

GOALS AND PLANS FOR DISTRIBUTION TITLE VI FUNDS

- (1) Specify the State's goals and priorities for funds received under section 603 of the Rehabilitation Act for the provision of supported employment services.

Plans for distributing funds received under Title VI Funds include the following:

- The entire award of Title VI-B dollars is distributed statewide to all DVR Workforce Development areas (WDA) for the provision of supported employment services.
- DVR will continue supplemental funding of supported employment services to meet additional and needed demand. Previous annual investments include Title VI-B funds of \$413,537 covered approximately 6.1% of the **total agency investment** of \$6.7 million expended on supported employment services for individuals in all OOS categories needing supported employment. The remainder of the service is funded with Title I-B funds.
- DVR provides fee-for-service outcome based payments to non-profit and profit rehabilitation entities and other service providers for the provision of time-limited supported employment services. When a DVR consumer clearly meets the requirements of the federal definition for supported employment, Title VI-B funds are used to purchase the employment support services necessary to achieve and sustain a successful integrated employment outcome.
- Customized Employment is available for individuals who are considering supported employment with a recognized need for long-term support. The use of this model requires the service provider attain a certificate of customized employment training completion before services are authorized for purchase and the consumer meet customized employment criteria. DVR has developed service descriptions and associated fees
- Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) model is expanding and will be available in more than 13 counties. The model is a systems change approach to provide employment using evidence based practice elements in the treatment of serious and persistent mental illness. DVR has developed service descriptions and associated fees. IPS in Wisconsin also incorporates learning collaborative which collects data, sets outcome goals and provides ongoing technical assistance.

- (2) Describe the activities to be conducted, with funds reserved pursuant to section 603(d), for youth with the most significant disabilities, including:

(A) The provision of extended services for a period not to exceed 4 years

- DVR will continue to find partnership opportunities with DHS and DPI to continue outreach to transition students who may need supported employment. DVR will work with schools to offer work experiences to transition students while still in high school, ensuring a more hopeful employment path when reaching adulthood. DVR also developed and will continue to utilize a Youth On-the-Job (Y-OJT) agreement to assist an employer in associated costs of training a youth in a job.
- Changes to Supported Employment services are necessary to meet the higher number of individuals to be served under WIOA, to include customized employment and to reduce the level and time necessary for extended services, and to insure the sustainability and viability of the long-term care system and DVR's service provider network. The services available for supported employment and outcomes were analyzed and a number of internal and external stakeholder groups identified improvements. A workgroup of DVR staff and DHS staff reviewed the current technical specifications and identified improvements. In 2011, supported employment providers were asked to complete surveys and share information about how services are provided to consumers related to hours, travel, length and type of services.
- Services will be streamlined and provide lasting value and outcomes to the individuals served. WI DVR will pilot approaches, such as systematic instruction, which will encourage rapid engagement, and improved support services encouraging natural supports, evidence based practices and a more rapid and sustainable transition to long term supports.

(B) How the State will leverage other public and private funds to increase resources for extended services and expanded supported employment opportunities for youth with the most significant disabilities.

- DVR will continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Health Services to increase statewide supported employment resources. Efforts will focus on increasing access to Supported Employment Services (SES) as well as Long Term Employment Supports (LTES), and financial coordination of these services among funding sources such as Wisconsin's county-based Family Care services (via Medicaid waiver approved funds). Interagency activities will aim to increase the number of supported employment fee-for-service providers in targeted areas of the State who provide customized employment services and integrated community-based SES and LTES in lieu of center-based extended employment.
- DVR conducts regular collaborative meetings and activity with sources of long term support including managed care organizations, self-directed managed care and county programs to facilitate referrals, service coordination and increase outcomes.

- DVR is a strong partner in the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and their “Let’s Get to Work” pilot to strengthen career and job attachments for high school transition students. Outcome goals include
 - Changes in policy that increase community employment for youth with I/DD
 - Increases in integrated, community employment rates of youth with I/DD
 - Changes in stakeholder attitudes about the employability of youth with I/DD
- The federally funded PROMISE grant and Let’s Get to Work are comprised of 4 main areas: 1) **Consortium** of 70 key stakeholders who identify policy issues and includes a youth track, 2) a **policy team** that takes the work of the Consortium and strategizes way to implement policy changes, 3) **9 school pilot sites** implementing evidence based practices and identifying barriers to employment, and 4) **coaches** who provide intense, on-site technical assistance to the school sites.
- DVR will additionally work more closely with the long term care community to assist co-enrolled adults who seek integrated work opportunities in the community. Braiding services and offering an array of funded services will help disabled individuals achieve successful outcomes, providing immense opportunities for both the long-term care and DVR consumers. DVR has established an on-going and collaborative relationship with various groups to facilitate communication and coordination of services to mutual consumers. This collaboration has included cross-training, local outreach, common policy instruction. DVR has also implemented enhanced data collection to better track outcomes and successful closure information within the DVR case management system.
- DVR will continue to promote the “Partnership Plus” opportunities in the Ticket to Work (TTW) program. DVR will share information with eligible Ticket holders on post-VR services and supports available through assignment of their Ticket to an approved employment network provider.