



Amendment to 2024-27 DVR State Plan

DVR Order of Selection Public Forum

Dana Phelps

DVR Director
DSHS Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation

Kristina Zawisza

Planning & Evaluation Manager
DSHS Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation

Shelby Satko

Executive Director
Washington State Rehabilitation
Council

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/dvr-state-plan>



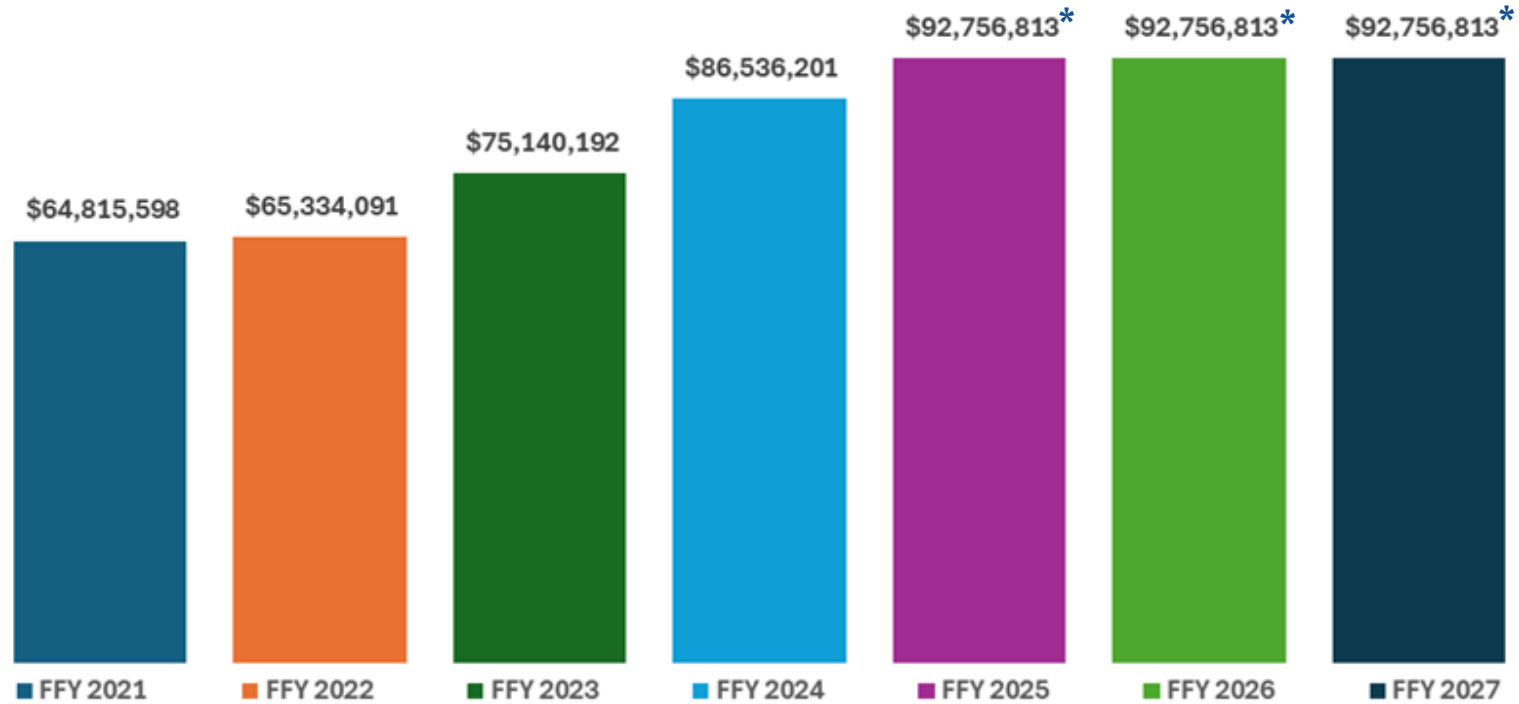
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Why are we here?

- We are amending the State Plan to implement order of selection based on priority of service categories.
- Order of Selection is a mechanism provided by the federal government to allow DVR to manage the program within available resources.
- This is a proactive decision; we are not currently overspending. If we don't make changes, we will exceed our funding within a year.

Budget Projections

DVR Total Expenditures

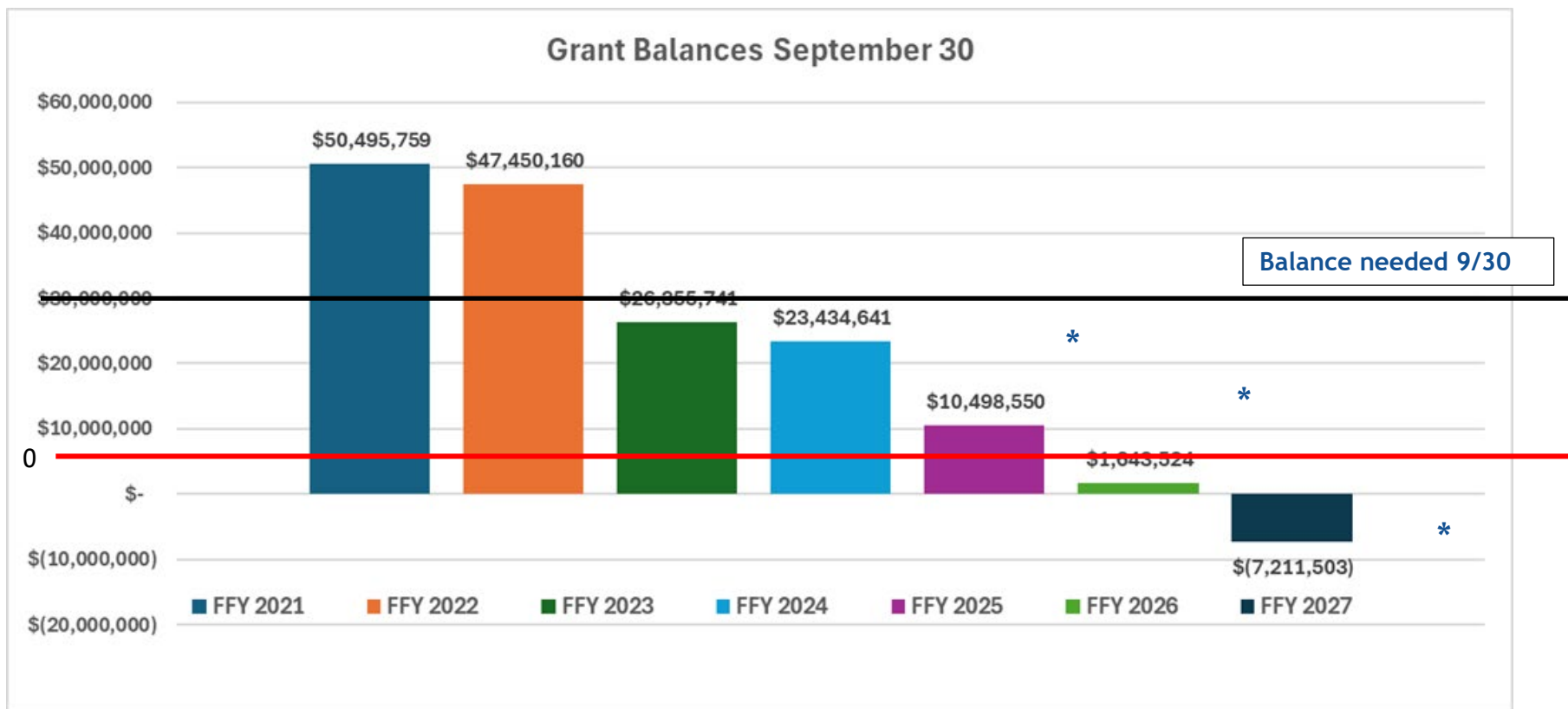


* Projected expenditures based on current growth in spending rate



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Grant Balances



* Projected grant balance based on current growth in spending rate



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Cost Controls

- Immediate cost controls that have been implemented are:
 - Reducing spending on travel
 - Limiting expenditures for training and conferences
 - Reducing contracts for non-direct services
 - Ensuring we are leveraging comparable benefits where available
 - Emphasizing purchases should be the least cost available
- Initiating the process to close some service categories on October 1 or soon thereafter, depending upon approval from the Rehabilitation Service Administration.



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Reasons for Implementing Order of Selection

Over the past two years, DVR has experienced:

1. Increasing requests for vocational rehabilitation services

- Interest in services returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Applications increased 44%
- Service plans for new customers increased 69%

2. Spending for services outpacing available funding

- Service expenditures increased by nearly 30%
- Spending is projected to increase 17-18% this year
- Within the next year, resources will not be sufficient to serve all customers

3. High staff turnover and vacancies

- Affects DVR's ability to provide quality services and manage intake and services for new customers
- Results in large caseloads for experienced staff while new staff complete training



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection

- Customers who have an Individualized Plan for Employment continue to receive services.
- A waiting list is established for customers who cannot be immediately served.
- Service categories determine the order in which customers receive services. Individuals with the most significant disabilities have the highest priority for receiving services.
- Categories are assigned at eligibility determination and based on the significance of the customer's disabilities.
- Pre-ETS services continue to be provided to students with disabilities.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection

Individuals in eligibility status and new applicants served based on their priority of service category

Open Categories: *Priority Category 1* *Priority Category 2*

- All individuals with the most significant disabilities will receive services.
- About 80% of individuals with a significant disability continue to have access to services.

Closed Categories: *Priority Category 3* *Priority Category 4* *Priority Category 5*

- An estimated 1,455 individuals in these categories will be placed on a waiting list.
- Represents approximately 10% of all eligible customers and 15% fewer cases receiving services in a plan for employment.



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Order of Selection Impact on Annual Estimates

Priority Category (if applicable)	Number of Individuals Eligible for Services	Number of Eligible Individuals Expected to Receive Services	Number of Eligible Individuals Expected to be Wait Listed
1	7,970	7,970	Not applicable
2	3,220	3,220	Not applicable
3	1,800	990	810
4	600	245	355
5	680	390	290



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Priority of Service Categories

Priority of Service Category	Criteria	Current Status	Proposed Status
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. They require multiple VR services over an extended period of time; and2. They experience functional limitations in four or more areas.	Open Continuously (no waiting)	Open Continuously (no waiting)
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. They require multiple VR services over an extended period of time; and2. They experience functional limitations in three areas.	Open Continuously (no waiting)	Open Continuously (no waiting)



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Priority of Service Categories

Priority of Service Category	Criteria	Current Status	Proposed Status
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. They require multiple VR services over an extended period of time; and2. They experience functional limitations in two areas.	Open Continuously (no waiting)	Closed
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. They require multiple VR services over an extended period of time; and2. They experience functional limitations in one area.3. Customers who receive Social Security benefits (SSI and/or SSDI) are placed automatically in at least Priority Category 4.	Open Continuously (no waiting)	Closed



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Priority of Service Categories

Priority of Service Category	Criteria	Current Status	Proposed Status
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. They experience functional limitations in at least one area; and2. They do not meet the criteria for categories 1-4.	Open Continuously (no waiting)	Closed



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Next Steps for Order of Selection Amendment

- Following the public forum and receipt of public comment, DVR will complete the State Plan amendment and submit it to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).
- RSA will review and approve the State Plan amendment.
- DVR expects to receive approval to implement Order of Selection in October.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Open Cases

If I have a case open, will I be put on a waiting list?

- **If you have applied or been determined eligible prior to the Order of Selection start date:** You are assigned a priority of service category when you are determined eligible for services. The priority category determines whether you are placed on the waiting list. DVR plans to close priority of service categories 3, 4, and 5. Individuals assigned to these priority categories who do not have a signed Individualized Plan for Employment will be placed on the waiting list. Individuals assigned to priority categories 1 and 2 will continue working with their counselor to develop an IPE.
- **If you have completed an IPE prior to Order of Selection start date:** If you already have an IPE, you will continue to receive VR services. Priority of service category is not considered once you have an approved IPE.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Open Cases

If I have a case open, will I be put on a waiting list?

- **If DVR closes your case and you reapply:** Your priority of service category will be redetermined when you reapply. This means that you may be placed on a waiting list if your priority of service category is not currently being served.
- **If you were on the waiting list in the past:** Placement on the waiting list in the past is not considered when determining your priority for services. It is based only on your eligibility determination and assignment of service priority category for your current application.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Waiting List

What happens if I am placed on the waiting list?

If you are assigned to a priority of service category that has been closed, **you will be placed on the statewide waiting list.**

- If you are placed on the waiting list, your counselor will provide you with information and referral services. This will assist you to connect with other federal, tribal or state programs that offer services to help you meet your employment needs. DVR cannot provide other services, such as job placement assistance, to customers who are placed on the statewide waiting list.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Waiting List

What happens if I am placed on the waiting list?

If you are assigned to a priority of service category that has been closed, **you will be placed on the statewide waiting list.**

- Modified benefits planning services will also be provided to customers on the waiting list. Your benefits will be verified by a DVR Benefits Planner and you will receive relevant information about your benefits and contact information for the programs that administer your benefits.
- If you have a Ticket to Work and need job supports while on the waiting list, DVR will provide information on partner programs that can provide assistance for customers who want to earn more than Substantial Gainful Activity.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Waiting List

What happens if I am placed on the waiting list?

If you are assigned to a priority of service category that has been closed, **you will be placed on the statewide waiting list.**

- When DVR has enough resources to serve more customers, we will invite customers on the waiting list to participate in services. This is known as a release from the waiting list. As resources become available to serve more customers, you will be released based on your priority of service category and application date.
 - If you have a higher priority category, you will be served before customers in a lower priority category.
 - If you have an older application date, you will be served before customers with more recent application dates.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Transition

Will DVR still provide pre-employment transition services?

Yes. We will continue to provide pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities.

- Students with disabilities **who have not applied for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation services** (i.e. potentially eligible students) can receive pre-employment transition services as usual.
- Students with disabilities **who have an approved Individualized Plan for Employment** can receive pre-employment transition services as part of their plan.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Transition

Students with disabilities who apply for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services after OOS implementation can receive pre-employment transition services prior to VR eligibility determination. Once eligibility determination for VR services is completed:

- If you are **assigned Priority Category 1 or Priority Category 2**, you will receive VR services, including pre-employment transition services.
- If you are **participating in pre-employment transition services and placed on the waiting list for VR services**, you can **continue** to receive pre-employment transition services.
- If you **have not participated in a pre-employment transition service prior to being determined eligible and placed on a waiting list**, you cannot receive pre-employment transition services while on the waiting list.
- If you are **determined ineligible for DVR services** you cannot receive DVR services, including pre-employment transition services.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Transition

How will OOS affect the School-to-Work program?

The law says supported employment services are reserved for customers with the most significant disabilities. All students who receive School-to-Work services also require supported employment services and are considered Priority Category 1, most significantly disabled. This is an open category and services for these customers will continue as usual.



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Customer Impact of Order of Selection: Transition

How will OOS affect students with disabilities either graduating or aging out upon the age of 22 and needing employment support?

After graduating or reaching age 22, you may apply for vocational rehabilitation services and eligibility determination will be completed in the same manner as for all VR customers. The priority category assigned at eligibility determines whether you are placed on the waiting list. DVR plans to close priority of service categories 3, 4, and 5. Individuals assigned to these priority categories who do not have a signed Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) will be placed on the waiting list. Individuals assigned to priority categories 1 and 2 will continue working with their counselor to develop an IPE.



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Break until 1:40pm



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Public Comment

Voice

When you are called on, state your name and share your comment.

Zoom Chat

Send comments to “Zoom Host” in the chat window.

E-Mail

Send comments to DVRStatePlan@dshs.wa.gov



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Thank you

Please send your comments by **Tuesday, September 17th, 2024**, to:
DVRStatePlan@dshs.wa.gov

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/dvr-state-plan>