



Legislative Update

January 2013

State Rehabilitation Council

About Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Agency Overview

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) exists to serve individuals with disabilities under Title II and Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act and Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act.

Statutory Authority

Iowa Code 259.1 – The State of Iowa, through its legislative authority, accepts the provisions and benefits of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and codified in 29 U.S.C. §701 et seq.

Vocational Rehabilitation is an eligibility-based program provided as a public service to Iowans with disabilities to preserve, restore or develop their abilities so they may become employed. It is one of the oldest, most successful state-federal partnerships. It has been in existence in Iowa since 1921.

Background

IVRS is a division of the Department of Education employing 386 people in Des Moines and 43 locations throughout the state. For 2013, IVRS will receive \$20.7 million in federal funds and another \$5.6 million in non-federal funds. At any given time, approximately 12,000 individuals with disabilities are accessing IVRS programs and services.

The majority of staff are professionally trained rehabilitation counselors and disability examiners. Ninety-seven percent of the counselors have Master's degrees in Counseling or a closely related field. IVRS is mandated by its federal funding agency, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, to have qualified rehabilitation counselors – i.e., possession of an appropriate graduate degree.

With the exception of a few administrative personnel and the West Central Area Office, most of the Rehabilitation Services Bureau (RSB) employees are geographically disbursed outside of Des Moines to cover all 99 counties and every high school in the state (see map of Area Offices on page 2). As

Please Join Us

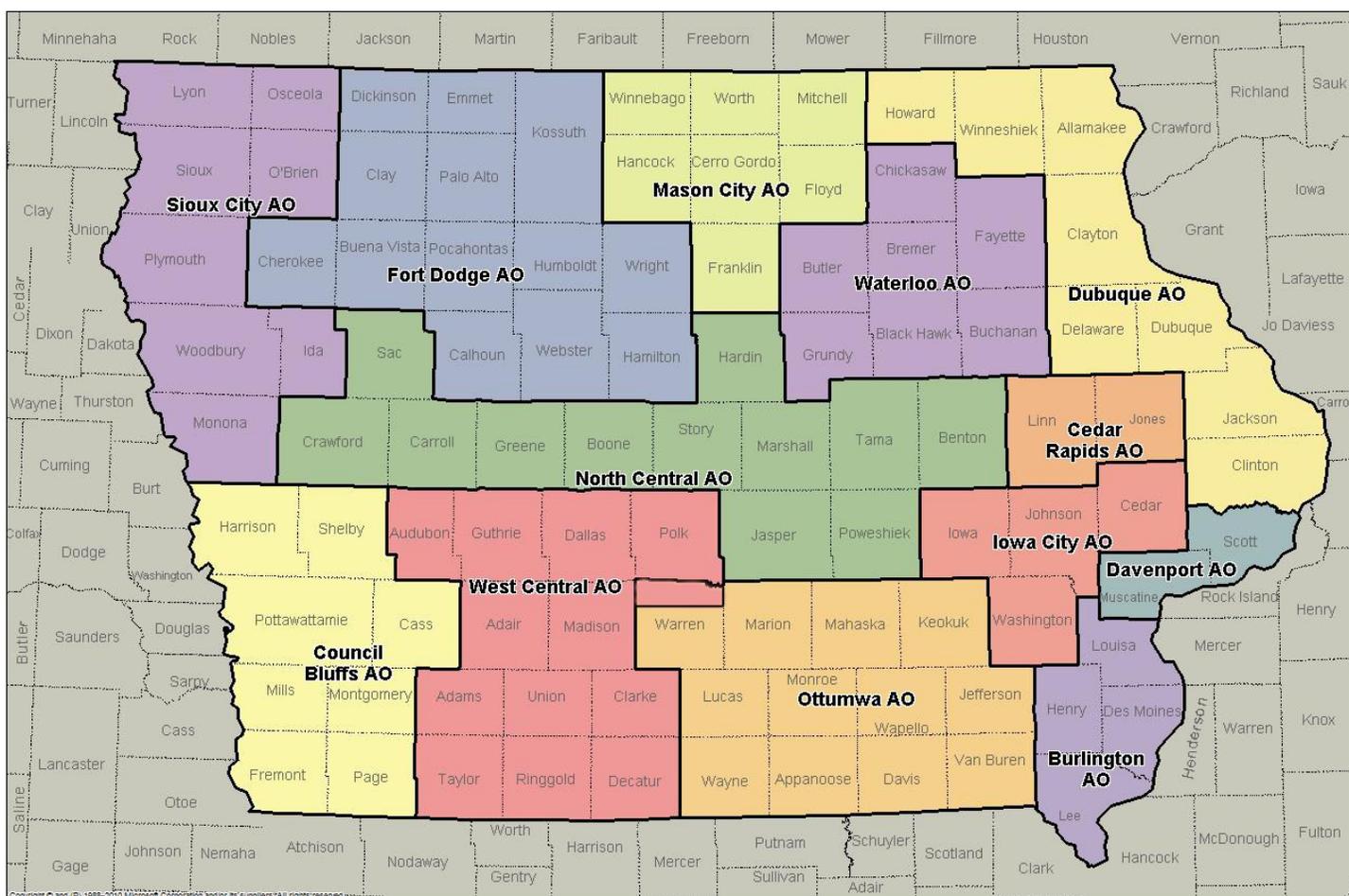
Our 2013 Legislative Reception
will be held Wednesday, March 20
from 7 to 9 a.m.
in the East Capitol Rotunda

stewards of the public trust, IVRS maintains an efficient workforce by assigning staff to multiple locations so that every community college, regent's institution, county, high school and most mental health institutes have access to an IVRS staff person. In addition, staff is co-located or has itinerant offices in the majority of Iowa Workforce Development Centers, including an active presence in the One-Stop Centers.

IVRS works with individuals who have disabilities and need vocational or other assistance to help meet their goals for vocational or personal independence or who need financial benefits due to their disabilities. We have a strong focus on continuing to develop business and industry customers who

receive VR services such as disability consultation, ergonomic and assistive technology design and the referral and screening of job candidates to meet their workplace needs. Vocational Rehabilitation programs are eligibility rather than entitlement programs. Applicants must meet federally determined criteria. Individuals may apply on multiple occasions during their lifetime.

Customers of the Vocational Rehabilitation program, including lowans with disabilities as well as our business community partners, expect and receive professional and accurate career planning information and involvement to achieve workforce planning, placement or personal independence.



Map of IVRS Area Offices by County

Referrals and Outcomes FFY 2012

FFY 2012	Number of Referrals	Closed, Rehabilitated	Hours Worked per Week	Average Hourly Wage
Agency Wide	5,668	2,162	33	\$11.57
Veterans	209	87	35	\$14.36
Transition	2,030	818	35	\$10.83

The investment pays off

- ✚ Lowans with disabilities served by IVRS in FFY 2012 earned \$15 million more than was spent on the entire VR program.
- ✚ After 10 years, the state receives an average \$326 return on every \$100 of State Appropriation originally invested in VR clients.
- ✚ In 2012, IVRS placed 2,162 lowans with disabilities into competitive employment. Forty new businesses were started in 2012, and a total of 212 have been started since 2008 by IVRS.
- ✚ IVRS provides services to individuals with disabilities that cross many fields, including partnering with the departments of Education, Corrections, Human Services, Veteran Affairs and Labor. One hundred three individuals were on public support for their living expenses and are now supporting themselves, a savings of \$757,008 annually for the state.
- ✚ Thirty-six percent of our referrals come from Iowa school districts for youth in transition. \$5.4 million was spent on post-secondary training program expenses.
- ✚ Approximately 95 percent of successful VR clients remain in Iowa, working, paying taxes and contributing to their communities.



Finding solutions. Generating success.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Contact Us

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Visit us on Facebook:

[IowaVocationalRehabilitationServices](https://www.facebook.com/IowaVocationalRehabilitationServices)

www.ivrs.iowa.gov

A Job Candidate Story

If you wish to know about my job here is my story...

I work at a BP gas station down the street from my house. I do odd jobs there. They have me cleaning, stocking, unloading, and mopping. Here is what you should do at work: You've got to be willing to do your job and show a good example to your boss.

By then you may even be promoted to a new aisle for your new talent, and always remember to do your best work!



Jarred Mettner- Age 21
Waterloo

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