

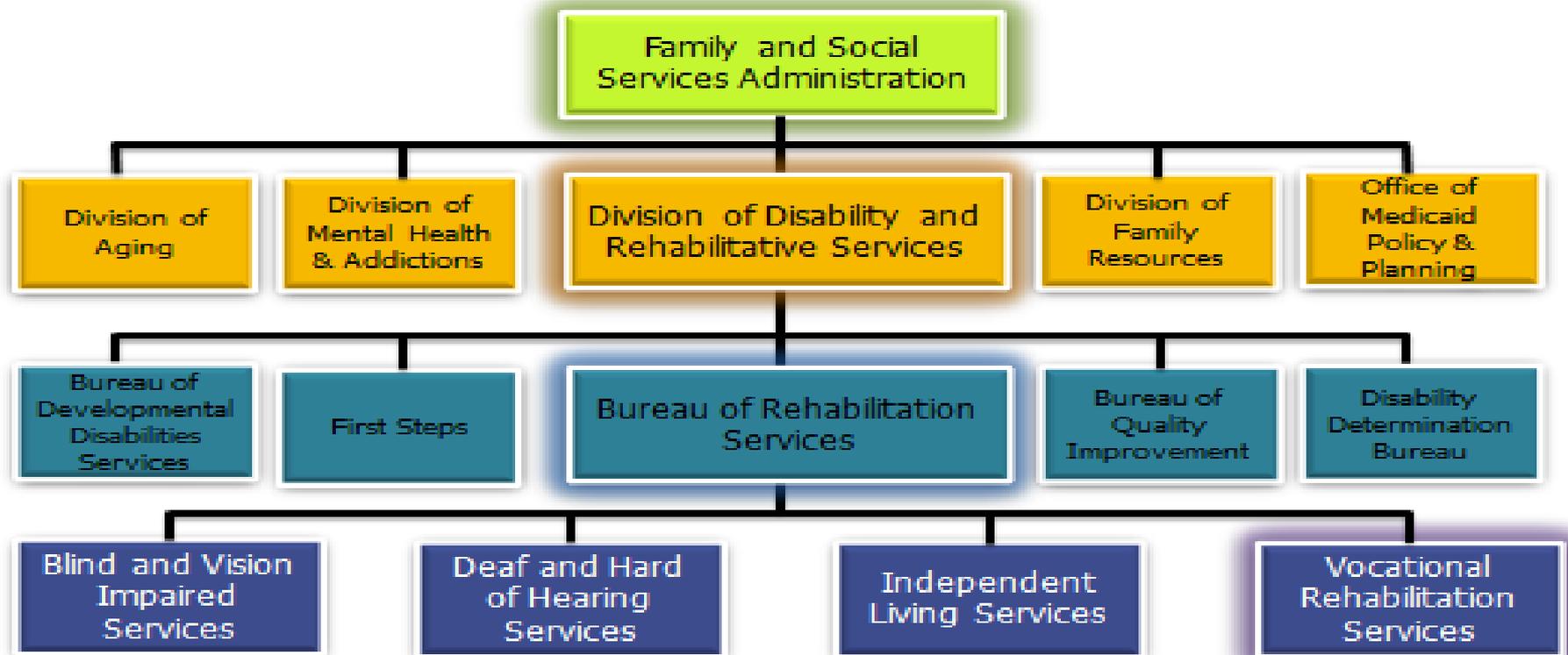


**Division of Disability and
Rehabilitative Services**
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Organizational Structure





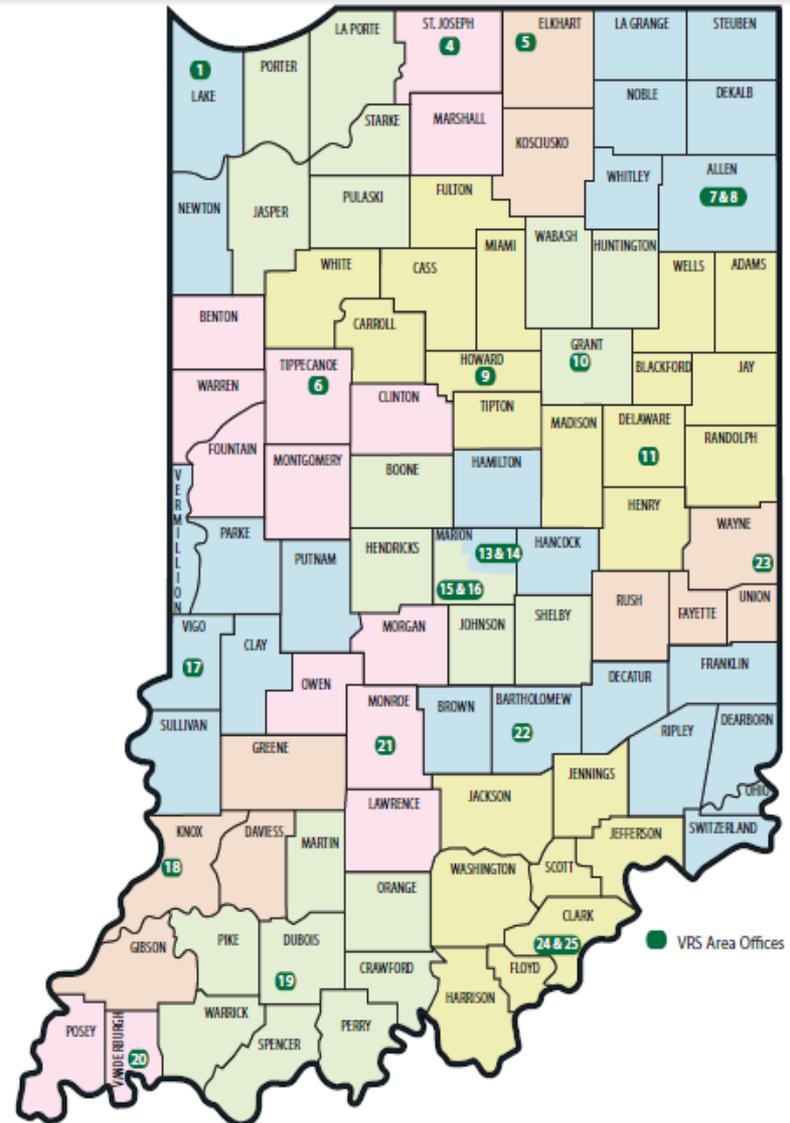
VRS Purpose

- VRS is a federal and state funded program authorized under the Rehabilitation Act (Title IV of WIOA under US DOE)
- The purpose of VRS is to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving their individualized employment goals
 - Preparing for employment through training and skills development
 - Obtaining employment through job search assistance, and a variety of other rehabilitation services
 - Retaining employment through supported employment services, assistive technology and other supports
- Employment goals are based on the individual's interests, strengths, and priorities
- Vocational Counseling and Guidance is an important component that occurs throughout the VRS process



VRS Locations

- VRS operates in all 92 Indiana counties through 19 office locations
- Area Directory available at: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2760.htm>
- Field staff include: VR Counselors, VR Case Coordinator, Supervisors, Regional Managers, and Clerical all play an important role in carrying out the VRS program.





VRS Mobile Working Environment

- VRS has the capacity to meet and serve consumers both in the office, as well as at various locations in the community
- Meetings take place in a variety of community settings including: high schools, provider facilities, post-secondary settings, public libraries, WorkOne offices, and other locations
- VR Counselors operate in a 'mobile' environment
- VRS also operates in a paperless environment.



VR Funding – VR Title I Grant

- FFY15 was approximately \$74.8M
- Federal grant requires 21.3% state match
- VR state allocation is approximately 16M – which draws approximately \$59.2M
 - This leaves approximately \$15.5M in federal grant funds VR is unable to draw
- 67.4% of the VR grant is spent on client services.



VR Funding – Supported Employment

- FFY15 grant was \$473,176
- Previously, SE Title VI-B grant was 100% federal with no state match requirement.
- Starting with FFY15 under WIOA, half of the SE grant requires 10% match.
- 50% of the SE is also required to be spent on SE services for youth with disabilities (this is the portion that requires a 10% state match)
 - 10% match for this portion of FFY15 was \$26,288 making total SE funding available approximately \$500K
- VR Title I funds supplement SE services
 - VR spent about 9M on SE services in FFY15 - thus appx. \$8.5M was funded through Title I.



VRS Process

- Referral
- Application
- Eligibility determination
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Service Implementation
- Employment
- Case Closure



VRS Process – Eligibility Basics

- 4 Criteria for VRS eligibility, as laid out in the Rehab Act:
 - 1) The individual has a mental or physical impairment
 - 2) The individual's impairment(s) results in a substantial impediment to employment
 - 3) The individual requires VR services to secure, retain, or regain employment
 - 4) The individual is able to benefit from VRS in terms of an employment outcome
- *We presume* that the applicant will benefit from VR services, unless there is clear and convincing evidence the applicant cannot benefit in terms of an employment outcome due to severity of the disability
- SSDI/SSI recipients are presumed eligible if they are able to benefit from services (4th criteria)



VRS – Who We Serve

Now that we have covered the steps in the VRS process, let's review some information on who we serve:

- VR serves between 26,000 – 30,000 individuals statewide each year
- In the last year, approximately 42% of these individuals were determined by VR Counselors to be individuals with a 'Most Significant Disability (MSD)'
- An additional 53% were determined by VR Counselors to be individuals with a 'Significant Disability (SD)'
- Finally, the remaining 5% were determined by VR Counselors to be individuals with a 'Non-Significant Disability (NSD)'



Scope of Services

- All services provided to the individual must be included in the IPE, must relate to the vocational goal, and must be necessary to achieve the planned vocational goal
- All services must be authorized by the VR Counselor prior to provision of the service
- Comparable benefits that may be available to the individual must be pursued prior to VRS funds being utilized. This may include:
 - Insurance
 - Medicaid
 - Medicare
 - Financial Aid
 - Other state or local resources



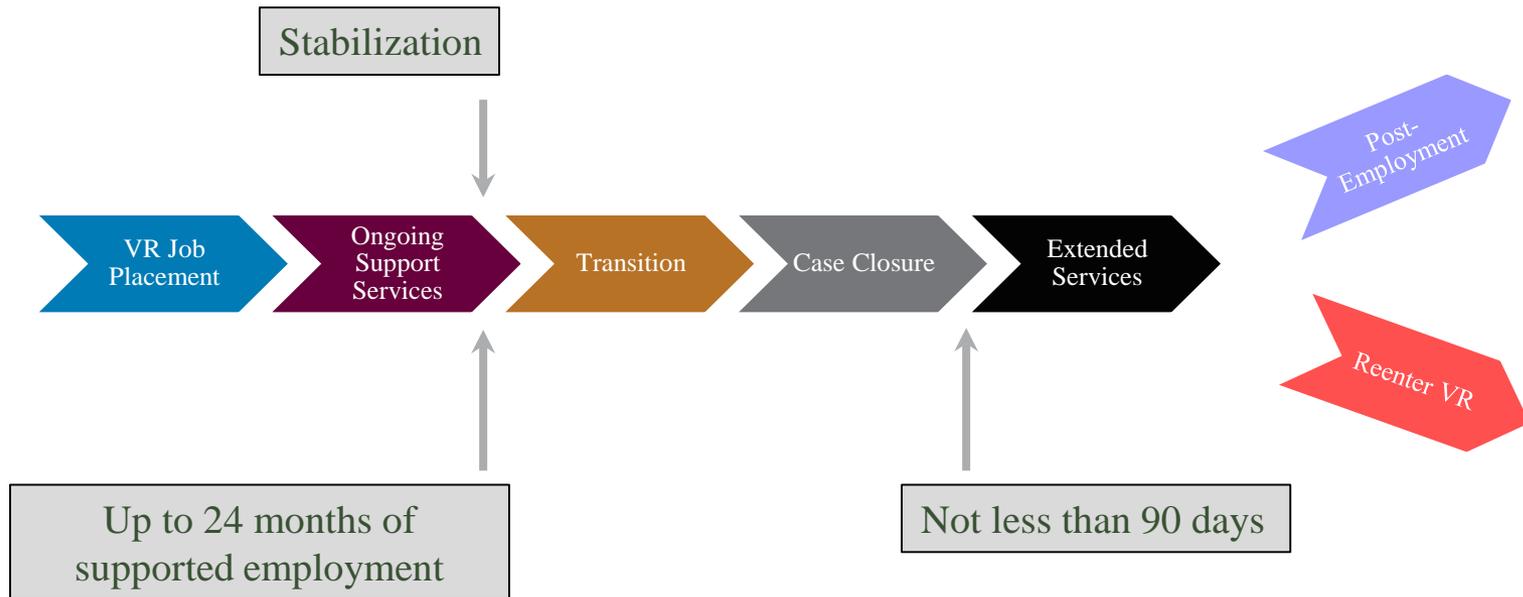
Scope of Services

Services can include, but are not limited to:

- assessment to determine eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs;
- counseling and guidance;
- physical and mental restoration services;
- job related services, including job search and placement assistance;
- vocational and training services, including books, tools, and training materials;
- supported employment, including ongoing job coaching;
- assistive technology;
- vehicle or home modifications; and
- many others



Vocational Rehabilitation Supported Employment Model





Achieving the Employment Outcome

- The employment outcome is achieved when:
 - The individual has obtained an outcome consistent with IPE goal
 - Details about the outcome are submitted to VRS including employer, wage, hours worked, job title
 - The employment outcome is **integrated and located in the community, and competitive** (at least minimum wage or customary wage and level of benefits paid by employer for same or similar work performed by individuals who are not disabled)



VRS Case Closure

The goal for all consumers is to obtain employment consistent with the IPE goal, and to achieve a successful case closure from the VRS program

- The duration of service provision in working toward successful employment, and subsequently case closure, varies greatly for each individual
- There is no maximum timeframe for receiving VR services, but there should be steady progress toward meeting the goal
- The annual IPE review is a great time to review progress and issues that are impeding achievement of a successful employment outcome
- VR Counseling and Guidance is an important aspect of assisting each consumer toward success



Successful Case Closure

Successful Case Closure occurs once the following criteria are met:

- Employment outcome is achieved;
- Employment outcome is maintained (at least 90 days or longer if individual is not stable on the job);
- The VRS consumer and VR Counselor agree that the employment outcome is satisfactory, and the consumer is performing well in the employment setting; and
- The consumer is informed of the availability of post-employment services.



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