

EVALUATION AND REPORT OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING IDENTIFIED GOALS AND PRIORITIES AND USE OF TITLE I FUNDS FOR INNOVATION AND EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

4.11(e)(2)

DVR achieved or made substantial progress towards achieving the goals, priorities and innovation and expansion activities established for FFY 2013. Progress is described as follows:

Goal #	Description	Achievement Status
Goal 1	Meet Federal Standard 1 – Employment Outcomes	Achieved Exceeded 4 of the 6 indicators, including all 3 of the primary indicators in Standard 1.
Goal 2	Engage strategic partners to develop a comprehensive network of support for individuals to help improve their employment outcomes by 9/30/2013.	Achieved DVR partnered with Job Service ND to provide comparable benefits to financially support vocation skills training to meet individuals' needs.
Goal 3	Continue the implementation of State and Regional Youth Transition Services by having 20% of those served and employed be youth by 9/30/2013.	Exceeded DVR exceeded the targeted goal for the number of Transition Youth served and employed by 28% as 48% of all clients served and employed were transition youth.
Goal 4	Enhance counseling and guidance services thereby improving employment outcomes for the individuals and achieving or exceeding an 80% satisfaction rate by 9/30/2013.	Exceeded Training was provided to staff to enhance their counseling and guidance services in June 2013 and was able to achieve 93% for overall client satisfaction rate.
Goal 5	Take steps to open Priority Category II with a target of late FFY 2014 or early 2015.	Exceeded Priority Category II was opened in January 2014 and in February 2014 all categories were being served.
Goal 6	Meet the Service Rate to Minorities in Federal Standard 2.	Exceeded Exceeded Federal Standard 2 by .079. Refer to strategies in Goal 6.

Supported Employment

The primary Supported Employment goals identified in Attachment 4.11(c)(4) were to provide training and stabilization to an estimated 214 individuals and employ 50 individuals. We were able to provide training and stabilization to 188 individuals, missing the goal by 26. Twenty-six individuals became employed, missing that goal by 24.

Assessment of DVR's Performance on Standards and Indicators

DVR exceeded 4 of the 6 indicators, including all 3 of the primary indicators, in Standard 1. We had 277 fewer employment outcomes in 1.1 and the rehab rate was 44.16% in 1.2. However, DVR exceeded the percent with earnings at or above minimum wage by 36.46%, exceeded the percent with earnings at or above minimum wage with significant disabilities by 44.49%, exceeded the earnings as a ratio to the State's average pay by .110, and exceeded the difference between percentage of self-support at closure and application by 39.64%. DVR also exceeded Standard 2 by .079.

Innovation and Expansion

During FFY 2013, innovation and expansion funds were spent on ADA, Business Services, Transition Services, Assistive Technology, and State Rehabilitation Council expenses.

ADA:

DVR continues to participate with on-going education. The regional offices host or are involved with sporadic events tied to the ADA. In addition, DVR continues to support referrals and provide resources to employers and businesses in the community.

Business Services:

I & E funds were used to pay for civic and service organization membership, including Chamber of Commerce, for regional and state DVR staff. Funds were also used for booth registration at high-profile regional and state conferences and events. Both allow for higher visibility of DVR within the business community and by our individuals. They enable us to develop long-term partnerships with business owners and employers based on common goals, which should enhance recruitment and retention practices benefiting individuals with disabilities.

Transition:

NDVR had transition contracts with providers and special education units where students were able to receive various work experience, including job shadows, as well as developing resumes and practicing interviewing skills.

Rehab Services Council:

Funds were used to advertise the SRC meetings and to provide travel and per diem to SRC members.

Assistive Technology:

The Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation controls and administers the funds made available through the federal Tech Act Grant and awards these federal grant funds to the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology. The Vocational Rehabilitation Director is a member of the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) for the Tech Act Grant. IPAT proposes to seek additional

state funds to expand services in western North Dakota, replicating successful programs in Eastern North Dakota to include the Home First Show Room and expanding the service of Certified AT Specialists. IPAT has developed a certification process for newly hired staff. Certified AT Specialists employed at IPAT are, in addition to their primary work duties, spending time to develop the knowledge and skill set of newly hired AT Specialist staff. The process of training can take up to 18 months. This process was developed due to a lack of educational opportunities in the state of North Dakota to produce trained AT Specialists.