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Jeff Landry, Governor
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Office of Workforce Development Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) assists persons with disabilities in their desire to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive integrated employment and achieve independence in their communities by providing rehabilitation services and working cooperatively with businesses and other community resources.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is the flagship program for LRS and is the only LRS program that requires a non-Federal cash match to operate. The match rate is 78.7% Federal and 21.3% State. ***For every \$1 in state funds, LRS is able to draw down approximately \$3.69 in Federal funds for the VR program.*** VR is authorized by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

Services

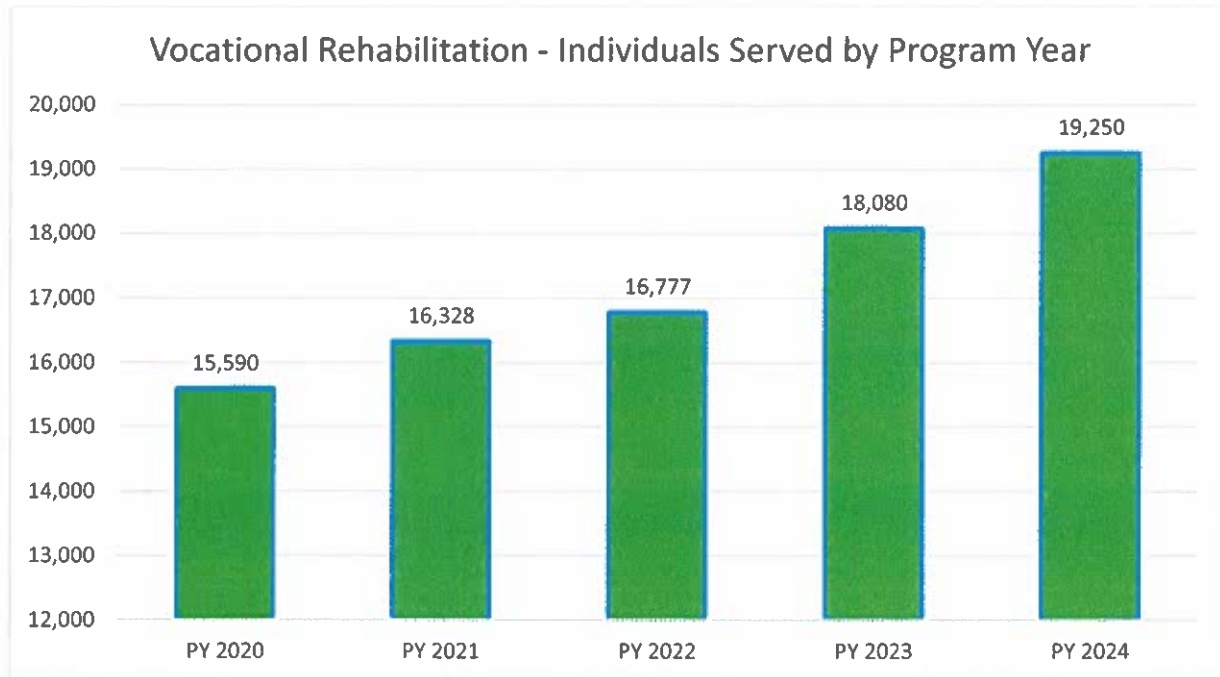
Services available through VR include but are not limited to:

1. Vocational Guidance and Career Counseling
2. Physical and Mental Restoration (e.g. short term therapy)
3. Assistive Technology (e.g. wheelchairs, prosthetics, vehicle and home modifications)
4. Post-secondary training services, including support services
5. On-The-Job Training (OJT)
6. Occupational Licenses and Tools
7. Small Business start-up costs
8. Transition Services for students with disabilities
9. Job Coaching, Job Search Assistance, and Job Placement services

Some services, such as training and supports, are based on financial need. At this time for services based on need, LRS is serving individuals whose family income does not exceed 500% of the Federal poverty guidelines. This can be reduced down to 250% if necessary. Financial need is not a Federal requirement but is used as a cost savings mechanism as a result of LRS not being able to draw down all available Federal funds.

Customer Statistics

LRS provided rehabilitation services to 18,080 individuals with disabilities in Program Year 2023 (SFY 2024) and is currently projecting to serve 19,250 in Program Year 2024 (SFY 2025). The average time LRS works with an individual to train and prepare them for employment is three (3) years.



LRS successfully placed 1,205 individuals with significant disabilities in competitive integrated employment in SFY 2024.

During SFY 2024, LRS successfully placed 619 individuals earning wages at or above \$15 per hour, for an average of \$18.68.

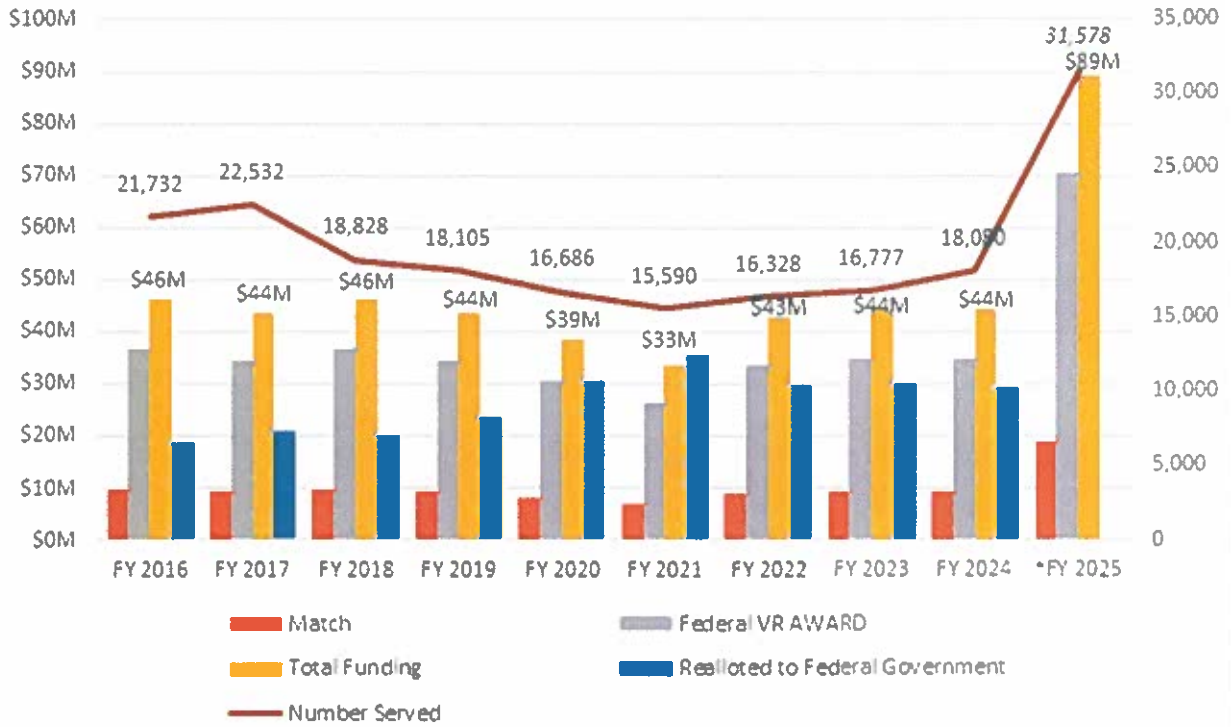
Fiscal

The 2024 VR grant is \$64.3M and requires matching funds of \$17.5M. The current appropriation of state general funds used as match is **\$7.9M** which is **\$8.6M** short of matching the award. If LRS was fully funded, VR services could be provided to all individuals who were determined eligible for services, and all services could be provided regardless of income status. This includes individuals needing assistance with post-secondary training and supports. LRS could also have a greater impact to other public and governmental entities with these additional funds (e.g. Universities, LCTCS, DOC, LDH).

Funds that LRS is unable to match are returned to the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration during the re-allotment process (due by August 15th each year). Funds that are returned are either matched by other VR programs or placed in the Disability Innovation Fund and are awarded to other entities through discretionary grants.

A total of \$409 Million has been returned due to lack of match since LRS was last able to retain the full grant in Federal Year 2006.

LRS - VR Funding and Clients Served



**31,578 is an estimate of how many can be served if the VR program is fully funded and operational. LRS would need to hire additional staff including 55 counselors to be able to properly provide vocational rehabilitation services to this higher level of program participants.*