

VR and Workforce Development

Major Points

- The decline in the available workforce has been well documented. Employers and the Vermont economy need reliable workers with the right training and skills.
- The VR program supports Vermonters with disabilities enter or re-enter employment, who would otherwise remain out of the workforce
- Through Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS) VR maintains strong connections with local businesses and employers. This ensures that the VR program is preparing and training consumers for jobs that are in demand in the local community.
- VR funds progressive employment that helps individuals with limited work histories “get their foot in the door”. Progressive employment also allows employers a low risk option to assess potential employees.
- VR funds training in industry recognized certifications in high demand fields. These trainings are an excellent route for individuals to move from entry level work to higher wage employment and real career pathways.

Impact of VR Funding Reductions

- As a result of the funding loss, VR will have to reduce the number of Business Account Managers and Employment Consultants working directly with employers. This will reduce the connections between employers, VR and people with disabilities who want to go to work.
- As a result of the funding loss, VR will have to reduce funds for industry recognized training programs. This will mean fewer workers with high demand skills and fewer opportunities for people with disabilities to secure higher wage jobs.
- As a result of the funding loss, VR will have to reduce funds for progressive employment. This will mean fewer opportunities for individuals with limited work histories to get into the workforce