



Vocational Rehabilitation

Public meeting on the Order of Selection

Today's Presenters

Keith Ozols, VR Director

Howard Fulk, VR Policy and Compliance Manager

Don Alveshere, VR Quality Assurance Manager

Agenda

- Housekeeping
- Order of Selection overview
- Order of Selection rule updates
- State Plan updates
- Closing remarks
- Questions and answers

Housekeeping

Captions

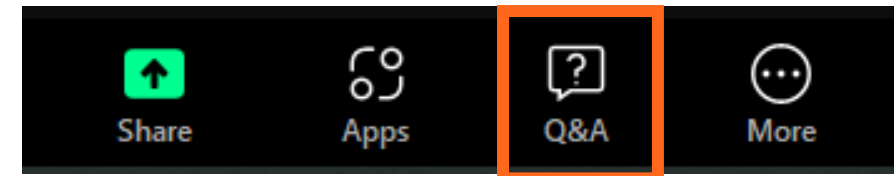


Click on the link in the chat to access the real-time caption livestream.

Questions

Use the Q&A button to write your questions.

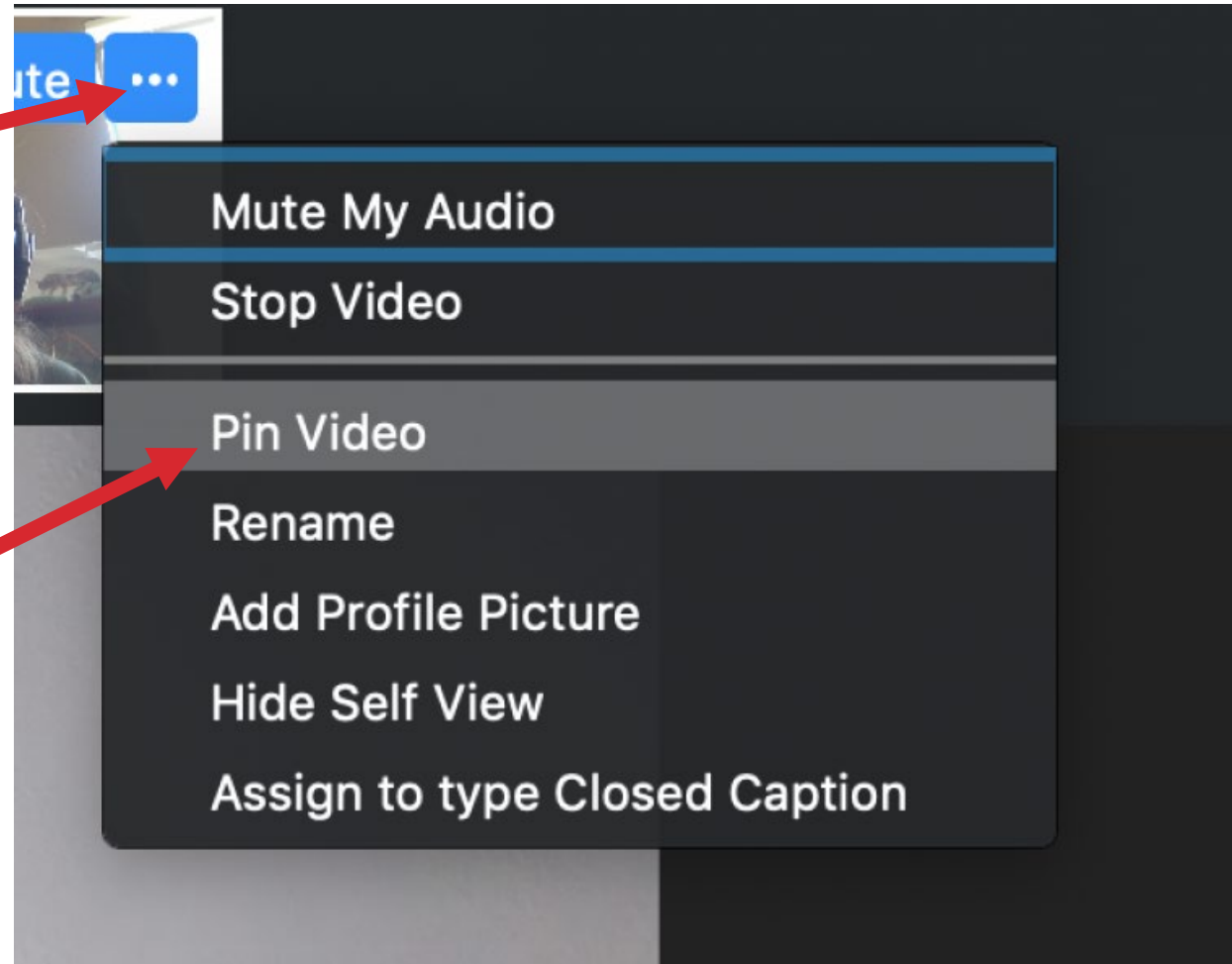
- The chat is disabled.



Housekeeping: Pinning ASL interpreter

Click the three dots on the interpreter's picture

Click "Pin Video"





Order of Selection: Overview

Keith Ozols, VR Director

Budget Outlook

VR is projecting a budget shortfall due to:



Caseload increases

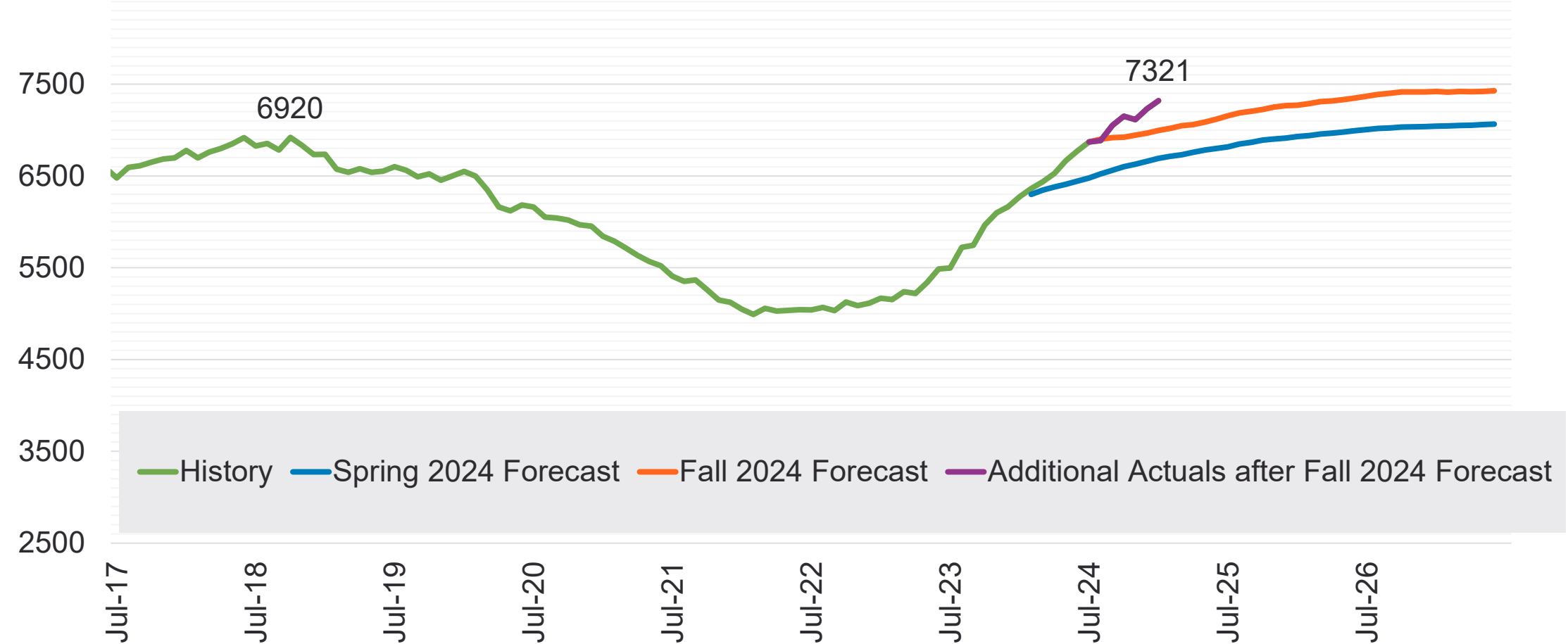


Inflation



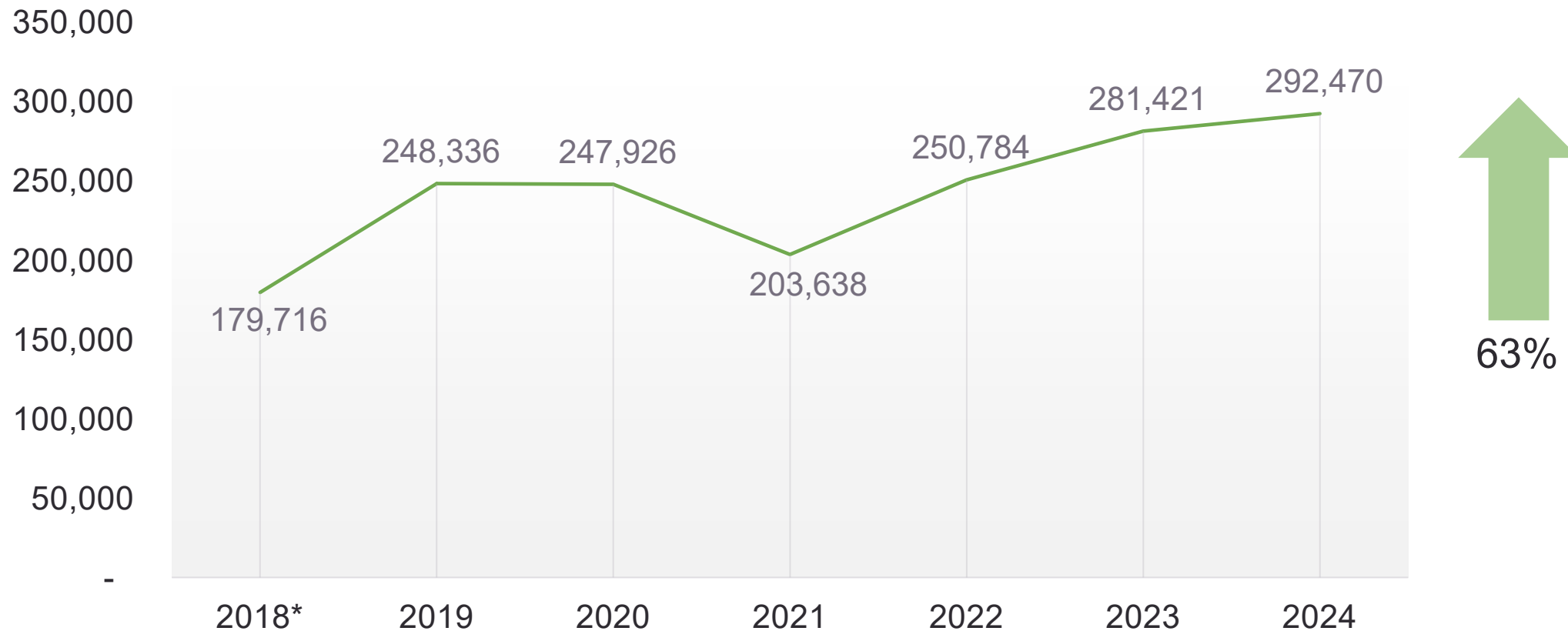
Flat federal funding

Number of clients in plan with VR



Nationwide trend: Serving more students

Number of students who receive Pre-Employment Transition Services



*State fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30

Unfortunately, our budget and staff resources do not increase with an increase in caseload numbers.



Steps VR has taken to address the increase caseloads and costs per client:

Comparable Benefits
training


Applied for
reallotment funds

Using other short-
term available funds

Technical assistance
and talking to other
states

Next step: Preparing for Order of Selection (OOS)

OOS is a tool directing how state VR programs should deliver services when there are not enough resources to serve everyone who is eligible.



- Waitlist for services
- Prioritize those with the most significant disabilities and date of application.
- Waitlist does not apply to students receiving Pre-ETS

Historical and national context

Before the pandemic VR was on course to implement OOS

The last time Oregon implemented a wait list was in 2007 – 2009

Other states are in Order of Selection:

Idaho, Md., Minn., Mo., Okla., Pa., Vt. Wash., W. Va., Wis.

Impact to clients and partners

Clients

- Longer wait for services, especially those with less significant disabilities

ODDS

- May be able to pay for job development and other employment-related services

Job placement contractors

- Fewer referrals from VR

Oregon Department of Education and school districts

- More collaboration with us to ensure students receive Pre-ETS

Oregon's Public Workforce System

- More collaboration with us to deliver comparable benefits

ODDS Worker Guide for Order of Selection

April 18 deadline to comment on ODDS worker guide.

- Outlines how ODDS will fund job development services using Medicaid dollars while VR is in Order of Selection.
- Information is on the [ODDS Engagement and Innovation page](#).

Next steps

Consult with State Rehabilitation Council, Tribes,
Office of Developmental Disabilities, others

- Notify RSA

- Public meeting
- Temporary rule change
- Revise state plan

- Staff and partner trainings

- Begin using waitlist



Order of Selection: Rule Update

Howard Fulk, VR Policy and Compliance Manager

Temporary Rule Update

Oregon Administrative Rule 582-100-0000 – VR Program Order of Selection

VR is requesting a temporary rule change

- Required before we start waitlist
- Lasts 90 days
- No public comment period

VR will immediately begin making the rule permanent

- Public comment period
- SRC review
- Consultation with Tribes and VR Rule Advisory Committee

Waitlist
begins

Proposed Changes to the Rule:

- Clarify language
- Reflect the WIOA emphasis to serve students and youth
- Amend service priority two from requiring two or more barriers to functional capacities to read one or more
- Clarify how the program will support individuals with disabilities that are at immediate risk of losing their current job due to a disability related reason.

SRC Rule Collaboration:

The State Rehabilitation Council Policy and Legislative Committee has an active role in advising VR on all proposed rule changes.

- The need for the VR Program to enter an Order of Selection.
- Any changes to the Oregon Administrative Rule related to a VR Clients Service Priority Category.
- When the program will be opening or closing a waitlisted category.
- Other substantial changes to the rules that may impact service delivery to Oregonians.

Client service priority categories

Priority 1

The individual has disabilities that creates a substantial barrier to employment on three or more functional capacities. This could be mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance or work skills.

Priority 2

The individual has disabilities that creates a substantial barrier to employment on one or more functional capacities.

Priority 3

Individuals eligible for VR services based on barriers to employment that may not be considered substantial.

What does this mean for clients?

- All individuals currently receiving services under an approved Individualized Plan for Employment will continue to receive all approved services.
- **New applicants** will be placed on a waitlist and released when funds are available.
- All **application and eligibility timelines** will be in effect.
- **Applicants** will continue to receive any needed assessments, evaluations or other services required to help the person receive an accurate eligibility determination.
- **Individuals at imminent risk of losing their job** due to a disability-related reason may apply for services to help them stabilize their job.
- **Students** will be able to continue to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services as long as they receive at least one service prior to being placed on the waitlist.



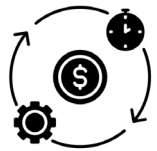
Order of Selection: State Plan Update

Don Alveshere, VR Quality Assurance Manager

State Plan: Overview



In effect July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028



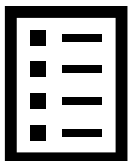
Describes how the program operates



Sets goals for the next four years



Acts as a grant application to pay for the program



Must be updated if VR goes into Order of Selection



Closing remarks

Keith Ozols, VR Director

A commitment to our goals



Do a great job helping customers



Make and improve partnerships



Hire and keep diverse, well-trained staff



Make sure VR processes work well and the program can effectively help customers

A commitment to our mission

We will continue to deliver **high quality services**.

VR's Leadership is committed to keeping you up to date on the development of the OOS.

[Vocational Rehabilitation Community Engagement web page](#)

[Sign up for VR updates](#)

Questions?

