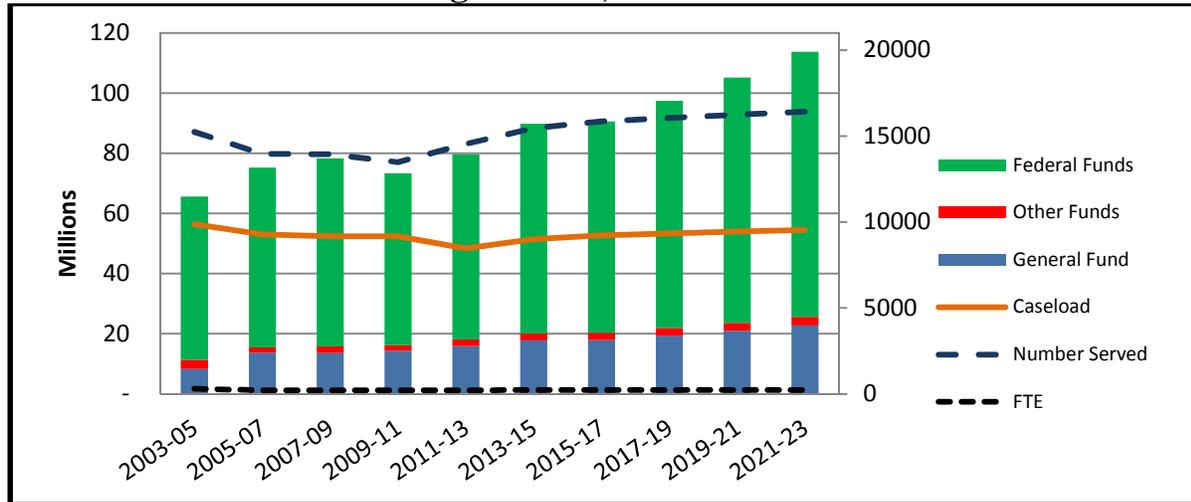


Department of Human Services: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs)

Primary Outcome Area: Economy and Jobs
 Secondary Outcome Area: Education
 Program Contact: Stephaine Parrish Taylor, 503-945-6201

OVRs Funding Sources, Caseload Levels and FTEs



Note: FTE for OVRs has remained at 224 from 2003-05 to date. Cost per case increase is the result of a growing number of people with cognitive disorders requiring services that come with higher costs.

Executive Summary

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs) assists youth and adults with disabilities to obtain, maintain or advance in employment. OVRs services are designed to help clients succeed in jobs that enable them to live as independently as possible, reduce or eliminate their need for publicly funded benefits, and be fully contributing members of their local communities.

OVRs provides services to clients through field offices across the state. OVRs assists clients with all disabilities with the exception of blindness and deaf-blindness. The most common categories of disability among OVRs clients are cognitive impairment, and psychosocial, physical, mental and orthopedic impairments. Specialized services that help clients be as self-sufficient as possible are provided through seven Centers for Independent Living (CILs) located throughout the state.

OVRs staff also work in partnership with community organizations and businesses to develop employment opportunities for people with disabilities. These activities range from live resume events and job fairs to presenting disability awareness workshops in local businesses. OVRs also offers business services that include consultations with employers about diversifying their workforces by hiring people with disabilities and pre-screening services to match employers with clients who are qualified, reliable job candidates.

Program Funding Request

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Economy and Jobs Total						
	GF	OF	FF	TF	Positions	FTE
LAB	15,879,444	2,269,521	61,506,963	79,655,928	224	220.28
ARB	17,815,243	2,325,219	69,689,958	89,830,420	231	226.92
Difference	1,935,799	55,698	8,182,995	10,174,492	7	6.64
Percent Change	12.2%	2.5%	13.3%	12.8%	3.1%	3.0%

Significant Proposed Program Changes from 2011-13

OVRs Investments/Reductions	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Econ&Jobs Total					
	GF	OF	FF	TF		
Add Work Incentive Network staff and funds to increase employ of disabled	0.53	0.00	1.96	2.50	4	4.00
Expand Program support to employers/staff to increase employ of disabled	0.11	0.00	0.40	0.51	3	2.64
Expansion Client Services to additional 1225 people in 2013-15 over 11-13	0.52	0.00	1.93	2.45		

(\$Millions)

OVRs requests funds and staffing to increase client service capacity allowing us to engage more employers, increase employment outcomes and enhance the lives of individuals we serve. In addition, we propose additional funds to serve clients referred from the Developmental Disabilities Employment First Program, a critical area of need highlighted by recent litigation and U.S. Department of Justice findings.

Program Description

Services to clients are individualized to ensure that each eligible client receives the services essential to their employment success. Vocational rehabilitation counselors work with clients to identify their needs, create a plan to address barriers to employment and implement the plan together. OVRs services align to four major focus areas:

- **Basic Vocational Rehabilitation Services**, assist individuals whose disabilities are impediments to employment. Counselors determine the client’s eligibility for services; provide vocational counseling; and identify and arrange for services, activities and accommodations needed to obtain, maintain or advance in employment. Counselors work with job developers to obtain job placements and with job coaches to provide clients with the extra supports they need to be successful in their jobs. Counselors also work with employers to accommodate incumbent workers or to recruit new employees with disabilities.
- **Youth Transition Services**, prepare youth with disabilities for employment or career-related postsecondary education or training. The program bridges the gap between school and work by providing coordinated vocational rehabilitation services while the special education student is in school. OVRs partners with local school districts and other organizations to ensure students’ smooth transition to adult services and employment after high school.
- **Supported Employment Services**, an evidence-based rehabilitation strategy, targets individuals with the most significant disabilities who can obtain and retain competitive employment in the community if they receive intensive training, job coaching and ongoing support. Supported Employment Services are provided in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, Addictions and Mental Health Services, and the DHS Office of Developmental Disabilities.
- **Independent Living Services** are available through the seven CILs in Oregon. The CILs are consumer controlled nonprofit organizations that receive funding to provide four federally mandated core services to promote independence and remove barriers to employment: Information and referral, skills training, peer counseling, and both systems and individual advocacy.

The major cost driver in OVRs is the severity of the disabilities of the individuals requesting services. Many clients have two or more disabilities. Severity is determined by the number of functional limitations, the number of services needed to address the impediments and the estimated length of time services will be needed.

Program Justification and Link to 10-Year Program

OVRs assists individuals with disabilities to establish a foundation by identifying a personal vision, goals and steps necessary to achieve success in education and employment, and become independent, productive citizens. Its services and programs link to three focus areas in the 10-Year Plan for Oregon: Employment and Jobs, Education and Safety.

Employment and Jobs

- The nationally recognized Youth Transition Program supports the 10-Year Plan goal of two years of postsecondary education or equivalent technical training. Through this program, 93 percent of youth with disabilities transition to work or postsecondary education as compared to the national average of 85 percent. Over the past 20 years, the rate of youth engaged in work or postsecondary education had ranged between 75 and 85 percent.
- Every year OVRs develops a State Plan which includes goals to increase self-employment and employment outcomes for clients and to increase the number of individuals who obtain postsecondary degrees and certificates.
- OVRs is helping create work-ready communities through its Preferred Worker Project. This program is a collaboration with the Department of Business and Consumer Services to help injured workers who do not qualify for regular OVRs services to return to work.
- In the 2011 Federal Fiscal Year, 1,793 individuals obtained and maintained work through the basic rehabilitation program. OVRs Employer Services provides training and technical assistance to employers for new hires and incumbent workers, and identifies and refers qualified candidates.

Education

- The Youth Transition Program was recognized in 2010 as a best practice program by the Association of Maternal and Child Health programs. A study found that 93 percent of youth with disabilities transitioned to work or postsecondary education.
- OVRs utilizes supported employment, an evidence-based model, which allows individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to work in competitive employment in the community.
- A partnership with the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services to implement the Employment First program to focus service dollars on work as an outcome for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The Independent Living program partners with schools and families to support the transition of students with disabilities to secondary education and/or work.
- Memorandums of Agreement with the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Oregon Department of Education are designed to more effectively align transition services, identify opportunities to braid and leverage funding in order to increase the number of students with disabilities.

Safety

- CILs train seniors and people with disabilities to develop personal preparedness plans and on empowerment and safety as a preventative for crime and abuse often faced by these populations.
- CILs also provide training and mentoring to parents with disabilities, which enhances skills for management of their homes and families.

Program Performance

OVRs measures its performance primarily by employment outcomes. Employment outcomes are the number of individuals who obtained and successfully maintained employment for a minimum of 90 days. The chart below shows employment outcomes for OVRs since 2008.

OVRs

YEAR		FY2012 (projected)	FY2011	FY2010*	FY2009*	FY2008
# SERVED	Youth	1,779	1,720	1,305	1,392	1,681
	Adults	14,527	13,487	13,940	13,954	15,246
EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES	VR	1,978	1,793	1,176	1,928	2,604
	SE	220	185	131	138	649
	YTP	476	404	237	365	571
Rehab rate <i>(Federal min. req. is 55.8%)</i>	SSI/SSDI	4,670	4,570	4,549	4,163	4,561
		57%	57%	47%	55%	63%
WAGE		11.68	11.68	11.38	\$11.43	\$11.19
HOURS		26	27	27	29	30
COST PER CLIENT**			\$3,065	\$2,487.83	\$2,940.41	\$2,489.98

*Order of Selection limited the number of clients served due to a lack of resources. **The average case cost of \$3065 equates to about four months of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

A 2010 assessment demonstrated that the Independent Living Program could serve three percent of its consumers with an Oregon investment of only \$390,429 and produce a return of \$2,405,227 to public sources (from new taxpayers or reduced use of public benefits). The chart below shows Independent Living Program outcomes since 2008.

Independent Living Program

YEAR	*FY2013 (Projection)	*FY2012 (Projection)	FY2011	FY2010	FY2009	FY2008
# Served	11,863	11,863	11,863	7,358	5,688	4,676
Consumer Goals	4,225	4,225	4,225	3,533	4,317	4,635
% Goals Achieved	60%	60%	60%	60%	62%	55%
Consumer Satisfaction	87%	87%	87%	89%	92%	88%

Enabling legislation/program authorization

OVRs is a State and Federal program authorized by State law (ORS 344.511 et seq.) and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1998 and as implemented by 34 C.F.R. 361.1 et seq.

The Independent Living Program is a Federal program established in Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and regulated by the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, and Parts 364-367. In conjunction, Oregon's State Independent Living Council was established in 1994 by Governor's Executive

Order 94-12. OVRS is listed as the designated state unit for this program in the State Plan for Independent Living, per Section 704 of Title VII.

Funding Streams

OVRS is funded through the federal Department of Education. It receives a formula-based grant with Match and Maintenance of Effort requirements. The match rate for Vocational Rehabilitation is 21.3 General Fund; 78.7 Federal Fund. For Independent Living the match rate is 1 General Fund; 9 Federal Fund. There is no match required for the Supported Employment grant. Grant dollars cannot be utilized by other programs. Program income includes Social Security reimbursement, Youth Transition Program grants, and revenue from the OVRS Preferred Worker Project.