

## **FFY 2012 State Plan Update - Attachment 4.11 (b) – Annual Estimates of Individuals to Be Served and Costs of Services**

Since DSHS/DVR eliminated the Order of Selection waiting list at the beginning of 2008, applications increased by 39% in 2008, 26% in 2009 and 7% in 2010. We expect the number of applications received in 2011 to remain relatively consistent with the number received in 2010 which is more in line with the number of applications we received prior to Order of Selection.

The number of eligibility determinations increased by 33% in 2009 and by 5% in 2010. We expect the number of eligibility determinations made in 2011 to remain relatively consistent with the 2010 level. Of all individuals determined eligible between 10/1/10 and 3/31/11, 37% were determined to be the most significantly disabled which is consistent with the 37% we experienced in 2010.

The Division has adequate funds to serve all individuals currently eligible (3,650) and in plan status (7,600) and to cover the cost of eligibility determinations and post-employment services. For the current FFY the average cost to support a successful rehabilitation is \$5,120 (this is down from \$5727 in FFY 2010). This average considers the total costs over the life of a case (application to closure) for all cases closed with an employment outcome during this Federal Fiscal Year. This decrease is the result of strengthening partnerships, implementing referral tools so that customers are referred to DSHS/DVR when they are ready for VR services, providing more services internally, increasing the use of comparable services and benefits, expanding best practices in case management and fiscal training, and making better decisions about the use of services purchased from community rehabilitation partners. DSHS/DVR plans to continue to use these and other strategies to maximize DSHS/DVR resources and serve the greatest number of eligible individuals possible.

DSHS/DVR carried over approximately 7,870 IPEs into FFY 2011 and has set a target of 4,650 new plans in FFY 2011 based on anticipated staff resources. With an average expenditure per IPE per year of approximately \$1500, IPE costs will total approximately \$18,635,000. This leaves ample funds to pay for costs incurred in pre-plan and post-plan services at the current rate of 23.2% of the total expenditures. To achieve 4,650 new plans, DSHS/DVR will target a rate of new applications of 900 per month, or about 10,200 per year. DSHS/DVR will continue to build the caseload of open IPEs throughout 2011 to align the number of open plans that can be supported with available financial and staff resources. DSHS/DVR will continually monitor expenditures and caseload movement to ensure the Division continues to have the resources to effectively serve all eligible individuals.

In addition, DSHS/DVR received 8.9 million in Federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA funds were used to target adults and youth with disabilities who are ready for full-time employment in occupations that pay mid-to-high wages.

Since the implementation of this project in October 2009 through March 2011, DSHS/DVR served 301 individuals through contracts with six WorkForce Development Councils, four colleges, and two Community Based Organizations. DSHS/DVR placed 200 customers into employment with an average hourly wage of \$17 dollars per hour and the average hours worked is 38 hours per week. Additionally, health benefits were included in 148 of the jobs obtained.

DSHS/DVR originally intended implementing this project through December 31, 2011 and rehabilitating 1,000 individuals. However, DSHS/DVR ended the project on March 31, 2011 due to the following challenges:

1. Inability to reach the intended “target population” of the project which was individuals with disability barriers to employment who were qualified and ready for *immediate* job placement into a mid-to-high paying occupation. Only about one-third of all customers served through this project fit this profile. The majority of customers served did *not* have the education, skills, experience or credentials to qualify for mid-to-high paying occupations – most had similar disabilities and other characteristics as customers served in the regular DSHS/DVR program.
2. All contractors reported it was very difficult to attract individuals with disabilities into the project who qualify for mid-to-high paying occupations. Many individuals with disabilities who fit this profile had declined the opportunity to enroll into the project because they did not want to be labeled as having a “disability;” they feared it would jeopardize their job prospects, or believed they could get a job without assistance from the project.
3. The recession and tight job market made job placement more challenging for everyone; yet, project customers with strong employment histories and demonstrated skills were placed into mid-to-high paying occupations. Many of the customers who were not placed were individuals with weak employment histories who possessed entry-level skills (or less), and were not employed even when the job market was stronger – these individuals required more intensive VR services than available through the project.

To utilize the remainder of Federal stimulus funds DSHS/DVR has initiated additional projects with Mental Health agencies, Department of Social and Health Services programs of Family Policy Council, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, and Children Administration, Washington Initiative for Supported Employment, Washington Cash, and Washington State Microenterprise Business Associates to reach unserved or underserved populations for those individuals who are ready to work.