



Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation OOD Council Briefing- April 21, 2021

Program Performance: The following table summarizes Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 performance for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Due to COVID-19, new applications and plans are down significantly, but March saw the highest numbers since the start of the FFY for these performance measures. New placements and closures with employment are currently exceeding FFY 2019 (pre-pandemic) levels. Average wage and hours worked have increased.

Metric	3/31/2019	3/31/2020	Percent Change
Eligibility Decisions	10,229	6,969	-31.9%
Plans Written	7,092	5,217	-26.4%
Eligible + Served	29,569	27,221	-7.9%
Closed with Employment	2,950	2,850	-3.4%
Average Wage	\$11.58	\$12.20	5.4%
Average Hours	25.8	26.9	4.3%

Programmatic Updates:

- Outreach continues to be a top priority. 1600 new applications were received in March, which is 400-500 more than each of the prior five months.
- Staff continue to do an excellent job moving people through the VR process. Time from application to eligibility has remained consistent over the last three years at 23 days. (The federal requirement for this timeframe is 60 days and OOD has a goal of 30 days.) Time from eligibility to new Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) was 46 days as compared to 63 days in both FFY 2019 and 2020. (The federal requirement for this timeframe is 90 days.)
- Preparations for summer work experiences for students with disabilities are underway. Providers have been working with employers to identify available sites and counselors are working with students and families to make referrals for services. This summer, students can participate in on-site work experiences or they can participate in virtual Pre-Employment Transition Services. OOD can provide technology for students who need it to participate in virtual services.
- OOD completed a review of informed choice and has compiled a report of findings (included in your materials).