

# Put Louisianans with Disabilities to Work

## KNOW THE FACTS

- **For every state dollar Louisiana commits to the VR Program, the federal government matches \$3.69.**
- **Since 2009, over \$162 million in federal funds have been lost to other states due to insufficient state dollars needed to draw down LRS' full federal allotment.**
- **In FY16 alone, Louisiana forfeited \$18.7 million of federal VR funds to other states!\***

## What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate an additional \$5 million in State General Funds to allow Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) to draw down 100% of the state's federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) allotment.

## Why Do This?

Only one-third of individuals with disabilities in Louisiana are currently employed. LRS offers VR services to help put people with disabilities to work, but has insufficient resources to meet demand.

Individuals with even the most significant disabilities can be an asset to the workforce with appropriate support and training from LRS. Citizens with disabilities are an untapped resource who make dependable and valued employees. Full funding for LRS would provide the services these citizens need to find and keep jobs.

## Return on Investment

For every \$1 the state invests in the VR program to support Louisianans with disabilities to work, \$17 is returned to Louisiana in the form of increased taxes and reduced public assistance.\*\*

\* Louisiana Workforce Commission, Fiscal Section

\*\* Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Cost-Benefit Analysis: Fiscal Years 2009-2013, B.C. Davis and K. Goidel, Louisiana State University, 2014.