



## **DRS Mission**

In partnership with people with disabilities and their families, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services collaborates with the public and private sectors to provide and advocate for the highest quality services that empower individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence and full inclusion into society.

Jim Rothrock, DRS Commissioner, January 19, 2009  
Senate Finance HHR Subcommittee



<b><u>DRS Funding Overview</u></b>	<b><u>GF</u></b>	<b><u>NGF</u></b>
<b>Vocational Rehab Services</b>	<b>6.7m</b>	<b>60.6m</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Served last year 28,600 with more than 4,000 finding sustained career opportunities.</li> </ul>		
<b>Community Based Services</b>	<b>20.2m</b>	<b>2.4m</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracts for CILs, Brain Injury Network, and DSBs managed.</li> </ul>		
<b>Disability Determination Services</b>	<b>936k</b>	<b>39.2m</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>77,000+ claims, 30,000+ accepted bringing more than \$74m into Commonwealth.</li> <li>98% of the 440 Expedited claims were processed within 7 days.</li> </ul>		
<b>Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center</b>	<b>6m</b>	<b>20.8m</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Served last year 2,484.</li> <li>70% of training grads are employed within 1 year of exit.</li> </ul>		
<b>Administration &amp; Support Services</b>	<b>34k</b>	<b>17m</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,063 MEL 40+ statewide offices</li> </ul>		
<b><u>Total Agency</u></b>	<b><u>33.9m</u></b>	<b><u>140m</u></b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>174m</b>
 <b>Annual Budget Reductions in GF</b>		<b>3.6m</b>



## **Proposed Budget Reductions—Employment Services Organizations**

### **Long Term Employment Support Services**

- Total funds—\$5.1m
- 73 vendors
- Number of Consumers—2632
- Average cost per consumer—\$1100 individual model / \$5000 group model
- Allocations range—\$180k to \$961
- Proposed reduction—\$777k
- Reductions range—\$50k to \$127
- Potential Consumers Impacted—591

### **Extended Employment Services**

- Total funds—\$3.2m
- 40 vendors
- Number of Consumers served—577
- Average cost per consumer—\$5100
- Allocations range—\$317k to \$4k
- Proposed reduction—\$480k
- Reductions range—\$61k to \$627
- Potential Consumers Impacted—94



## **Proposed Budget Reductions—Vocational Rehab Services**

- Total funds—\$69m (4:1 federal to state matching program)
- Clients being served currently—18,000+
- Customer Satisfaction (FY 08—80+% positive)
- Average cost per consumer—\$1,350
- Proposed reduction—\$422k
- Waiting List—1,573(FY08 625; 140% increase with projected total 7/09—2000)

### **Order of Selection**

Required by the federal Rehabilitation Act when the VR agency has insufficient resources to provide the full range of services to all eligible clients; instituted 2004 with at least one category remaining open.

Due to above cut, all categories closed (11/15/08) and funds directed to those currently on caseloads; others placed on waiting list.



## **Proposed Budget Reallocation for Services to Consumers**

*Reallocates \$519,362 used to support administrative functions of the Disability Service Boards (DSBs) to the department's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. This will eliminate all funds provided to DSBs used for administrative functions. Appropriation Act language has been included to override the mandate for localities to establish and maintain DSBs. The reallocation of funding will allow the department to address a growing waiting list of clients 24 years old and younger. The waiting list for VR services is expected to reach 1800 by July 1, 2009.*

### **Factors considered for DSB reduction:**

- Centers for Independent living have almost doubled;
- Brain Injury programming now exceeds \$3m with 12 expanded or new programs;
- DRS Personal Assistance Services (attendant care) program now tops \$2m;
- Planning & Needs Assessment initiatives are routinely executed by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities as required by federal guidance;
- Transportation expansions have at their core specialized transit and paratransit; and
- There are new efforts to offer housing modification funds to those in need through local housing authorities and other venues.

DSBs will continue to serve localities, but without state level support or responsibilities, and DRS plans to open at least one category effective 7/1/09 to respond to clients on waiting list who are eligible for VR services.

## Executive Summary

Virginia State Rehabilitation Council  
2008 Annual Report



Every year, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) provides services that help Virginians with disabilities find jobs so they can become valuable workers and consumers in our communities. Our Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program plays a critical component in giving the tools that they need to reach and maximize their employment potential.

## In Federal Fiscal Year 2008...

- 10, 929 new VR applicants
- 17,976 open cases, as compared to 16,770 open cases the previous fiscal year
- 4,012 consumers became successfully employed after receiving VR services
- 92% of those successfully employed were in competitive jobs
- 80% overall consumer satisfaction rate

These and other achievements are highlighted in the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council's 2008 SRC Annual Report, a federal requirement of the Rehabilitation Services Administration under the Rehabilitation Act. As a cost-saving measure, this year's report can be viewed and shared electronically by visiting the following links:

[www.vadrs.org](http://www.vadrs.org)

[www.va-stc.org/](http://www.va-stc.org/)



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8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA 23229  
1-800-552-5019 (voice) • 1-800-464-9950 (TTY) • [www.vadrs.org](http://www.vadrs.org)

## Success Stories

### Stephen Garcia (Alexandria, VA)



Stephen Garcia first came to DRS in July 2005, exactly one year after sustaining an incomplete spinal cord injury and above-the-knee amputation. His hopes of returning to work started to fade when he developed a series of illnesses that landed

him back in the hospital repeatedly over the next year.

By August of 2006, Stephen returned to DRS to work towards employment and independence. Stephen utilized DRS' Job Club program to enhance his job seeking skills and received assistance from WWRC and Rehab Engineer staff for adaptive equipment.

Five months later, Stephen interviewed and was hired by the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, working full-time as a Transportation Specialist. Since starting this job, he's been able to purchase a modified van and is now looking forward to moving into an apartment of his own.

### Falguni Chitalia (Richmond, VA)



When Falguni Chitalia and her parents moved to the United States from India, Falguni's goal was to become employed and as independent as possible. Diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy, which affected the use of her left hand and her speech, Falguni

not only had to face obstacles posed by her disability, but also contend with cultural differences and pressures to obtain a professional job.

In spite of these challenges, Falguni appeared to be a very intelligent, sociable, and highly motivated woman. A graduate of Rutgers University, she speaks three languages and is computer-savvy. DRS Counselor Scott Miller provided Falguni vocational counseling and job search assistance. Falguni also received speech therapy through the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, as well as assistance in purchasing assistive devices to help her with independent living.

Falguni finally found a break in her job search when DRS Marketing Representative William Seaton secured an opportunity through Bender Consultants to interview at Anthem Wellpoint – the chance she needed to build a career in accounting/economics. Ultimately, Falguni was hired full-time with benefits and today works as a Project Manager at Anthem.