

JJ&RA
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
Match for Rehabilitation Grant



ML Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE			
GF-State	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000
Total	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJRA), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) requests \$2.5 million GF-State in order to earn the full amount of federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) grant funds available to the state of Washington. By funding this request, DVR expects to maintain rehabilitation and employment services to individuals with disabilities and to avoid a loss of federal funds due to the failure to meet state spending requirements.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In order to access federal VR grant funds, DVR must meet two separate GF-State spending requirements. The first GF-State spending requirement is a match requirement. This requirement specifies that the state must match every \$1.00 of federal grant spending with \$0.27 in GF-State spending (78.7 percent federal /21.3 percent GF-State). This match rate is beneficial to the state of Washington as it means that every \$1.00 in GF-State spending earns the program \$3.70 in federal funds.

The second GF-State spending requirement is a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement. To meet this MOE requirement, DVR’s GF-State spending in the current fiscal year must be a no less than the amount of GF-State spent in the program two years prior. If DVR does not meet the MOE requirement, a penalty is received in an amount equal to the MOE shortfall. In 2013, DVR did not meet either the Match or MOE spending requirement. This resulted in a total loss of over \$1,000,000 in federal funds. This funding could have served approximately 500 individuals with disabilities.

Currently, DVR’s GF-State appropriation does not provide the funding necessary to earn the full amount of available federal VR funds. Washington’s Federal Fiscal Year 2014 VR grant amount is \$45,494,121. In order to access the full amount of this award, GF-State spending in the amount of \$12,312,894 is required. However, DVR’s total GF-State appropriation for Fiscal Year 2014 is \$11,083,000. This is \$1,229,894 short of the total GF-State spending needed to earn the entire federal award. Federal funds that are not matched or are reduced as a result of not meeting the MOE requirement revert back to federal government and become unavailable to the program. However, if enough GF-state spending occurs during the award year to match the current grant, any unspent federal funds can be carried forward and spent in the subsequent year.

In recent years, DVR has been able to claim GF-State spending by the Department of Services for the Blind and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing toward meeting the GF-State spending requirements. This enabled federal grant funds to be drawn that otherwise could not have been earned. It is anticipated that the ability of these programs to contribute to the GF-State shortfall will not continue into the future. DVR cannot continue to rely on these programs to help with meeting the GF-State spending requirements.



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 People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded
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 To transform lives
DSHS VALUES
 Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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The loss of federal funds that will occur should the GF-State spending requirements not be met, combined with the increasing costs of providing services, will make it difficult for DVR to maintain client services. Under federal law, DVR can't prohibit or limit services provided to clients based on cost. Additionally, when DVR cannot serve all individuals who apply for services whether due to a shortfall of staff or funding, a federally mandated wait list must be implemented called Order of Selection (OOS). When a wait list is implemented, VR must serve the most severely disabled first. DVR implemented a waiting list from 2001 to 2009 with over 14,000 individuals waiting for services. Many individuals with less severe disabilities never received services.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

DVR requests \$1.25M GF-State funding per year to ensure access to all available federal grant funds and maintain services to clients.

EXPECTED RESULTS

This budget request supports DSHS Goal Quality of Life – Each individual in need will be supported to attain the highest possible quality of life.

The decision package is essential to implementing the DSHS/JJRA/DVR Strategic Objective 4: Quality of Life. By assisting individuals with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain jobs that are consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities and interests, they are supported to attain the highest possible quality of life.

If this request is funded, the program expects to:

1. Successfully rehabilitate 2,550 individuals with disabilities.
2. Achieve annual savings in Washington State public supports for individuals who are successfully rehabilitated by approximately \$345,000.
3. Increase an individual's average earnings by \$14,500 for those who are successfully rehabilitated.

DVR is currently serving approximately 12,500 individuals with disabilities, including 5,000 individuals who receive benefits from other DSHS programs and/or state agencies. These programs include: Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Workers' Compensation, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). DVR provides vocational assistance to these clients subsequent to placing individuals into community based programs and migrating off public assistance, where they will move toward self-sufficiency, pay taxes, and contribute to the productivity and resilience of the economy.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

DVR stakeholders support this proposal. Stakeholders include clients, families, advocacy organizations, other DSHS programs who also serve DVR clients, counties, regional support networks, Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment, Developmental Disabilities Council, Mental Health Council, Workforce Investment Act partners, Washington State Rehabilitation Council, State Independent Living Council, Client Assistance program, Washington State Business Leadership Network, Disability community/advocates, Community Rehabilitation Providers, and our federal partner, the Rehabilitation Services Administration.



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