

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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## **Agency to survey employers and others about services to help people with disabilities enter or remain in the workforce**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota needs workers. The signs for help wanted are everywhere. The State Rehabilitation Council and North Dakota Department of Human Services are conducting a statewide online survey from Oct. 20 through Nov. 14, 2014, to gather feedback on vocational rehabilitation services that connect people with disabilities with training and employment and help employers retain or hire workers with disabilities.

“North Dakota’s employment rate for working-age individuals with disabilities is among the best in the nation at 53 percent,” said Vocational Rehabilitation Division Director Russ Cusack. “However, we know there are still many North Dakotans with talents and abilities who could join the workforce with the right training, adaptive equipment, or supports. We want to make that connection happen.”

Cusack encourages employers, people with disabilities, vocational service providers, and advocates to participate in the online survey. Survey responses will help the division identify the greatest needs and barriers to employment, set program priorities, and allocate resources for the next three years to increase the employment of people who experience a disability.

Surveys for key stakeholder groups are online at the following direct links and can be completed between Oct. 20 and Nov. 14.

- Employer Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3P3BRN8>
- Consumer Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RZPKWWJ>
- Advocate Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TKKWCBV>
- Provider Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TKT22KN>

Surveys take 5-10 minutes to complete and ask about awareness of existing services, gaps in services including vocational guidance and career options, one-on-one job training, self-employment opportunities, workplace relationship training, employment services for youth after high school, as well as other topics. All responses will remain anonymous.

Individuals may contact the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 701-328-8950, toll-free 1-800-755-2745, 711 TTY/Voice, or [dhsvr@nd.gov](mailto:dhsvr@nd.gov) to complete the survey in an alternative format such as by phone or to request a paper copy of the survey through the mail.

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Paper surveys are also available at the department's eight regional Vocational Rehabilitation offices in North Dakota. Location information is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/about/regional-contact.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/about/regional-contact.html) or by calling 800-755-2745.

The North Dakota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides training and employment services that assist individuals with disabilities to be successfully employed. Division vocational rehabilitation counselors work with people entering or re-entering the workforce and people already in the workforce who are experiencing a disability such as significant hearing or vision loss or other disability that is affecting their employment. Staff members also work with employers to assist them with disability-related issues.

More information about services is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html).

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