

The Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact: Susie Edwards, Deputy Executive Director, at SusieM.Edwards@ky.gov.

FRANKFORT, Ky (May 21, 2025): The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has updated the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Portion of the 2024-2027 Combined State Plan to implement an Order of Selection. An Order of Selection is a tool defined within the Rehabilitation Act for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs to manage the consumer caseload when there is insufficient funding. OVR has scheduled two public hearings and a 20-day comment period to give stakeholders in the VR community and members of the public the opportunity to provide input and comment on the updated proposed policy changes affecting VR services.

The primary purpose of the hearings is to present updated information regarding the definitions of OVR priority categories. The U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) recently identified duplicative language in the priority category definitions for Priority Category 1 and Priority Category 2 that affects the original proposed state plan amendment. These definitions were approved by RSA; however, during this recent amendment submission, RSA identified an issue with the definitions. Given the identification of the duplicative language and the guidance received, OVR is required to propose new priority categories and definitions for RSA approval. Subsequently, OVR will also be required to address the RSA approved changes to the definitions through the regulatory process, which will allow additional public input. The hearings on June 3 will focus on the reason for these changes and provide clarity on how they will enhance OVR's commitment to serving individuals with disabilities. Stakeholders in the VR community and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Written comments should be sent via e-mail to OVRPublicComment@KY.gov or by mail to the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Public Hearing Comment, 500 Mero Street, 4th Floor., Frankfort, KY 40601. The public comment period begins on May 21, 2025, at 4:00 PM EDT and ends on June 17, 2025, at 4:00 PM EDT.

You may access the draft policy changes from the [Vocational Rehabilitation website](#) under the heading “Order of Selection.” The information presented will be the same at each hearing. The hearing schedules with links for accessing the meetings are below.

Location	Date	Time	Platform
Virtual Only	Tuesday, June 3, 2025 (Morning)	10:00AM – 11:00AM EDT	Virtual via Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88593880461
Virtual Only	Tuesday, June 3, 2025 (Evening)	6:00PM – 7:00PM EDT	Virtual via Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81546455554

Sign language interpreting services and CART services will be provided during each virtual hearing.

An agency of the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet’s Department of Workforce Development, OVR assists Kentuckians with disabilities achieve gainful employment and independence. For more information about OVR services, call the office toll free at 1-800-372-7172 or visit KCC.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet coordinates learning programs from P-16 and manages and supports training and employment functions in the Department of Workforce Development. For more information about our programs, visit elc.ky.gov.