Maximizing Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, expanded services to support the transition of students with disabilities from secondary education to postsecondary education and employment. As a result, the vocational rehabilitation program engages students with disabilities earlier and supports them for longer periods of time through the provision of pre-employment transition services.

Under WIOA, the VR program also supports individuals with disabilities as they make progress toward earning a recognized credential like a high school diploma or college degree.

The graphic below shows growth in the number of pre-employment transition services state VR agencies delivered to students with disabilities, and it shows growth in VR program participants earning Measurable Skill Gains, in the first two years of reporting, as they pursued their education and employment goals.

**Program Year 2017**
- July 1, 2017
- June 30, 2018
- Pre-Employment Transition Services Provided: 235,487
- Measurable Skill Gains Earned: 46,065

**Program Year 2018**
- July 1, 2018
- June 30, 2019
- Pre-Employment Transition Services Provided: 322,665 (37% increase from PY 2017)
- Measurable Skill Gains Earned: 56,831 (23% increase from PY 2017)

Source: Case Service Report (RSA-911) (OMB Control # 1820-0508)

For purposes of the VR program, an employment outcome includes competitive integrated employment and supported employment.

(Section 715 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by title IV of WIOA; 34 CFR 361.5(c)(15))

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and the Rehabilitation Services Administration are committed to improving outcomes and raising expectations for all people with disabilities, their families, their communities, and the nation.

429,653
Total employment outcomes under current administration
January 2017 - September 2019

For purposes of the VR program, an employment outcome includes competitive integrated employment and supported employment.

(Section 715 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by title IV of WIOA; 34 CFR 361.5(c)(15))

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and the Rehabilitation Services Administration are committed to improving outcomes and raising expectations for all people with disabilities, their families, their communities, and the nation.