



Update for the Education Appropriation Sub-Committee

February 2013

Welcome to the 2013 Legislative Session

Thank you for your efforts on the Education Appropriations Sub-committee. Attached is information providing a brief summary of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS), which is a part of the overall education appropriations budget.

IVRS is working hard to ensure each and every dollar is spent effectively on the support for individuals with disabilities that we serve and to help with their employment and independent living needs. IVRS is able to match every one state dollar with about four federal dollars. Those funds serve a state-wide case load of approximately 14,000 individuals at any given time. We are currently not serving all eligible individuals and have a waiting list of approximately 1800 individuals.

Vocational Rehabilitation services are about working with individuals who have significant disabilities and are unemployed, underemployed or losing their job or have never worked. We find ways to help them contribute to the work place environment. These are individuals who are struggling with their disability, functional limitations or maybe adjusting to a newly acquired disability and are now wondering how to apply their interests and skills to an employment setting. Many are youth who are looking ahead to a career of work or an experienced individual trying to figure out how to build on their past. Many

face common barriers related to their disability and need assistance in problem-solving how they can successfully fit into a job. We hold individuals accountable for their success and our investment in them is an investment for all of us. It is a journey we take together; teaching, counseling and providing vocational rehabilitation services to assist in helping individuals increase their self-sufficiency, contribute to our economy and increase their independence. IVRS data shows for every dollar spent on programming, three dollars are returned to the Iowa economy.

IVRS is a sound investment in helping improve lives of Iowans with disabilities. The 2012-2013 National Governor’s Association has as their initiative, “A Better Bottom Line: Employing People with Disabilities”. Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services provides a service delivery system that positively impacts the Iowa economy. In fact, the Iowans we helped reach successful employment will collectively earn \$15 million more in the first year of employment than was spent on the entire program in Iowa.

Please review the attached information to learn a few of the highlights of our program and we would be happy to address any specific questions, issues or thoughts.

Referrals and Outcomes FFY 2012

FFY 2012	Number of Referrals	Closed, Rehabilitated	Hours Worked per Week	Average Hourly Wage
Agency Wide	5,668	2,162	33	\$11.57
Veterans	209	87	35	\$14.36
Transition	2,030	818	35	\$10.83

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

Investing in Iowans

FFY 2012

Vocational rehabilitation is an investment in Iowa

Approximately **95 percent of successful VR clients remain in Iowa**, working, paying taxes, and contributing to their communities.

A total of **386 VR clients were on public support for living** expenses (SSI, SSDI, TANF, General Assistance). Of those, 103 now support themselves, a **savings of \$757,008 annually** for the state.

Of those, 19 clients received Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) at the time of their applications. Rehabilitation of these individuals **saves Iowa \$83,364 per year. That's nearly \$416,820 over 5 years.**

The investment pays off

A Total of **2,162** VR Iowans with disabilities obtained employment in the 2012 federal fiscal year.

Iowans with disabilities served by IVRS in FFY 2012 **earned** \$15 million more than was spent on the entire VR program.

IVRS helps increase earnings in Iowa by over \$34.8 million; over \$9.9 million in increased earnings and over \$24.8 million from increased employment.

After 10 years, **the state receives an average \$326 return** on every \$100 of State Appropriation originally invested in VR clients.

**Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program
2014 and 2015 Budget Requests**

Federal Allocation and Match Calculation		2014 Gov's Recommendation	2015 Gov's Recommendation	2015 Eliminate Deficit
Maximum Federal Allocation		\$ 26,892,362	\$ 26,892,362	\$ 26,892,362
Non-Federal Match Required		\$ 7,278,365	\$ 7,278,365	\$ 7,278,365
Non-Federal Match Sources:				
	Vocational Rehabilitation State Appropriation	\$ 5,113,168	\$ 5,263,168	\$ 5,263,168
	Additional Match needed to eliminate 2015 deficit			\$ 496,918
	Entrepreneurs With Disabilities State Appropriation	\$ 117,883	\$ 117,883	\$ 117,883
	Third Party Contract Matching funds	\$ 541,274	\$ 623,914	\$ 623,914
	Total Non-Federal Match Sources	\$ 5,772,325	\$ 6,004,965	\$ 6,501,882
Non-Federal Match Shortfall		\$ (1,506,040)	\$ (1,273,400)	\$ (776,482)
Federal Allocation Matched		\$ 21,327,791	\$ 22,187,358	\$ 24,023,387

		2014	2015	2015
Revenue				
	Federal \$ Carry Forward	\$ 3,647,517	\$ 749,204	\$ 749,204
	Federal Allocation	\$ 21,327,791	\$ 22,187,358	\$ 24,023,387
	State Match: Vocational Rehabilitation	\$ 5,113,168	\$ 5,263,168	\$ 5,760,085
	State Match: Entrepreneurs With Disabilities	\$ 117,883	\$ 117,883	\$ 117,883
	Other Cash: SSA & Indirect Cost Reimbursement	\$ 3,400,354	\$ 3,503,706	\$ 3,503,706
	Total Revenues	\$ 33,606,714	\$ 31,821,318	\$ 34,154,265
Expenses				
	Personnel	\$ 19,604,418	\$ 20,412,954	\$ 20,412,954
	Case Service & Operations	\$ 13,253,092	\$ 13,741,311	\$ 13,741,311
	Total Expenses	\$ 32,857,510	\$ 34,154,265	\$ 34,154,265
	Ending Balance / Carry Forward	\$ 749,204	\$ (2,332,947)	\$ 0
	FTEs	232	232	232

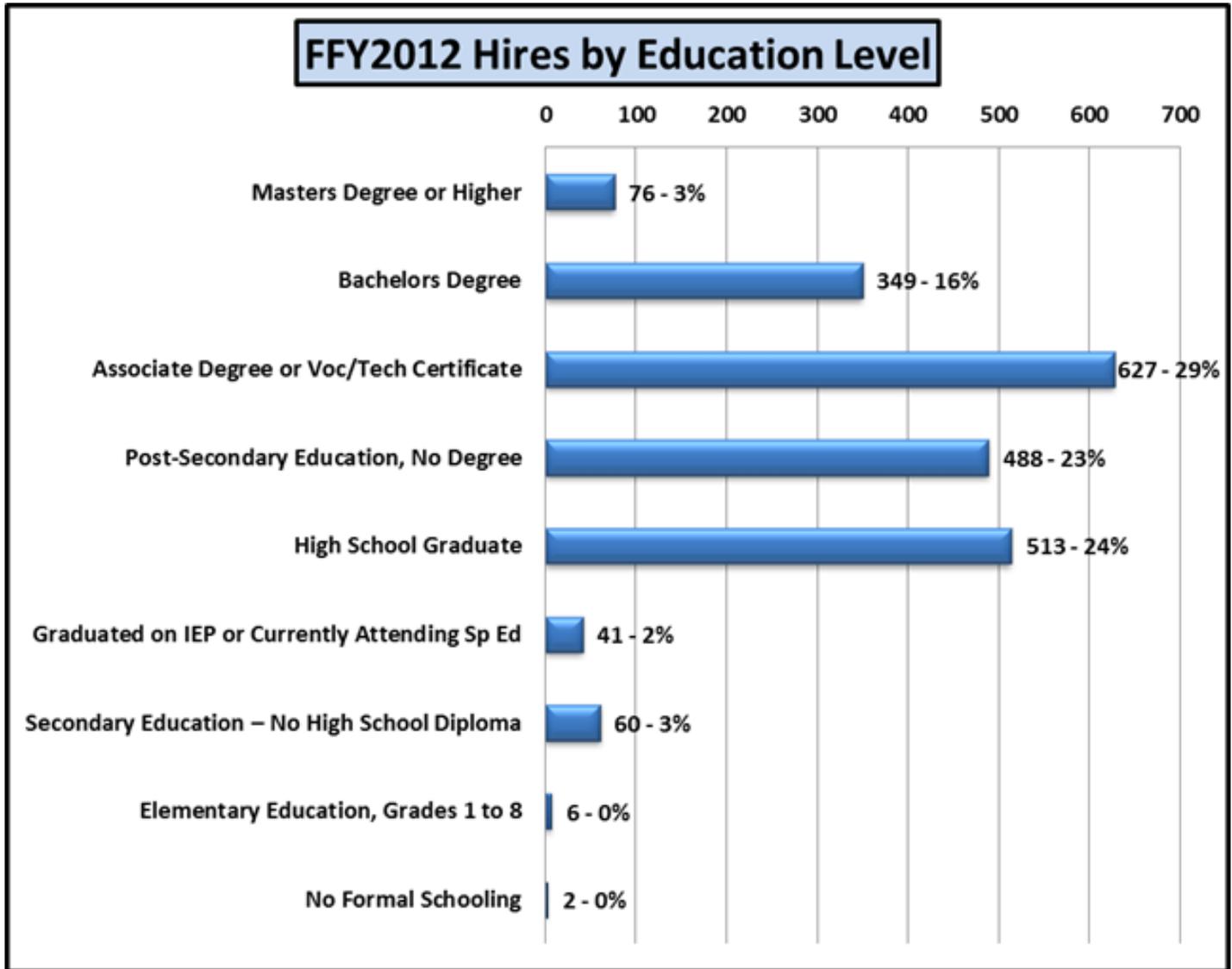
IVRS - Impact of projected 2015 \$2,332,947 Deficit			
IVRS Waiting Lists will likely grow to 2,800 - 3,000 persons with disabilities			
Number of Clients not Served			1070
Successful Employment Closures will decrease by			385
Economic Impact - First Year Wages Lost			\$ 8,017,168
Funds needed to Elimiate 2015 Deficit			
Additional Appropriation	\$ 496,918	Federal Funds Earned	\$ 1,836,029
		Total Additional Funds	\$ 2,332,947

Partners with Business

Businesses Hiring more than 5 IVRS Consumers in FY 2012

Business	Number of Hires
HyVee	61
Wal-Mart	59
Self-Employed	40
Casey's General Store	25
McDonald's	23
Federal Government	21
Menards	18
State of Iowa	16
Pizza Ranch	16
Fareway	14
Goodwill	14
Mercy	12
John Deere	9
Pizza Hut	9
Burger King	9
Walgreens	8
Target	8
US Military	8
Subway	8
U of Iowa (Hospitals & School)	8
Manpower	7
ABM	7
Cost Cutters	7
Hardees	7
Midwest Janitorial	6
Sears	6
Sodexo	6
Winnebago Industries	6
Tyson's	6

We assisted 4,828 clients in post-secondary education



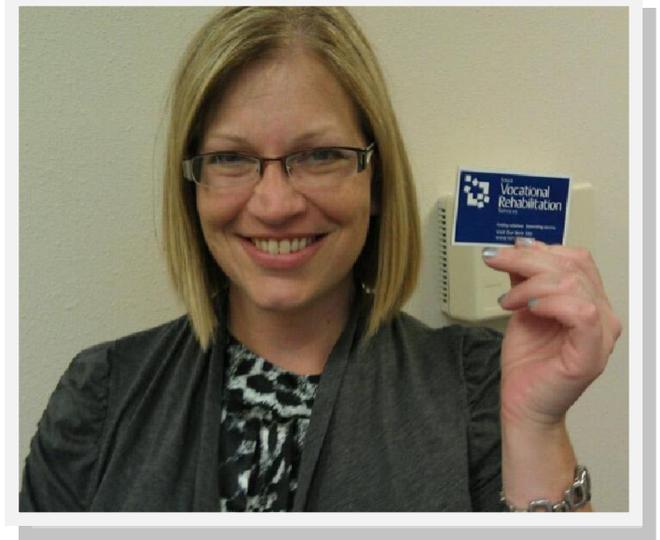
IVRS spent \$4,982,218 to help our clients manage post-secondary expenses

IVRS and Iowans Working Together to Achieve Career Success

Achieving employment goals

Deb had leukemia and lost her job because of time away for diagnosis and treatment. She relied on Social Security Disability Income to support herself. She reached a very low point in her life after being told she had a learning disability.

Deb turned to IVRS for help to get back on track for a successful future career. Her counselor, Michelle Krefft, was able to provide guidance and counseling and assist Deb with tuition so she could return to college for her RN Degree. Once she completed her education, the Mason City Area Office Staff helped her obtain a license and begin a job search. After doing mock interviews at IVRS and purchasing new clothing appropriate for her career, Deb interviewed in two departments with Mercy Hospital in Mason City (the Oncology and Heart Center) and both resulted in job offers. She is now earning \$22.41 an hour with a full benefit package and is no longer dependent on SSDI.



Mt. Ayr Transition Alliance Program

A Tap participant grew up in the Foster Care system. Prior to his senior year his foster parents moved out of town and he started in the Department of Human Services Independent Living Program. This individual was a hard worker, and would find part-time jobs while attending high school. School was very difficult for this young person due to his learning disability. However, this individual always worked very hard.

This individual found a place to rent; however, he had very few of the items that were needed to live independently. Through community support, he was overwhelmed with items for his house. TAP assisted him with getting his utilities, water and television hookups scheduled. He continued with school and graduated that May. During his senior year, it was financially difficult, even working part time. TAP helped him link to agencies that provided heat assistance. TAP personnel and the participant met weekly to discuss his budget, pay his bills, balance his checkbook, talk about meal planning and make grocery lists. As time went on, our meetings moved to two weeks, monthly, every two to three months, to independence over the course of two years. During this time many job searches were completed using the Iowa Jobs website, and applying online, as well as applying around the community. The student always wanted to better himself, and have a better paying job and benefits. He worked during the school day in the TAP work program and was later offered a janitorial position at a local business. This was a 40-hour a week job with benefits.

This individual has held at least a 40-hour a week job since he graduated, is living independently, working, managing his finances and is doing well.

What Makes Us Successful?

The success of the Mount Ayr TAP can be summed up in two words, communication and collaboration. Communicating and collaborating with participants, parents, and community only make a program stronger and the benefits greater for those involved. The Mount Ayr TAP was one of the first three TAPs in Iowa, so the program has been in existence for over 15 years.

The Mount Ayr TAP and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services have developed a working partnership, that has truly benefited the lives of many Mount Ayr students to become employed, live as independently as possible and be successful.

Shawn Todd

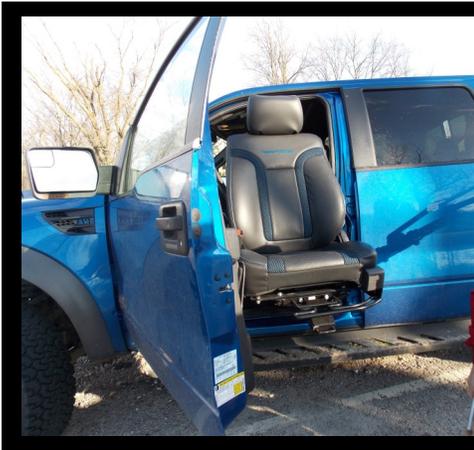
Adam Dahlke, Sioux City office IVRS Counselor



Shawn applied for services with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) in May 2011. He was referred to IVRS through Ida Services, Inc. (ISI) of Battle Creek, where Shawn was working on improving his work and interpersonal skills. He was found eligible for services, as Shawn is intellectually disabled and has deficits in reading, writing and independent living.

Shawn was born in Sioux City and grew up on his parent's farm in Correctionville, IA. In 2000, he graduated from River Valley High School and began working on his parent's farm. Shawn is extremely proud of his driver's license and the work he provides his parents at the farm performing livestock chores, field work, and driving the tractor. During IVRS's planning process, it was revealed that Shawn has many developed work skills on the farm, especially in working with hogs. In years previous, Shawn used to assist his family in raising the hogs by performing nursery chores every morning, checking feeders, helping with pig vaccinations, and hauling feed, manure, and water around the farm as needed.

IVRS focuses on their client's strengths and it was clear that Shawn's strengths revolved around the farm and farm animals. ISI and IVRS worked together to gather a list of area hog confinements and began employer development. MGM Pork of Battle Creek agreed to provide Adam and Shawn a tour of their operation and even agreed to give Shawn a try at part-time employment. IVRS was able to provide on-the-job training reimbursement, follow-along, and employer development services to assist Shawn in obtaining his goal of working on a farm with animals. Shawn has been working at MGM Pork since September 2011, where he operates a power washer, keeps the pens clean, performs daily chores, feeds the hogs, assists in moving the hogs, and several other tasks. Shawn has a tremendously addictive positive attitude and smile that he enjoys sharing with his coworkers 25 hours a week. He currently lives in Holstein with limited supports and is proud to be able to earn a paycheck from MGM Pork so he can continue to save money for future fun trips around the country with his friends!



Engineered for Maximum Mileage

Scott had a successful career as a vice president and construction engineer after graduating with a B.S. Degree in construction engineering at Iowa State University.

However, that career was threatened after a fall that resulted in a spinal cord injury and partial paralysis. Now in a wheelchair, Scott struggled to resume his life in his home and on the job. Initially he relied on SSDI so that he was able to get the necessary medical and rehabilitative care to adjust to his new circumstances. He turned to IVRS when he was ready to prepare for re-entry into the workforce.

Scott indicated to IVRS Rehabilitation Counselor Monty South of the West Central Area Office a strong desire to remain in his chosen profession and in his own home. South believed Scott could achieve that goal with some assistive devices to help with mobility.

Modifications were made to Scott's truck to allow him to drive and a lift was added to the truck to allow him to access the wheelchair without assistance. South also arranged for a chair lift for his garage to allow Scott to enter and exit his home.

Scott said the lifts help with his commute to and from work, as well as allowing daily living tasks such as shopping and going to appointments.

Scott's employer also helped to make the workplace accessible for him. A concrete ramp and remote door switch allowed Scott to enter and exit the building. His workspace in his office was adjusted to an open end round table at the appropriate height to work from and allow space for prints and drawings.

The last barrier Scott faced in his career was going on site on rough and uneven terrain. Scott and his counselor were able to locate an all-terrain chair that would allow him to maneuver on site so that he could now perform all of his job functions.

Even after a life-altering injury, Scott was able to resume his career and remain in his home. He no longer relies on SSDI and has reached financial self-sufficiency. The modifications recommended and provided to him by his IVRS counselor have allowed him to fulfill his economic, independence and employment goals.





Jerry Padget Receives Farmer of the Year Award

Easter Seals presented the Farmer of the Year Award to Jerry Padget at the 86th annual Meeting and Awards Presentation on October 18.

Jerry farms 350 acres of row crop in southern Iowa, a community where he has lived all of his life. After the amputation of his right leg, Jerry faced challenges farming the land separated by a few miles of hills. He wanted to continue farming but had difficulty traveling long distances and climbing ladders and steps.

Jerry originally contacted Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) to seek assistance for bi-lateral hearing aids. In the process Jerry discussed his farming operation with Emma Keirney, a rehabilitation counselor at the IVRS Ottumwa Area Office. Emma recognized the safety concerns Jerry faced to continue farming.

Emma partnered with the Rural Solutions Staff at Easter Seals to assist Jerry in his goal to continue farming in a safe and productive manner.

The modifications of an ATV for travel around the farm and platform lifts for the tractor and combine allowed Jerry to safely access the farm machinery he needed to continue farming operations.

Emma said, "The combine is a work of art. The welder, Bruce Wortmann of Wortmann Machine & Welding in Bloomfield, Iowa, deserves much credit for the work he did. He is a genius. I saw the work in progress and it was fascinating. I just missed the combine being driven home."

Kim Karwal, Rural Rehabilitation and AT Center Support specialist at Easter Seals, said Emma went above and beyond to provide Jerry the accommodations and funding he needed to continue farming.

"We couldn't have done it without her," Kim said.

With these accommodations in place, Jerry has been able to overcome the challenges he faced and can remain in his chosen profession as an Iowa farmer.

