



Washington State
Rehabilitation Council

Meeting Materials Packet

August 2025



August 2025 Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Materials Packet

Table of Contents

Document	Page
Agenda Days 1 & 2	3-4
Executive Committee	5-10
DVR Director updates	11-21
DVR Fiscal updates	22-34
Region 1 Leadership updates	35-49
Yakima & Toppenish unit updates	50-71
Council Priorities	72-75
Additional Resources	
Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Listening Session Questions	77-78
WSRC Subcommittee 2025 Priority Overview	79-80
WSRC Commonly Used Acronyms	81-83
DVR Office Map	84

Thursday, August 14, 2025

TIME	PRESENTER	AGENDA
9:00	Jen Bean	Call to Order, Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote: Approval of May quarterly meeting minutes • Chair & Vice-Chair Elections
9:30	Drew Karhan + team	Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment: Listening Session
10:45		BREAK
11:00	Dana Phelps	Director Updates
11:30	Hayley Tresenriter Jamie Grund	Fiscal Updates
12:00		LUNCH
1:00	Angela Merritt Mary Crago Becky Gellerson Francisco Felan	Region 1, Yakima, & South-Central Unit Updates
2:15		BREAK
2:25	Ashley Whitefoot	Tribal VR Update – Yakama Nation Tribal VR
3:00	Jen Bean	Public Comment
3:10	Jen Bean	Council Wrap-up
3:30	Jen Bean	ADJOURN



Washington State Rehabilitation Council

Quarterly Meeting Agenda
Legends Casino Hotel
580 Fort Road | Toppenish
[Join Zoom meeting here](#)

Friday, August 15, 2025

TIME	PRESENTER	AGENDA
9:00	Shelby Satko Lesa Dunphy Alexandra Toney Matt Newton	Council Subcommittee Priorities
10:30	Jen Bean	Wrap-up
11:00	Jen Bean	Adjourn

Call to Order Executive Committee

Presented by: Jen Bean, Council Chair

2026 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Following the same recurrence as 2025, schedule is as follows:

- February 12-13
- May 14-15
- August 13-14
- November 12-13

Council Leadership Elections

- Chair
 - Michele Stelovich, Labor Representative
- Vice-Chair
 - Jen Bean, Client Assistance Program

Subcommittee Leadership

- Customer Satisfaction & Program Evaluation – Matt Newton
- Partnership – Alexandra Toney
- Policy & Planning – Jen Tabiando (starting October 1st)

Member Updates

- Recruitment
 - Term Status
 - Members who are eligible for another term have been notified.
 - Business or Labor Representative – Active
 - VR Counselor Representative – Closed
 - Interviews mid-September

Member Appreciation

- Lesa Dunphy, VR Counselor Representative
 - Chair, Policy & Planning Subcommittee
- Alexandra Toney – Serving as Vice-Chair
- Jen Bean – Serving as Chair



DVR Director Update

Dana Phelps

August 2025

Dept of Education budget proposal

Impacts on DVR

- Would reduce DVR's annual grant by \$6.6 million
- Eliminates supported employment grant
 - approximately \$400K annually
- Eliminates funding for Client Assistance Program
 - approximately \$275K annually
- Work requirements for SNAP and Medicaid likely to increase demand for DVR services

Federal VR budget impacts continued

If the Dept of Education VR budget proposal passes as is:

- DVR will need to replace the lost supported employment grant with the general VR grant funding
- DVR and DSB will work together to ensure that funding is available to operate a Client Assistance Program

A little good news

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed a budget proposal on July 31 which would

- Provide VR grant funds with a COLA
- Fund the supported employment grant
- Fund the Client Assistance Program

Keep an eye on next steps in Congress

Other Federal Budget Impacts

The following are changes to federal programs including SNAP and Medicaid:

- Increased state match requirements for SNAP based on error rates (will cost state between \$100 - \$300 million annually)
- Change to the cost share for administering SNAP (will cost state additional \$66 million)
- SNAP work requirements will impact an additional 137,304 Washingtonians
- Reduces food benefits for more than 920,000 people (average decrease is \$55.95 per month)
- Adds community engagement requirements of 80 hours per month for Medicaid
- Limits the impact of Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Act payments in SNAP to households with elderly or disabled members.
- Adult Basic Education funding eliminated.

State Budget Impacts

The budget implemented for the state had the following impacts:

- School to Work funding reduced \$2.4 million
- Other DVR funding reduced \$1.7 million
- 26 positions eliminated in response to the reductions

Funding for Tribes

DVR and DSB received funding in the state budget to support tribes working with people with disabilities seeking employment.

DVR and DSB are working with interested Tribes to define the specific contract terms.

The intent is to provide flexibility to the Tribes so they can utilize the funds in multiple ways.

Intake Wait Times

Multiple offices are experiencing delays in intakes.

Two factors are contributing to this:

- Increased interest in DVR services
- High caseload ratio in offices

DVR is adding VRC positions to offices with a high caseload ratio including Puyallup and Tacoma.

SeaTac and Kent are working to fill counselor vacancies.

As new counselors are available the intake appointment dates will shift.

Customer Behavior Trends

DVR is experiencing escalation of concerning behavior among a subset of people we are serving.

In response we are taking the following actions:

- Establishing a challenging cases protocol – Policy being drafted modeled on long term care protocol
- Provided guidance to staff regarding inquiries about staff whereabouts
- Working with DSHS broadly as the issue is not isolated to DVR
- Provided safety trainings in several offices in collaboration with other parts of DSHS

Intake, IPE, and Assessment - Changes

We have identified changes to the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) form which is being programmed in WAVES.

- Changes have been presented to DVR staff and should be ready for implementation by the beginning of October.
- Intent is to streamline the paperwork to support timely completion

Vocational Assessment – We have changed the vocational assessment documentation as part of changes to the plan.

- These changes will be implemented with the revised IPE.

Intake process – We will be providing updated training and tools on intake processes after the new IPE process has been trained and implemented.

- Goal is to improve engagement starting at the intake meeting



DSHS

WASHINGTON STATE
**Department of Social
and Health Services**

Questions

DVR Fiscal Updates

Presented by: Jamie Grund

August 2025

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

DVR Services are provided by State and Federal VR Funds. The VR program typically receives 78.7% in Federal funds and must match least 21.3% in State funds. For detailed information on the dollar amount of Federal funds for the program, please visit [Formula Grant Award Details | Rehabilitation Services Administration \(ed.gov\)](#)

Budget

- Hayley Tresenriter is our new Finance and Budget manager.
 - She started June 1st

2025 – 2027 Biennial Budget Highlights

- The biennial budget was signed by the Governor
 - Wage increases 3% and 2%
 - Tribal VR Funding - \$1.1M
 - Government Efficiency
 - Reducing Equipment - \$16k
 - Reducing Goods and Services - \$10K
 - Reducing Travel - \$36K
 - Reducing Management/Admin - \$1M
 - Reduce Admin Expenditures 5% - \$576K
 - Reduce School to Work an additional \$2.4M (1.2M a year)
 - SB 5253 (Extending Special Ed through the year a student turns 22)
Unfunded (used our federal authority)

SFY 2025 Budget

SFY 25 - July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025			
	SFY 25	Supplemental	
State Appropriation	26,976,000	26,162,000	
Federal Appropriation	55,717,000	63,717,000	
SFY 25 Appropriation	82,693,000	89,879,000	
	SFY 25 Budget	SFY 25 Estimated Spend	Difference
A - Salaries	27,474,400	27,457,803	16,597
B - Benefits	10,399,400	10,199,622	199,778
C - Prof Service Contracts	1,775,000	946,872	828,128
E - Goods and services	8,835,745	8,273,607	562,138
G - Travel	325,100	357,522	(32,422)
J - Capital Outlays	171,000	29,303	141,697
N - Client	39,660,355	37,394,888	2,265,467
T - Intra Agency	1,238,000	1,127,098	110,902
	89,879,000	85,786,715	4,092,285

Things to remember:

- State Appropriation is actual State Funds
- Federal Appropriation is the ability to spend our Federal Funds
- Supplemental SFY 25:
 - \$8M in federal appropriation
 - \$(814K) in our state appropriation related to School to Work.

SFY 25 (est.) Spend - \$85,786,715 (3.89% Increase)

SFY 24 Spend - \$82,577,832

SFY 23 Spend - \$71,245,689

SFY 2026 Budget

SFY 26 - July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026		
State Appropriation	25,260,000	
Federal Appropriation	59,988,000	
SFY 26 Appropriation	85,248,000	
	SFY 25 Estimate	SFY 26 Budget
A - Salaries	27,457,803	26,822,128
B - Benefits	10,199,622	10,143,889
C - Prof Service Contracts	946,872	400,000
E - Goods and services	8,273,607	9,538,645
G - Travel	357,522	275,000
J - Capital Outlays	29,303	50,000
N - Client	37,394,888	37,813,338
T - Intra Agency	1,127,098	205,000
	85,786,715	85,248,000

Things to remember:

- State Appropriation is actual State Funds
- Federal Appropriation is the ability to spend our Federal Funds

SFY 25 (est.) Spend - \$85,786,715 (3.89% Increase)

SFY 24 Spend - \$82,577,832

SFY 23 Spend - \$71,245,689

DVR Fiscal Updates

VR Basic Support 2024

- We are in the second year of this grant
 - Carryover period (this ends September 30, 2025)
- We have exceeded our Pre-ETS 15% as a state
- We will have fully spent the grant by 9/30
 - Grant Funds \$51.3M + \$4M (reallotment) = \$55.2M

VR Basic Support 2025

- We received an unexpected 10% increase to the Grant
- Total for 2025 - \$56M
- We will be asking for Re-allotment funds
 - \$5M

DVR Fiscal Updates

- Reallotment
 - Requesting \$5,000,000
 - Not guaranteed
 - We will not know until September
 - This would increase Pre-ETS 15%
 - \$9.1M
 - Pre-ETS is averaging \$770K a month
 - Increases our state match (state funding)
 - Requesting \$500K in Supported Employment

DVR Fiscal Updates

- Proposed Budget for the US Department of Education
 - Eliminates funding for Client Assistance Program (CAP)
 - This is a mandatory program to receive federal grant funds
 - \$263K a year
 - Eliminates Supported Employment Grant
 - \$388K a year
 - Reduces VR funding to 2024 levels
 - Reduction of \$6M from FFY 25 funding levels
- Total impact to DVR in FFY 26 is roughly \$6.6M reduction

DVR Fiscal Updates

		SFY 21	SFY 22	SFY 23	SFY 24	SFY 25 Estimates	% of Change from SFY 24 to SFY 25
	CRP	7,301,607	11,863,997	12,599,804	15,307,573	15,557,226	2%
	Training	2,189,759	2,255,784	2,998,264	4,506,222	5,793,589	29%
	Pre-ETS	2,974,914	4,336,905	5,067,475	8,386,764	8,857,030	6%
	Other	4,563,198	2,695,087	2,568,258	4,158,026	4,960,069	19%
	Assitive Tech	759,497	1,303,624	1,908,593	1,685,233	1,318,551	-22%
	Direct Client Payments	139,296	117,745	199,352	353,208	309,187	-12%
		17,928,270	22,573,142	25,341,746	34,397,026	36,795,652	7%
	*Other includes transportation, Medical fees, computers						
	**Transportation a 43% increase over SFY 24. Estimated to end SFY 25 at \$560K						

7% increase in client service costs from SFY 24 to SFY 25.

School To work

Office	SFY 24	SFY 25
Arlington	9,400	-
Bellevue	212,800	114,400
Bremerton	47,000	73,500
Everett	65,800	-
Kent	18,800	60,800
Lynnwood	49,200	45,000
Mt Vernon	18,800	43,000
Port Townsend	-	15,000
Puyallup	173,000	150,500
Redmond Worksource	46,270	-
Sea-Tac	76,300	10,500
Seattle Central	56,400	42,000
Seattle-North	48,100	40,900
Spokane	75,200	10,500
Tacoma	144,300	139,500
Tumwater	38,700	10,500
Total	1,080,070	756,100

DVR Fiscal Updates

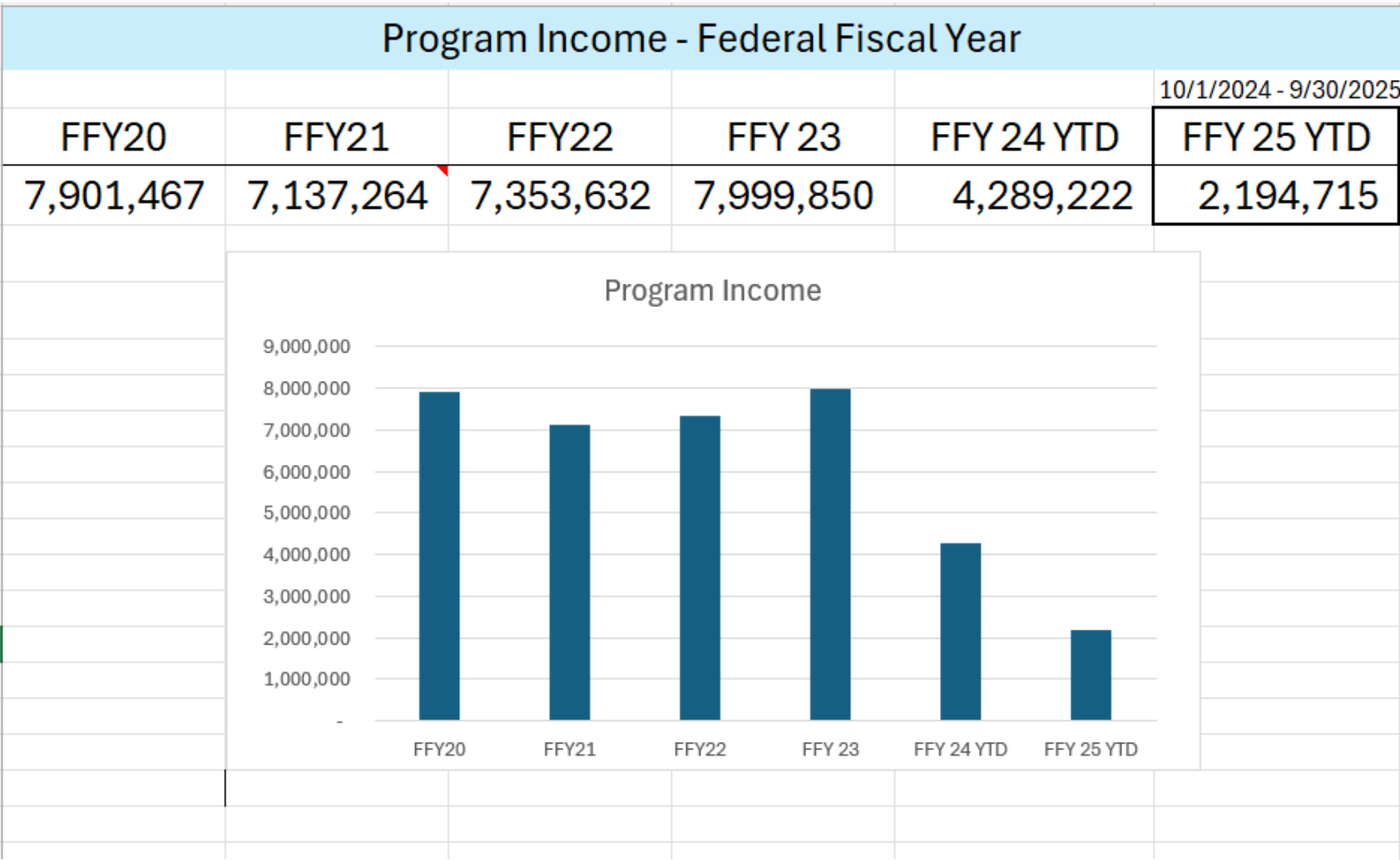
Pre-ETS by Grant			
	Basic Support 24	Basic Support 25	Basic Support 26
Grant Award at end of period of performance (Year 1)	51,251,049	56,091,168	51,400,000
Reallotment Funds	4,000,000	5,000,000	
Total basis for Pre-ETS 15%	55,251,049	61,091,168	51,400,000
15% Set Aside (minimum)	8,287,657	9,163,675	7,710,000
Expenditures	8,500,117	2,985,203	
(Over)/under our Minimum	(212,460)	6,178,473	7,710,000
Target	8,500,000	9,200,000	8,000,000
Expenditures	8,501,817	2,985,203	-
(Over)/Under our Target	(1,817)	6,214,797	8,000,000

Pre-ETS by Office

Customers served on a caseload

Office	SFY 24	SFY 25
Bellevue	4,204	369
Bellingham	51,553	117,980
Bremerton	8,156	1,203
Clarkston	35,036	46,095
Colville Worksource	4,470	4,741
Ellensburg	16,687	12,975
Everett	34,428	68,856
Kennewick	4,771	30,859
Kennewick Worksource	16,459	18,997
Lynnwood	31,559	88,245
Mt Vernon	5,621	24,785
Omak	-	2,517
Puyallup	-	885
Seattle Central	1,203	-
Seattle-North	500	4,423
Spokane	24,167	21,872
Sunnyside Worksource	7,808	26,504
Tacoma	0	5,651
Toppenish	18,343	19,209
Tumwater	0	3,909
Vancouver	1,396	5,963
Walla Walla Worksource	5,051	
Wenatchee	8,704	67,472
Yakima	65,665	74,707
Total	345,784	648,215

DVR Fiscal Updates





Region 1 Leadership Updates

Presented by: Angela Merritt, Regional Administrator & Mary Crago, Deputy Regional Administrator



Agenda

- Regional Overview
- Staffing
- Successes
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Assistive Technology & Access Practitioner (ATAP)

Regional Overview

- Largest Geographical Region, Cascade Mountains divide the state.
- 72 staff across the region
- 7 units across 14 offices
- 3 IT staff
- 3 Benefits planners
- CRP Program Manager
- Pre-ETS Program Manager
- Fair Hearings and Disability Access Administrator
- Assistant Director of Workforce and Youth

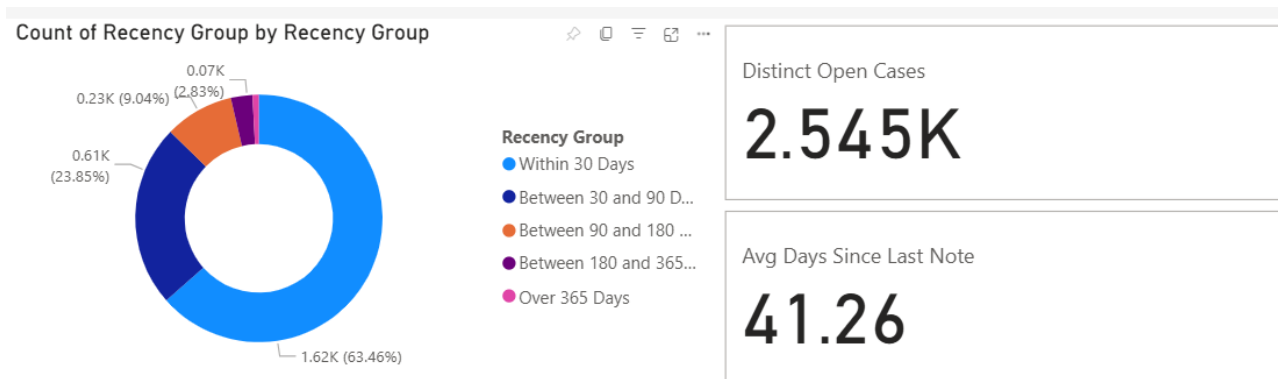


Staffing and Vacancies

- Three Vacancies – RT1 in Spokane, RT1 in Yakima, VRC Yakima Unit, VRC Pullman.
- New VRC hired in Walla Walla
- Lost 3 RT1s and 1 business specialist with the layoffs

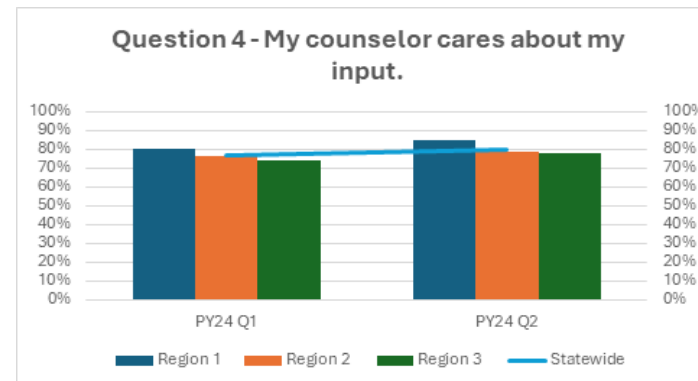
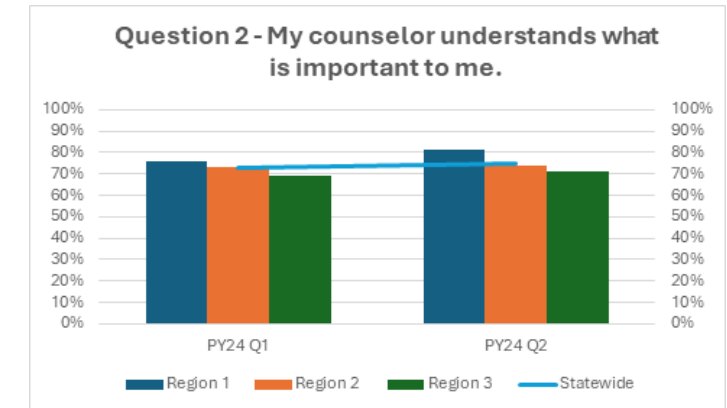
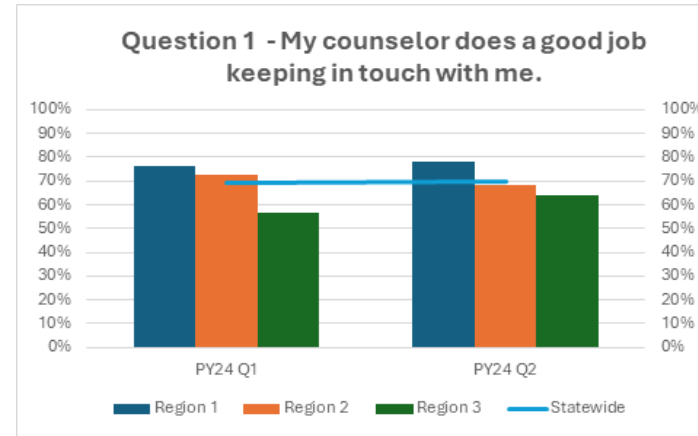
Region 1 Successes Statistics from 9/1/24 – 7/21/25

- 1,344 eligibilities were completed in average of 42 days
- 723 IPEs completed in an average of 86 days
- 63% of customers had contact from their counselor within the last 30 days.
- 23% of customers had contact from their counselor within the last 30-90 days
- 9% of customers had contact from their counselor between 90-180 days
- 3% of customers had no contact over the last 180 days.



Region 1 Successes WSRC Customer Survey Highlights

- Region 1 typically leads the state in timeliness and customer satisfaction.
- Region 1 still has work to do but leadership is working hard with field staff to focus on customer service and timeliness of service.
- Decreased from Q1 "DVR moves quickly enough for me" from 62% to 60%
- Increased from Q1 "Overall I am satisfied with DVR" went from 73% to 75%



Pre-Employment Transition Services

(Pre-ETS)



ESD 105 Highlights – RTC Rosa Quiroz

- Group-Based Services in 23 different high schools
- 3 large contractors providing services
- 9 students being served at Yakama Tribal School
- Outreach to underserved schools
- Services in Toppenish and Wapato





Group Pre-ETS Contractors ESD 105

Statewide Contractors

A Better Track

ESD 105

South Central Workforce Development Council
(subcontracting with People for People)

DCYF serving juvenile rehabilitation youth.

Innovation from RTCs across the Region

- Jamie Lawrence - Tour of Southern Counties of ESD 101 and direct service delivery in Cusick, Usk, Odessa and Sprague.
- Michell Wood - YouthStrides – revamping of WorkStrides Curriculum targeted towards youth.
- Michell and Jamie in conjunction with DRA - Washington State University ROAR program
- Maria Buxbaum - ESD 123 running 5 summer camps through contractors: tri-cities, Columbia High School, Burbank High, Dayton, Lincoln, Walla Walla High School.
- Sandy Duron - Services to rural areas of ESD 171 (North Central Washington) Tonasket, Oroville, Manson, Chelan, Cashmere, Methow Valley.

YouthStrides

- What is YouthStrides
- Modular Curriculum
- Utilizes mixed media approach for diverse learners
- Inclusive and adaptable for various learning cohorts and styles
- Incorporates gamification to increase learner engagement and build teamwork, communication, and student resiliency
- Student centered curriculum and approach
- Modules for curriculum include Self-Advocacy, Job Exploration and Work Readiness Training.

TECH-Prep Research Project in conjunction with WSU

- Research study by Washington State University, University of Wisconsin Madison and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
- Looks at the impact of TECH-Prep Curriculum on employment and postsecondary education for youth with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities from disempowered backgrounds.
- TECH-Prep blends E-Learning, virtual field trips, mentoring, paid work experiences and other learning opportunities to introduce youth to careers in technology.
- Recruiting students from Cheney Public School and Spokane Public School's transition programs.
- Partnering with Spokane DVR to provide the work-based learning experiences
- Providing consistency and collaboration – 1 VRC will serve all the students involved in the TECH-Prep Program.
- Inclusion criteria for students wanting to be involved in the project.



School To Work (STW)

- Contracts in Spokane/Pend Oreille, Walla Walla/Columbia, Asotin/Garfield, Kittitas, Whitman (in process), Okanogan (in process).
- We are in continued conversation with other counties.

Assistive Technology

(ATAP)



Assistive Technology Services in Region 1

- Shaun Hegney – ATAP Region 1 located in Spokane
- Last year from September 1st 2023 – August 31st 2024 109 customer were served in Region 1.
- From September 1st 2024 – July 2025 130 customers have been served in Region 1.
- Increased Outreach to Units
- Monthly ATAP office hours
- Utilizing technology to decrease AT related travel.



Yakima & Toppenish

Presented by:

Becky Gellerson, VR Supervisor - Yakima

Francisco Felan, VR Supervisor - Toppenish & Sunnyside

Yakima Unit Offices

Yakima Office	Yakima WorkSource	Ellensburg
<p>Serves Yakima County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Becky Gellerson (VRS)• Reggie Diaz (VRC)• Bia Fiamo (VRC)• Sarah Kopp (RT)• Carolyn Nease (LVRC)• Jamie Parker (RT)• Haley Yarberry (OA2)	<p>Serves Yakima County</p> <p>Staff:</p>	<p>Serves Kittitas County</p> <p>Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danielle Schrauth (VRC)• Supported by RT Jamie Parker

Yakima

Staffing Updates



Vacancies: 1 VRC (Yakima) 1 RT (Ellensburg)



Staff Retention VRCs



Staff Retention RTs



Team approach

Customer Service and Rapid Engagement Yakima

- Intake Approach
- Consistent messaging of team approach
- Consistent contact with customer – 95% of cases have had activity within 30 days or less
- Focus on rapid engagement
 - Average days to eligibility – 33 days
 - Average day to plan – 45 days
- VRS involvement in cases
- Information Sessions
- Statewide projects staff involvement – WAVES governance board, IPE timeliness workgroup

Challenges and Successes serving urban and rural communities

- **Challenges**

- Lack of providers
- Internet services
- Transportation

- **Successes**

- Found Virtual Providers
- Advanced Internet
- Creativity around Transportation

WorkSource Relationships

Yakima Unit – WorkSource Presence and Vacant
VRC position

Labor Market Statistics

	Median Hourly Wage at Exit	Median Hours at Exit	Number Exiting Employed	2 nd Quarter after Exit Median Earnings	Count of Customers with Wage Data 2 nd Quarter after Exit	# Enrolled in Post-Secondary
Yakima	\$17.00	24	85	\$4,832.02	46	85
Yakima Unit	\$17.00	23	93	\$4,832.02	50	100
Toppenish	\$18.00	20	9	\$8,351.25	7	17
Sunnyside	\$17.00	20	16	\$7,584.69	5	18



Innovation

- Strategies to support Supported Employment:
 - On site observation
 - Meeting directly with employers
- Strategies to support Job Retention:
 - On site visits
 - Assistive Technology
 - Collaboration with CRPs
- Community Based Assessments

Partnerships – Yakima County

- Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs)
- Tribal VR
- People for People
- Events:
 - Pathway to the top
 - Educator Day
 - Journey to Success
 - Families United Conference
 - Transition Fairs
 - Treaty Days
 - Parent Nights
 - EmployAbility Yakima Career Fair – September 4, 2025

Treaty Days – June 6, 2025



170th Treaty Day Commemoration & 45th Cultural Center Anniversary

Flag Raising 9am
MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP
ENTRANCE

FREE Salmon Lunch 12pm

FREE Movie 3pm
Max. Occupancy 267

Heritage

QR Code

Ichishkin (Language of the Yakama people) Pronunciation of Wash na yakama. Pimánaymukshaatash.

Yakama Nation Treaty Days
170th Commemoration
"WE ARE YAKAMA. WE ARE RESILIENT."

TRIBAL ROYALTY PROGRAMS, ENTERPRISES, BUSINESSES
COMMUNITY ROYALTY
RODEO ROYALTY
COMMUNITY GROUPS
MARCHING BANDS
DIGNITARIES

Get your parade float entered!

2025 Grand Marshall

2025 YNTS Girls WAAA state Basketball participants

All are Welcome June 6th, 2025
100 Spiel-Yi Loop Toppenish, WA 98948

Vendor Market 9am | Parade 10am
Vendor and Parade Applications available May 1st, 2025
at the Yakama Nation Cultural Center Gift Shop
For more information email: TreatyDay@yakama.com or
call: 509-865-5121 ext. 4751 or 4729

ALL VENDORS MUST HAVE A VENDOR PERMIT THROUGH YN DEPT. OF REVENUE (OFFICE LOCATED AT 401 FORT RD TOPPENISH) APPLY EARLY TO ALLOW PROCESSING TIME. PERMITS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH VENDOR APPLICATION. LAST DAY TO SUBMIT A VENDOR APP IS 6/4/25.

YAKAMA NATION CULTURAL CENTER

Families United Conference

Elizabeth Castillo (RT Sunnyside)
Silvia Delgado (RT Toppenish) at
the “Families United”
Sunnyside.



Customer Success Story - Yakima

Participant #1

- Was employed at BiMart (physical and environmental limitations)
- IPE for Security Analyst
- Internship with Department of Defense

Participant #2

- Mental Health Diagnosis
- Physical Limitations
- Barber – Self-Employment
- Profits of \$4,000 a month

South Central Unit

- Toppenish, Sunnyside and Moses Lake offices

South Central Unit Offices

Toppenish	Sunnyside WorkSource	Moses Lake
<p>Serves Yakima County Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Francisco Felan (VRS)• Jessica Silva (VRC)• Silvia Delgado (RT)• Gilbert Garza (LVRC)	<p>Serves Yakima County Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rosa Estrella (LVRC)• Elizabeth Castillo (RT)• Jessica Moreno (BS)	<p>Serves Grant/Adams County Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Itzel Crisostomo (VRC)• Elizabeth Valle (VRC)• Araceli Dominguez (RT)

Toppenish and Sunnyside

Staffing Updates



Vacancies: Fully Staffed



Staff Retention VRCs



Staff Retention RTs



Team approach

Toppenish and Sunnyside Performance

- In-person intakes (5-7 day wait for intakes)
- Offices continue to improve on regular customer contact averaging 11 to 33 days
- Toppenish average days to Eligibility is 23 days with 97% timeliness
- Toppenish average days to IPE 65 days with 95% timeliness
- Sunnyside average days to Eligibility is 31 days with 93% Timeliness
- Sunnyside average days to IPE is 64 days with 88 % timeliness

Challenges and Successes serving urban and rural communities

• **Challenges**

- Transportation
- Housing
- Customized employment Providers

• **Successes**

- Short wait-time for in-person intakes
- Braiding services with Tribal VR and FCS providers
- Working closely with DDA and County DDA on Job Foundations

WorkSource Relationships

- Sunnyside staff are housed at the Sunnyside WorkSource.
 - Great working relationships with WIOA partners.
- Jessica Moreno Business Specialist
 - Key organizer for the Employability Career Fair
 - Part of the Business Service Team (Sunnyside & Yakima)

Top Employer Sectors

Sunnyside Top Sectors

	# of Employees
• Healthcare	1809
• Wholesale	1467
• Public Administration	725
• Transportation	418

Toppenish Top Sectors # of Employees

• Public Administration & Education	830
• Healthcare	388
• Retail	166
• Manufacturing	122
• Eating Drinking Establishments	115



Yakima Employability Career Fair

Partnering Agencies

- DVR
- DSB
- WorkSource
- People for People



Join us for a day of networking and job opportunities at the Yakima Convention Center.

This is our first ever EmployAbility Career Fair designed to showcase and connect job seekers with disabilities to businesses that value diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Come share what skills you can bring to business.

To participate, please register:

Scan the QR code or complete the registration form here: <https://forms.office.com/g/39VdMGXwx6>

Dedicated time for People with Disabilities
10-11 a.m.

Open to the Public
11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Yakima Convention Center
10 North 8th Street
Yakima, WA 98901

Yakima Transit Org
<https://yakimatransit.org/>

Questions or Concerns?
Jessica Moreno: 509.439.7750
Juan Alvarado: 509.969.4040



WorkSource is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay Service: 711. This program funded through a USDOL grant. To learn more about funding visit <https://esd.wa.gov/USDOL>.

Future Collaboration



WinCo WinS

- Workforce, Inclusion, Success
- Same Job, Same Expectations, Same Pay
- Program is intended to identify individuals who are interested in long term employment and employee ownership opportunities.
- WinCo, VR Agencies , CRP's work together to develop and share a consistent objective to identify, train, and retraining long term with Winco Foods

Success Story



Mr. Fix Auto Services

- 2024 Youth Employer recipient of the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment.

Council Priorities Overview & Discussion

Presented by: Jen Bean, Lesa Dunphy, Alex Toney, Matt Newton

Council Staff: Shelby Satko

Priorities Overview

- Policy & Planning – Lesa Dunphy
- Partnership - Alexandra Toney
- Customer Satisfaction & Program Evaluation – Matt Newton

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

- Due in October 2025
- Highlights review at our November quarterly meeting
- Planning team
 - DVR Policy & Strategies staff
 - WSRC Staff
- WSRC is taking the lead on the Workforce section
 - Mapping Workforce Partners Co-Location
 - Local Workforce Development Boards representatives - Listening Sessions
 - DVR Local Workforce Development Boards representatives – Listening Session
 - WorkSource Questions in the Interworks at San Diego State University Surveys
 - Consultation with Employment Security Department Equal Opportunity Office

2024-2027 State Plan Progress Update

- Due in March 2026
- Planning team
 - DVR Policy & Strategies Staff
 - WSRC Staff



Washington State
Rehabilitation Council

Additional Resources

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

2025 Listening Session Questions

As part of the WSRC August Quarterly Meeting, Interworks at San Diego State University will facilitate listening sessions that will inform the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. The following questions provide a general flow, facilitators will build on questions organically with follow-up items and prompts.

Employment Goals

- What barriers do people with disabilities in Washington face in getting or keeping a job?

Access to DVR Services

- What barriers do individuals face when accessing DVR services?

Significant Disabilities

- What unmet needs exist for people with significant or most significant disabilities? Which needs are being met well?

Underserved Populations

- Which populations are underserved? What needs do individuals represented in these groups have, and how are they being met? If they are not being met, what factors are impacting services?

Supported and Customized Employment

- How well are Supported Employment (SE) and Customized Employment (CE) working in Washington?
- Who is receiving these services? What SE/CE needs aren't being met? What improvements would you recommend?

Youth in Transition

- What are the employment-related needs of youth with disabilities?
- Are schools preparing them well for postsecondary life?
- How well does DVR collaborate with schools?
- How can DVR improve services to youth in transition?
- How can DVR more effectively partner with school staff, tribal programs, or rural communities to provide equitable services?

WorkSource

- How well do WorkSource centers support individuals with disabilities?
- Are there barriers? What can be done to address them?
- How effective is DVR's partnership with these centers?
- What recommendations do you have to improve this collaboration?

CRP Development

- What rehabilitation programs or services need to be created, expanded, or improved?
- What services are missing in specific locations?

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

2025 Listening Session Questions

- Which community-based programs are working well, and why?

Improving Services

- What needs to be changed to improve VR services for people with disabilities?
- How would you define improvement?

Council priorities are primarily informed by the mandated functions in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act - [34 CFR 361.16](#) and [34 CFR 361.17](#) as well as the WSRC Bylaws.

Subcommittee	2025 Priorities	Notes
CSPE	Customer Satisfaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Surveys - monitor for trends, ongoing Program Improvement analysis – ongoing Listening Sessions – bi-annually Fair Hearings – monitor for trends, ongoing Benchmarking 	
CSPE & Partnership	Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) – Due October 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informs the State Plan 	Staff serve on planning team to support project. WSRC taking the lead on the Workforce section, consulting with two subcommittees.
Policy & Planning	2024-2027 State Plan Progress update - Due in March 2026	Planning to start in Fall 2025
Policy & Planning	Policy Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counselor Change Communication Financial Needs 	
CSPE	Performance Data Access to Monitor Program Performance	
Partnership	Coordinate activities with: Statewide Independent Living Council, Developmental Disabilities Council, Special Education Advisory Council, State Workforce Development Board, and Washington Assistive Technology Act Program	

Subcommittee	2025 Priorities	Notes
CSPE	<p>Workforce/Business Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does VR support high quality job placement• WIOA Six Key Indicators of Program Performance<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit2. Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit3. Median Earnings in the 2nd Quarter after Exit4. Credential Attainment Rate5. Measurable Skill Gains Rate6. Effectiveness in Serving Employers	

WSRC Commonly Used Acronyms

ACS: American Community Survey (from the Census Bureau)

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

AFP: Authorization for Payment

AJC: American Job Center

ALTSA: Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

ASL: American Sign Language

AT: Assistive Technology

ATAP: Assistive Technology & Assessment Practitioner

BASC: Barriers and Accessibility Solutions Committee

BHA: Behavioral Health Administration

BLS: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Census of Employment and Wages)

BMMP: Business Management Modernization Project

CAP: Client Assistance Program

CARF: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

CART: Computer-assisted real-time Translation

CCER: Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

CIL: Center for Independent Living

CMS: Case Management System

CRP: Community Rehabilitation Provider

CP: Cerebral Palsy

CRC: Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

CSNA: Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

DD: Developmental Disability

DDA: Developmental Disability Administration

DES: Department of Enterprise Services

DSB: Department of Services for the Blind

DSE or DSU: Designated State Entity or Designated State Unit

DVR: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

EDI: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

ESD: Educational Service District, also, Employment Security Department

FCS: Functional Community Supports

FFY: Federal Fiscal Year

ID: Intellectual Disability

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IEP: Individual Education Plan

IL: Independent Living

IRI: Institute on Rehabilitation Issues

JLARC: Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (Report on Employment and Community Inclusion Services for People with Developmental Disabilities)

LRE: Least Restrictive Environment

LTS: Long Term Support

MH: Mental Health

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

OFM: Office of Financial Management

OJT: On-the-job Training

OSERS: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services

OOS: Order of Selection

One-Stop: WorkSource Center

OSPI: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

PAVE: Partnership for Actions Voices for Empowerment (Parent Advocacy)

RCW: Revised Code of Washington

RDA: Research and Data Analysis (research division of DSHS)

Region 10: Federal Region of Washington, per RSA

RFP/RFQ: Request for Proposal/Qualifications

RSA: Rehabilitation Services Administration

SILC: State Independent Living Council

SIPP: Survey of Income and Program Participation (Census Bureau)

SPIL: State Plan for Independent Living

SME: Subject Matter Expert

SSA: Social Security Administration

SSDI: Social Security Disability Insurance

SSI: Supplemental Security Income

TAP: Talent and Prosperity for All Plan

TBI: Traumatic Brain Injury

TSAT: Transition Self-Assessment Tool

Title 4: of WIOA is the Rehabilitation Act,

Title 1: under Title 4, which authorizes DVR services and funds

Section 105 of Title 1: authorizes State Rehabilitation Councils

UI: Unemployment Insurance

VR: Vocational Rehabilitation

VRC: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

WAC – Washington Administrative Code
WATAP: Washington Technical Assistance Program
WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
WISE: Washington Initiative for Supported Employment
WOTC: Work Opportunity Tax Credit
WTECB: Workforce Training, Education, and Coordination Board
WSRC: Washington State Rehabilitation Council
WDC: Workforce Development Council
WOTC: Work Opportunity Tax Credit

WA DVR

AFP: Authorization for Purchase
CBA: Community Based Assessment
JD: Job Development
ELT: Executive Leadership Team
IPE: Individual Plan for Employment
IRWE: Impairment Related Work Expense
ITS: Intensive Training Services
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
MSD: Most Significantly Disabled
NEO: New Employee Orientation
Pass Plan: Plan to achieve self-support
Pre-ETS: Pre-Employment Services
PES: Post-Employment Services
PHI: Protected Health Information
RA: Regional Administrator or Re
RCD – Rehab Counselors for the Deaf

Region 1: East of the Cascades

Region 2: King County north

Region 3: Pierce County south and all of the peninsula

ROI: Release of Information
RT: Rehabilitation Tech
SDOP: Service Delivery Outcome Plan
SDOR: Service Delivery Outcome Report
SE: Supported Employment
SO: State Office – DVR Headquarters
SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
STARS: DVRs customer database
TWE: Trial Work Experience
YSP: Youth Services Program
121 Program: Tribal Rehabilitation Program (Federal designation)

DVR Office Map

