

**Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**OOD Council Briefing- August 12, 2020**

**Program Performance:** The following table summarizes Federal Fiscal Year 2020 performance for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Due to COVID-19, performance is down slightly as compared to last year at the same time. Average wage and hours worked both have increased.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Metric** | **6/30/2019** | **6/30/2020** | **Percent Change** |
| **Eligibility Decisions** | 14,325 | 13,147 | -8% |
| **Plans Written** | 10,787 | 10,553 | -2% |
| **Eligible + Served** | 32,814 | 32,499 | -1% |
| **Rehabilitations** | 4,061 | 3,858 | -5% |
| **Average Wage** | $11.43 | $11.90 | 4% |
| **Average Hours** | 26.1 | 26.3 | 0.8% |

**Programmatic Updates:**

* As an alternative to our in-person Participant Focus Groups, VR staff are checking in by phone to program participants to get feedback about their experience with remote service delivery. We are convening a group of field staff to gather their perspectives and will be surveying our provider community to get their input as well. This will give us comprehensive feedback that can guide our future direction.
* OOD implemented flexibilities in the delivery of services to students with disabilities this summer. Summer Youth Foundations is designed to be a flexible model, allowing for in-person work experience, where appropriate, and supplementing with remote delivery of additional VR services such as self-advocacy training and career exploration where needed.
* This year, OOD partnered with the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council and local Centers for Independent Living to regionalize Ohio’s Youth Leadership Forum. Five sites are meeting virtually this summer to help approximately 70 students with disabilities develop their leadership and advocacy skills (Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Canton and Toledo). A variety of state and local leaders have been able to join (e.g. Director Miller, Secretary of State- Frank LaRose, city council members, disability advocates, etc.). Feedback from all involved has thus far been very positive.
* OOD's Division of Legal Services has continued to process formal appeals through a combination of remote and in person hearings where needed  The use of remote hearings reduces travel for the appellant and for VR staff and we are incorporating the availability of remote hearings into our policies and procedures so that these efficiencies can continue even after the global pandemic subsides.