
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2027

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2026



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Purpose and History

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) assists individuals with disabilities to achieve employment and live independently. IVRS is responsible for providing services leading to employment for eligible Iowans with disabilities in accordance with Iowa Code chapter [84H](#), the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended and codified in [29 U.S.C. §701](#) et seq.), the federal Social Security Act ([42 U.S.C. §301](#) et seq.), and corresponding federal regulations. Services are also provided to individuals with disabilities under Title II and Title XVI of the federal [Social Security Act](#) and Title IV of the federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#). Vocationally related assistance is provided to help persons with disabilities achieve economic independence, and disability determination services are provided to ensure appropriate financial benefits per Social Security Administration guidelines.

Eligible individuals with disabilities work with IVRS counselors to develop individualized employment plans to determine which services are best suited for the individual's unique circumstances. A highlight of available services includes the following:

- **Disability Determination Services:** This program determines the eligibility of Iowa residents who apply for disability benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance (Title II) and Supplemental Security Income (Title XVI) programs.
- **Self-Employment Program:** This program, also known as the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, provides technical and financial assistance to help individuals with disabilities achieve self-sufficiency by starting, expanding, or purchasing a business.
- **Pre-Employment Transition Services:** This program provides students career and postsecondary education counseling, work-based learning activities, workplace readiness training, and instruction in self-advocacy.

Other services include employment assessments, job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, and interpreter services.

2023 Iowa Acts, chapter [19](#) (State Government Alignment Act), transferred IVRS to the Iowa Department of Workforce Development (IWD). Prior to FY 2024, IVRS was a division of the Department of Education.

Funding

The Vocational Rehabilitation General Fund appropriation is used for the general operation of IVRS. The General Fund appropriation matches federal funds, and for every \$1 in State funding, IVRS receives \$3.69 in federal funds (21.3% State to 78.8% federal). The federal grant is subject to a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement that requires the State to spend an amount equal to or greater than the amount spent the second previous year. If the State does not meet the MOE requirement, the federal grant is reduced by the amount of the shortfall.

More Information

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation: workforce.iowa.gov/vr
LSA Staff Contact: Evan Johnson (515.281.6301) evan.johnson@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [84H](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [871—77](#)

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