

Presentation to the
House Business and Labor Committee

Vocational Rehabilitation Overview

Keith Ozols, VR Director

Melissa Glover, Salem-Keizer Public Schools

Anthony Davis, student

Deb Smith, Employment Services Coordinator

Iraiah Estrada, General Manager, Burger King

January 13, 2020



Today's Presentation

- Program overview
- Services
- Client and Business Success Stories
- Accomplishments

Our Vision

Every Oregonian with a disability who desires to work is given the means and opportunity.



Our Mission

Assist Oregonians with disabilities to achieve, maintain and advance in employment and independence.



VR's 100th Year Anniversary

VISION 2020

Leading change. Today. Tomorrow. Together.

WIOA introduction

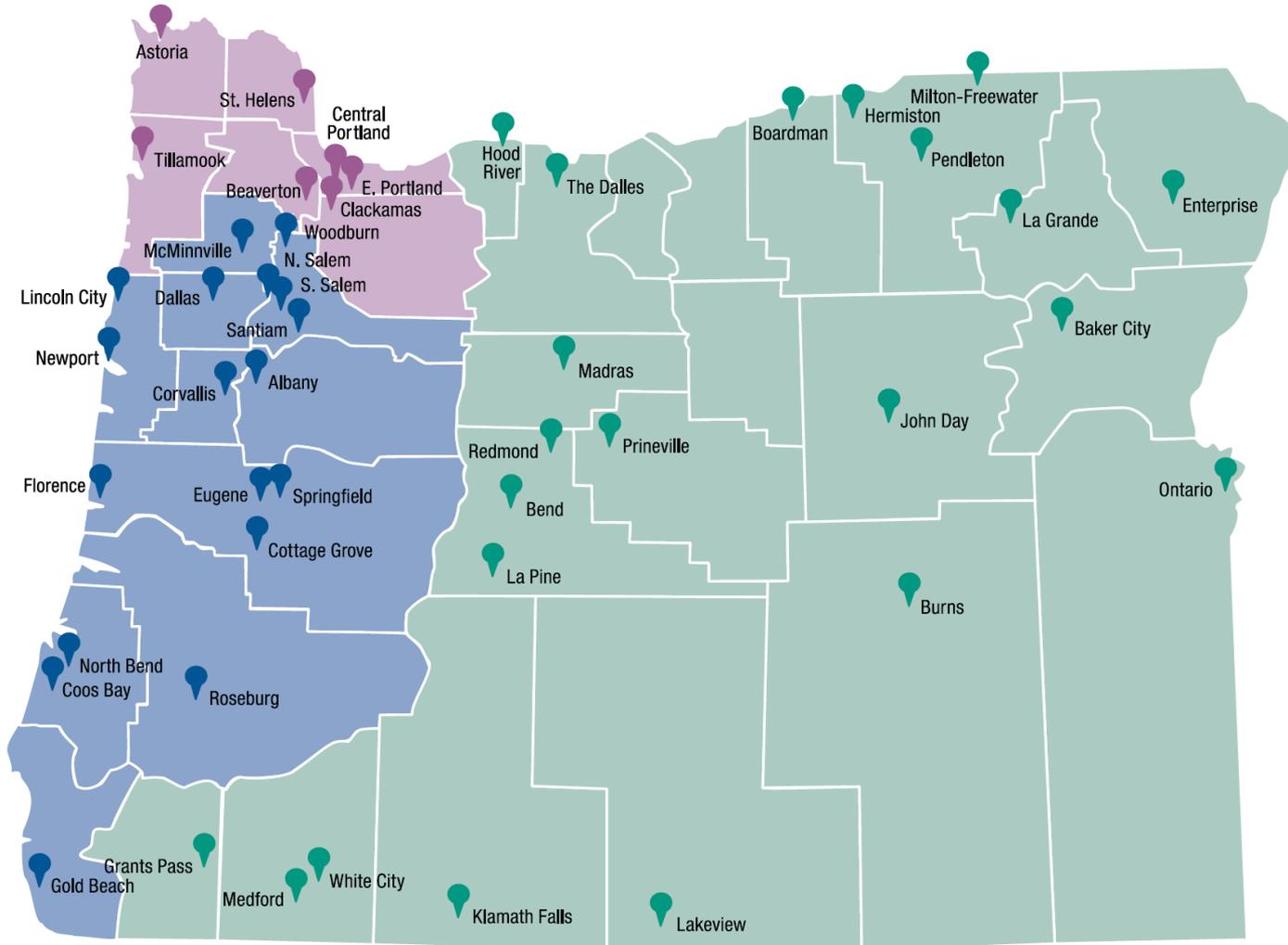
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- Passed in 2014
- Amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Strengthens and improves public workforce system
- Focus on helping youth and those with significant barriers to employment
- Help employers hire and retain skilled workers.
- New performance measures for states

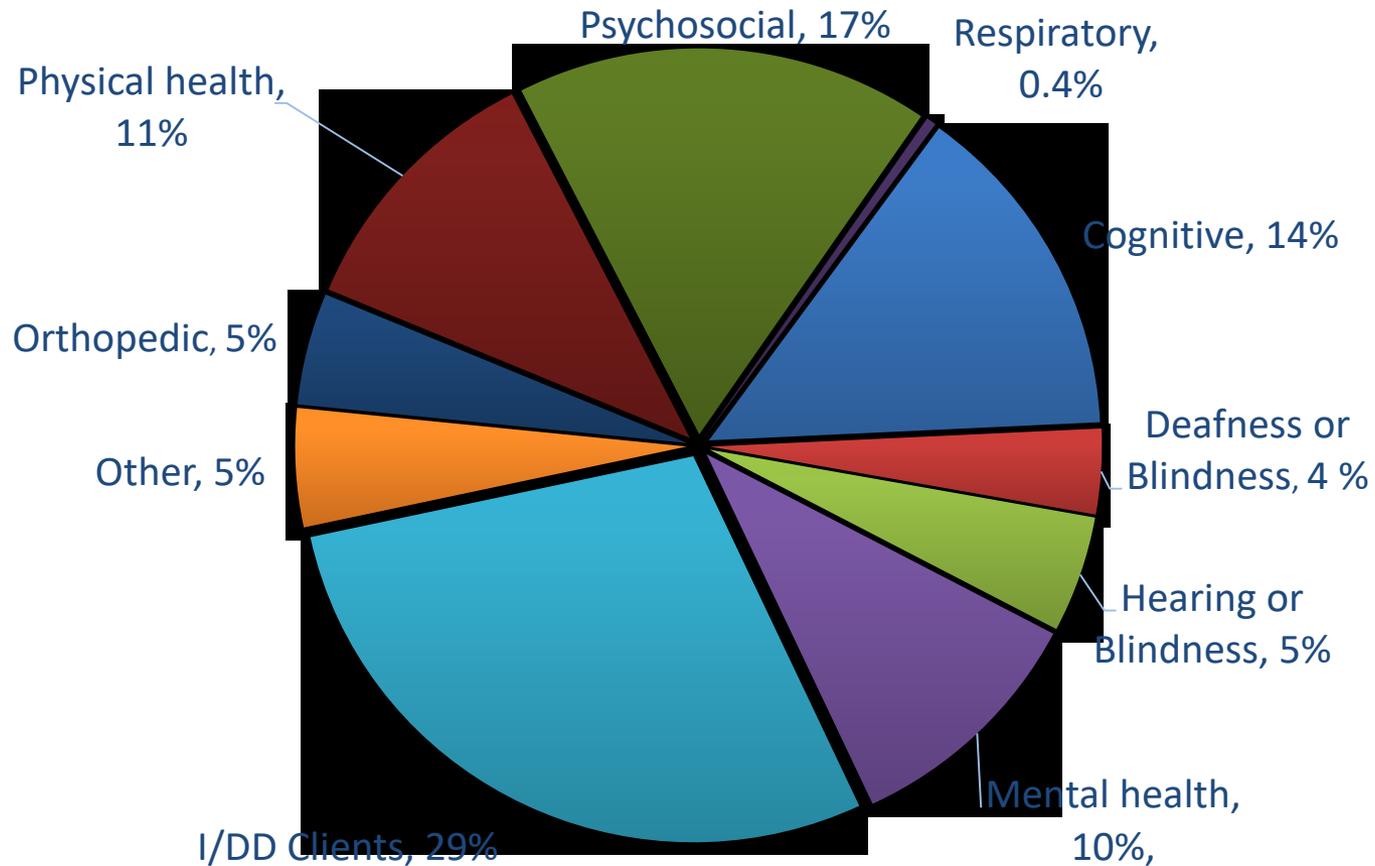
WIOA Core Partners



VR Field Offices

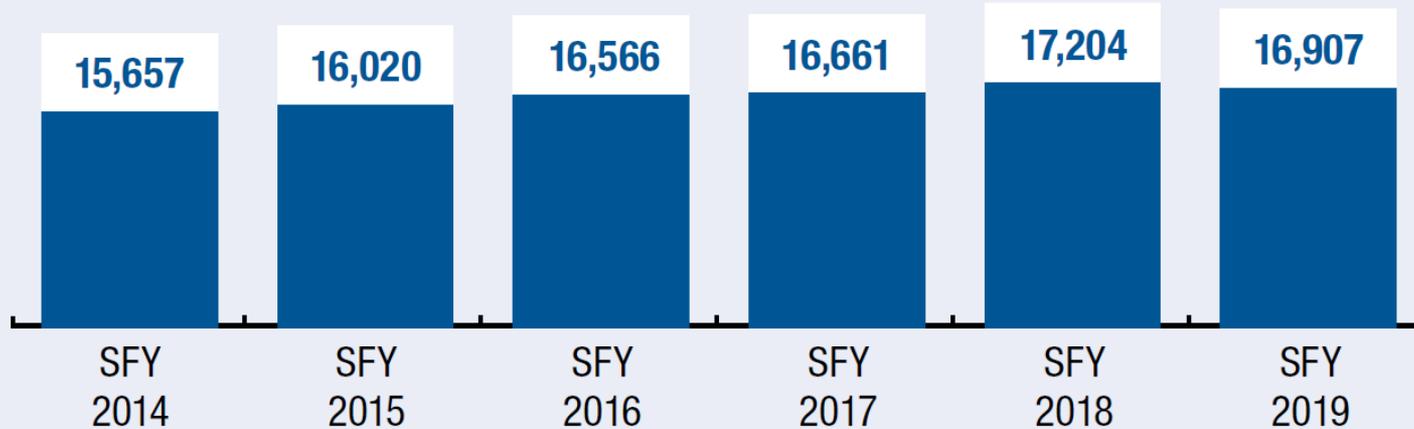


VR Demographics



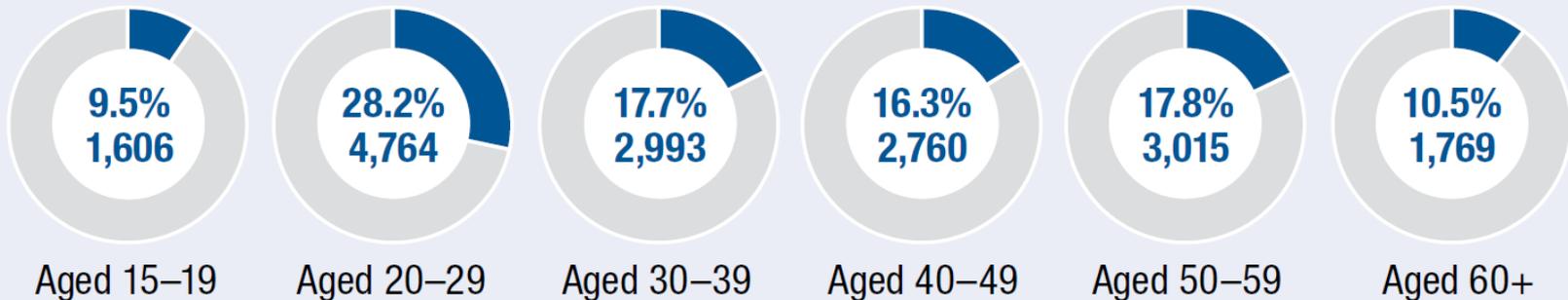
VR Clients with Planned Services

Total clients served



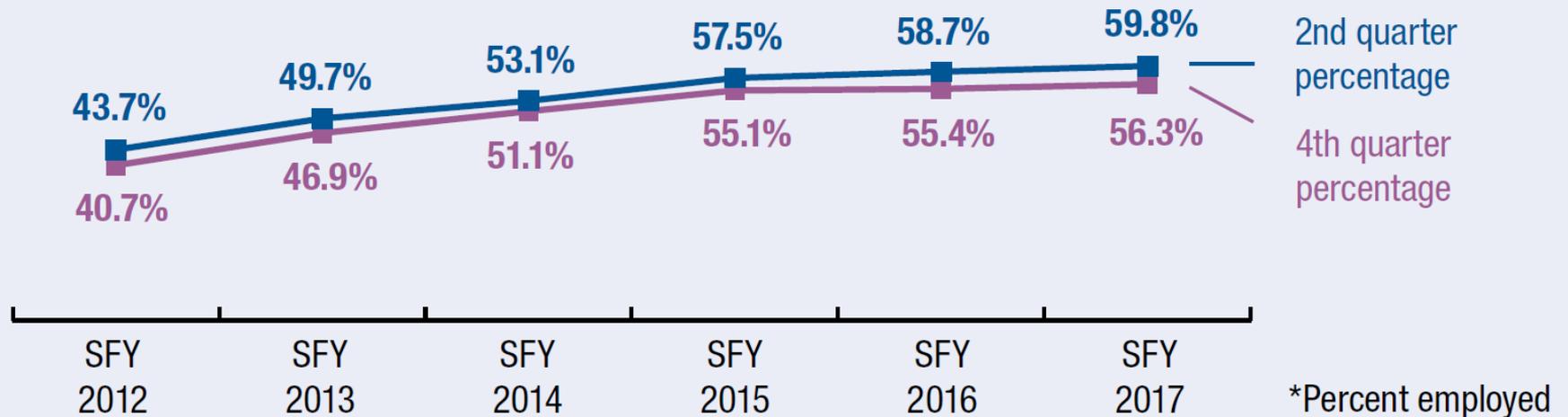
Demographics by age

Number and percent of clients served by age group

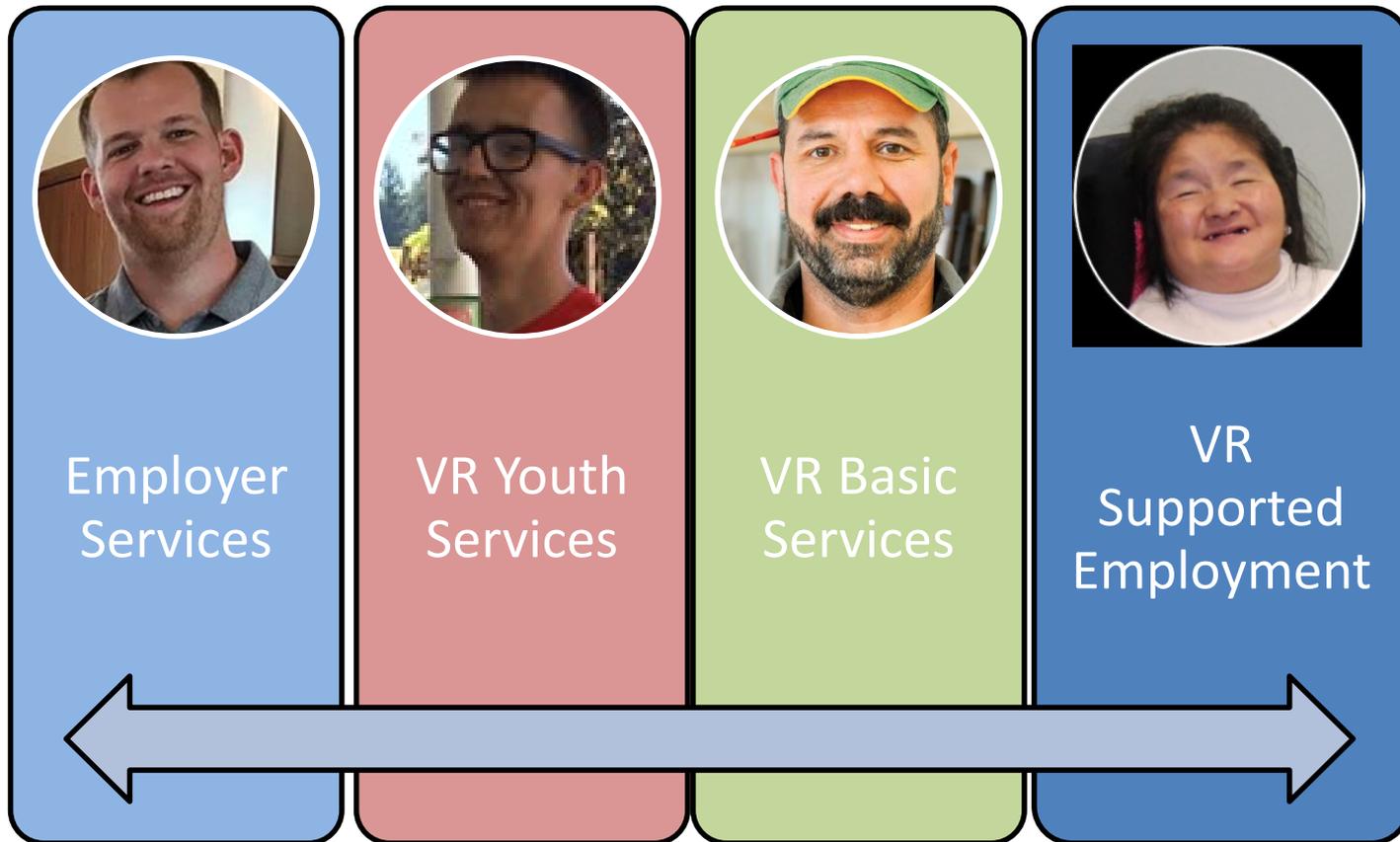


WIOA Program Performance

Rates of retention in employment*, second and fourth quarters after exit



VR Program Services



Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 - Requires VR to spend 15 percent of federal grant on Pre-ETS
- Pre-ETS are:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Counseling on post-secondary education and transition programs
 - Workplace readiness training
 - Instruction in self-advocacy



Noah participated in the Summer Work Internship for Transition.

Summer Work Experiences

Meet Melissa Glover,
Coordinator of Student
Services for Salem Keizer
Public Schools, and
student Anthony Davis



Salem Heights Summer
School Program

Youth Transition Program

- 120 school districts across Oregon
- Collaboration with Oregon Department of Education, the University of Oregon and local school districts
- Served more than 1,800 students with disabilities in 2019.
- Accomplishments:
 - 75 percent of YTP students exiting school were employed or enrolled in post-secondary education
 - Working an average of 28 hours per week



Ross got his dream job as a school bus driver through his YTP program in La Grande.

Comprehensive VR Services

- Identifying disability-related barriers to employment
- Develop an individualized plan
- Labor market research and counseling
- Accommodations and other assistive technology
- Training, post-secondary education and other advancement opportunities
- Job development

Supported Employment

- The full array of VR Services with additional supports including:
 - Customized employment
 - Job coaching
 - Identification of “long-term” or “natural” supports for ongoing employment
 - Benefits planning



Linda (center) is supported by VR counselor Penny (left) and her job coach Alexander at her job at Portland State University.

Services for Employers

- Recruit and refer qualified applicants
- Help with accommodation needs
- On-The-Job-Training agreements
- Establish long-term business relations and supports
- Provide disability awareness, etiquette and tailored trainings
- Diversity and inclusion education resources
- No cost to employers

Employer Success Story

Deb Smith, Employment Services Coordinator with Supported Employment Services Inc.

Iraiah Estrada, General Manager of Burger King restaurant



(Left to right) Deb Smith of Supported Employment Services, VR Counselor Kelly Nobles, Burger King employee Greg Johnson, Services Coordinator Thomas Hussong-Christian and Stephanie Lieuallen, house manager at Greg's residence.

VR Accomplishments

- VR is turning 100 years old in 2020
- Served more than 20,000 Oregonians with disabilities
- Provided over 21,000 Pre-ETS
- 2,500 employment outcomes
- Helping youth transition from high school to work: both a federal requirement and the right thing to do
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit – \$1.3 million in tax credits received by Oregon Employers based on VR participation
- 2nd and 4th quarter consumer employment retention rate has increased

Contacts

Keith Ozols

Director, Vocational Rehabilitation

503-945-5679

keith.s.ozols@state.or.us

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/EMPLOYMENT/VR>

Soren Metzger

Senior Legislative Policy Analyst

503-277-9602

soren.k.metzger@state.or.us