those who are looking to find their "encore career", we are committed to increasing awareness in the employer community of the benefits of hiring "seasoned" workers.

Research and Innovation

Progressive Employment: Progressive Employment is an employment strategy that offers employers several options to meet potential candidates. In addition to implementing this strategy here in Vermont, VocRehab Vermont has been working with the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMASS Boston to research the model in four pilot states. Initial data suggests Progressive Employment activities result in increased employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Motivational Interviewing: VocRehab Vermont has invested in comprehensive Motivational Interviewing training for all staff, from administrative staff to Counselors and Employment Consultants. Motivational Interviewing is an evidence-based practice that emphasizes active listening and engagement with customers in order to help them overcome ambivalence and move toward employment or other personal goals.

Linking Learning to Careers: VocRehab Vermont, in partnership with Mathematica, Community College of Vermont and Transcen, was recently awarded a 5-year research grant to study the impact of enhanced career services to students with disabilities. Career Consultants will provide students guidance on career options, relevant coursework needed and workplace experiences that will better prepare students for the world of work and/or Post-Secondary education. Paid employment is a primary indicator of program performance.