



Nevada

Vocational Rehabilitation

A Proud Partner of American Job Center of Nevada

At Work for Disability Inclusion



2025

Nevada State
Rehabilitation Council

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



www.VRNevada.nv.gov

Administration Office
500 E. 3rd Street
Carson City, NV 89713
(775) 687-6860

Vocational Rehabilitation is an Equal Employment Opportunity program/service.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request during consultations with counselors and service providers.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON:



THE SERVICES AND/OR GOODS DESCRIBED HEREIN ARE FUNDED, IN PART, WITH FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR), SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, AND/OR THE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND (OIB) PROGRAMS. FOR PURPOSES OF THE VR PROGRAM IN NEVADA, THE FEDERAL VR GRANT PAID 78.7 PERCENT OF THE RELATED COSTS. IN FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2023, NEVADA VR RECEIVED \$19,940,576 IN FEDERAL VR FUNDS. FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE STATE OF NEVADA AND/OR ACQUIRED FROM OTHER NON-FEDERAL SOURCES PAID 21.3 PERCENT OF THE RELATED COSTS (\$5,397,298). FOR PURPOSES OF THE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, FEDERAL FUNDS PAID 95 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL

COSTS. IN FFY 2023, NEVADA'S VR PROGRAM RECEIVED \$26,235 IN FEDERAL SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT FUNDS. STATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS PAID 5 PERCENT (\$2,161) OF THE TOTAL COSTS UNDER THE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

FOR PURPOSES OF THE OIB PROGRAM, FEDERAL FUNDS PAID 90 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COSTS INCURRED UNDER THE PROGRAM. IN FFY 2023, REHABILITATION DIVISION RECEIVED \$269,996 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS FOR THIS PROGRAM. FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE STATE PAID 10 PERCENT (\$30,000) OF THE TOTAL COSTS INCURRED UNDER THE OIB PROGRAM.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

RAQUEL O'NEILL



Raquel O'Neill

Chair of NSRC

On behalf of the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC), I am honored to present this year's Annual Report. Over the past year, the Council has continued to demonstrate its deep commitment to empowering Nevadans with disabilities to achieve meaningful, competitive, and integrated employment outcomes.

Through our ongoing partnership with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Council maintained full membership representation and held all scheduled public meetings to ensure transparency and accountability in service delivery. Together, we engaged diverse community voices, including individuals with lived experience, advocates, educators, business leaders, and rehabilitation professionals, to inform strategic planning and policy direction.

We are proud of the key accomplishments you will find in this report including:

- *VR Nevada's commitment to strengthen collaborative partnerships with schools, employers, and service providers to expand access to Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students and youth with disabilities.*
- *Supporting program leadership in ensuring alignment with federal performance metrics and guiding improvements that directly impact the quality of consumer experiences.*
- *Reviewing the use of federal and state funding to ensure that resources continue to be maximized to support both innovative service delivery and core vocational rehabilitation outcomes.*
- *And perhaps most importantly, centering our work on the voices and stories of those being served, lifting up success stories that highlight the transformational power of vocational rehabilitation.*

As we look to the year ahead, we reaffirm our mission to uphold a system that is consumer-driven, outcomes-focused, and rooted in equity and access. The challenges may be evolving, but so is our commitment to ensure every Nevadan with a disability has the opportunity to thrive in the workforce and in their communities.

Thank you for your continued support, collaboration, and advocacy.

Raquel O'Neill, LCSW, CVRT

OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS



JACK MAYES

Vice Chair

Retired Executive Director of
NDALC



LAURA THOMPSON

Member

VR Nevada Counselor Rep.



JUDITH SWAIN

Member

Opportunity Village



ROBIN KINCAID

Member

Nevada PEP



JENNIFER KANE

Member

Nevada Department of Education



DAWN LYONS

Member

Statewide Independent Living
Council (SILC)



**REBECCA
ROGERS**

Member

Disabilities Advocate



**CYNTHIA
GUSTAFSON**

Member

Strategic Progress



**SANDRA
SINICROPE**

Member

The Joy Group, LLC



**DAVID
NUESTRO**

Member

Redhead Supports

ABOUT NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The Council has a minimum of 16 members as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. We value all the positions and would like to fill the vacancies. The category and current members follow.

 1 State Independent Living Council Representative	 1 Parents Training & Info Center Representative	 0 Client Assistance Program Representative	 1 VR Counselor Representative	 1 Community Rehabilitation Program Representative	 2 Business, Industry and Labor Representatives
 2 Individuals with Disabilities, Advocate Representatives	 1 Current or Former Applicants or Recipients of VR	 0 Native American, Section 121 VR Program	 1 State Educational Agency Representative	 0 State Workforce Investment Board Representative	 1 Designated State Unit Administrator (ex officio)

NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) is a citizen advisory council appointed by the Governor to serve both as a partner and to provide guidance to the state's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program.

The Council includes people with disabilities, community rehabilitation program staff, vocational rehabilitation counselors, advocates, VR clients and business leaders.



PROGRAM PLANNING

Members engage in strategic planning and provide guidance to promote competitive and integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.



ASSISTANCE

The Council assists in shaping policy, by guiding and assisting in making thoughtful, participant-focused decisions through needs assessments, consumer satisfaction surveys, and ongoing program evaluations.



BECOME A NSRC COUNCIL MEMBER

For more information on becoming a council member, contact the Rehabilitation Division Administration office at 775-687-6860.

Applications for Gubernatorial appointment to the Council may be found at https://hal.nv.gov/form/Governor/Boards_and_Commissions_Application

Apply Here:



PARTNERSHIP

NSRC + VR Nevada

The Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) and the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired collectively named “VR Nevada” partner to advance competitive integrated employment, independence, and economic self-sufficiency for Nevadans with disabilities. This partnership serves as a call to action to elevate and respond to the voices of individuals served by the Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation program and to support meaningful stakeholder engagement statewide.

Through collaboration and shared accountability, the NSRC and VR Nevada help ensure individuals with disabilities have access to the resources and supports needed to achieve their employment goals, while maintaining program effectiveness and compliance with federal requirements.

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

DRAZEN ELEZ



Drazen Elez
Administrator
DETR Rehabilitation

It is my privilege to share this year’s Nevada State Rehabilitation Council Annual Report. What stands out most in 2025 is not just the work we accomplished, but the consistency with which our teams continued to deliver high-quality services during a period of sustained growth in demand.

This year, 8,294 clients were served, representing a 13% increase over last year’s 7,339 clients served. This sustained upward trend reflects rising public awareness and growing trust in VR Nevada. Of those served, 425 individuals achieved employment, earning an average wage of \$19.35 per hour. This represents continued wage growth over prior years and shows that VR clients are not only working—they are obtaining jobs with stronger earnings potential and higher-quality career pathways.

The average length of cases now stands at 677 days, underscoring VR Nevada’s commitment to serving individuals with significant and complex needs with the persistence, support, and individualized planning they deserve.

Youth services also experienced major expansion. VR Nevada provided Pre-Employment Transition Services to 2,571 students, up from 2,124 last year, across 14 school districts and 64 schools—the largest reach in program history. This growth reflects strengthened partnerships with schools, increased staffing, and strategic investment in transition services statewide.

Adult services advanced significantly as well. Legislative support enabled additional staffing and enhanced our ability to serve more adults with disabilities seeking competitive, integrated employment. The 700-Hour Program—which creates direct pathways into State of Nevada employment for adults with disabilities—continued to grow and remains one of Nevada’s most impactful tools in expanding inclusive hiring across state agencies.

Modernization efforts continued to accelerate. From the statewide expansion of NevadaTRIP, launched in 2024, to enhanced employer partnerships, new collaborative training models, and strengthened supported employment services, VR Nevada remains focused on building a future-ready, customer-centered service model driven by modernization, data integrity, and accessibility.

We also recognize the exceptional commitment of our employer partners through the Disability Inclusion Partner initiative and the powerful success stories featured throughout this report. These partnerships are essential to creating a workforce that embraces diversity and promotes opportunity for all Nevadans.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council. Your leadership and partnership ensure accountability, innovation, and a shared vision for a more inclusive Nevada.

Together, we are building a state where every person has the opportunity to work, contribute, and thrive.

Drazen Elez
Administrator, DETR Rehabilitation Division

PERFORMANCE 2024-2025

KEY SUCCESSES



425
Clients Achieved Employment



\$19.35+
Average Wage

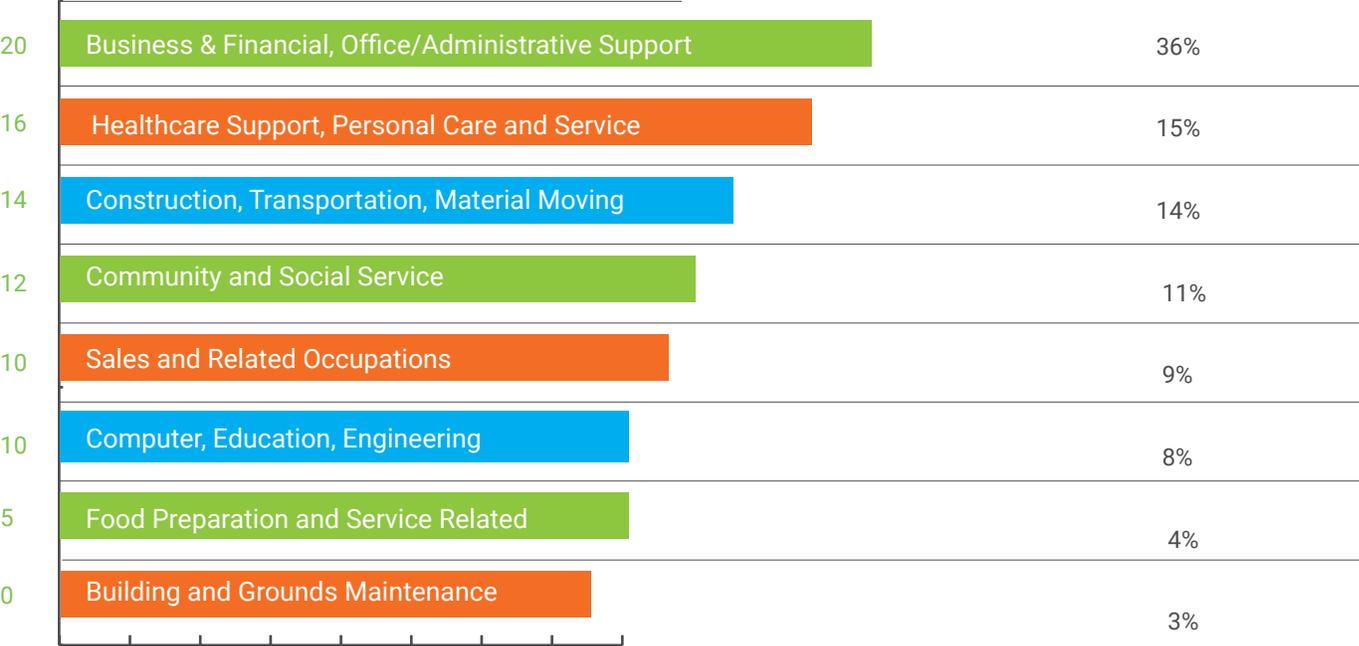


8,294+
Clients Served



677 days
Average Length of Cases

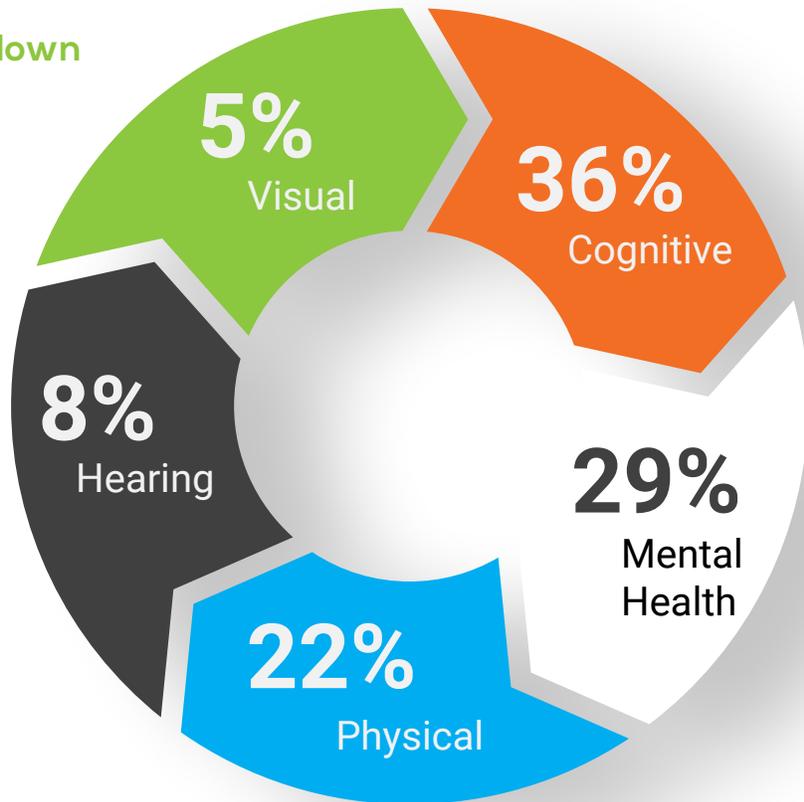
TOP 8 OCCUPATIONS OF SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED CLIENTS



PERFORMANCE 2024-2025

SERVED AND EMPLOYED CLIENTS

Primary Disability Breakdown of Served Clients



CLIENT SATISFACTION WITH VR SERVICE DELIVERY IN %

These data are derived from customer satisfaction survey results, which assess clients' satisfaction with various aspects of the Vocational Rehabilitation process and their outcomes.



Meeting Goals



Counselor Interactions
*VR staff treated them with dignity and respect



Office Accessibility



Would Recommend

PERFORMANCE FOR 2024-2025

TOP 8 SERVICES PROVIDED

	2025	Previous Year
Assessment	2394	2186
Transportation	1862	1841
Job Placement Assistance	1319	1207
Other Goods and Services	712	699
Maintenance	559	478
Rehabilitation Technology	463	462
Training Occupational or Vocational	403	415
Interpreter Services	370	388

ASSESSMENT

Services provided, and activities performed to determine eligibility for VR services and scope of VR services to be included on the IPE. For example – situational work assessments, community-based assessments.

TRANSPORTATION

Travel and related expenses that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in VR services. Examples include bus and Paratransit passes, fuel assistance and travel (bus) training.

JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

Working with an internal or external job developer to apply for jobs.

OTHER GOODS & SERVICES

Services not recorded anywhere else. Includes occupational licenses, tools and equipment and initial stocks and supplies for self-employment.

PRE - ETS

The earliest set of VR services provided to potentially eligible or VR eligible students with a disability. Includes the five required activities: job exploration counseling, work-based learning, counseling on post-secondary education or transition programs, self-advocacy instruction, and workplace readiness training.

MAINTENANCE/ SHORT TERM EXPENSES

Monetary support provided for living expenses such as food, shelter and clothing that are in excess of the normal expenses of the individual. Clothing for interviews, uniforms and work shoes are all examples of maintenance services.

ON THE JOB SUPPORT

Support services provided to an individual who has been placed in employment to stabilize the placement and enhance job retention. Includes short term or initial job coaching.

TRAINING

Training services are programs that provide instruction or work-based learning to prepare individuals for employment. Examples include academic training, vocational skills, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, literacy and job readiness training, disability-related skills, and customized training.

REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY

Systematic application of technologies, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of, and address the barriers confronted by, individuals with disabilities. Examples include CCTVs, screen reader software, and hearing aids.

PERFORMANCE FOR 2024-2025

Program Year 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025



51% MSG Rate



49% Credential Rate

Average Cost per closed case in FFY 2025



\$4,789 Vocational Rehabilitation



\$5,696 Supported Employment

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

Competitive integrated employment, including customized employment; or employment in an integrated work setting in which an individual with a most significant disability is working on a short-term basis toward competitive integrated employment.

Employment that is individualized and customized, consistent with the individual's unique strengths, abilities, interests, and informed choice, including with ongoing support services for individuals with the most significant disabilities.

(Section 7(38) of the Act and §363.1(b) of the regulations)



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (SE) OUTCOMES		2023	2024	2025
1.	SE Clients Served	833	933	1142
2.	SE Successful Closures	130	112	104

TOP 2 EMPLOYERS



Department of Human Services

53

EMPLOYMENTS

Walmart 

12

EMPLOYMENTS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH



1,091

Total number of Employers Contacted



115

Total number of Events and Tours

BUSINESS SERVICE TEAM EVENTS

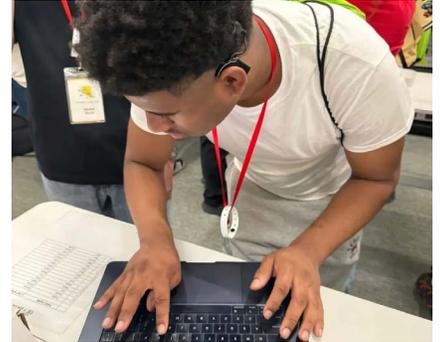
- Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce Career Fair
- Autumn Career Fair at Reno Town Mall
- BBSI Lunch and Learn
- TMCC Disability Resource Fair
- Las Vegas Chamber

Contact Us:



PRE ETS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DEAF AND CRAVE CAMP



In June 2025, Nevada students participated in two transformative programs—CRAVE Camp and Beyond the Deaf Home Camp—each designed to empower youth with disabilities through education, connection, and hands-on experience.

CRAVE Camp focuses on Careers, Recreation, and Vocational Education, offering students an opportunity to explore career paths, develop self-advocacy and leadership skills, and experience college life firsthand at UNLV.

Beyond the Deaf Home Camp provides Deaf and hard of hearing students with a supportive, language-rich environment where they can build communication, independence, and job readiness skills.

Together, these overnight camps encourage students to embrace their abilities, gain confidence, and take meaningful steps toward bright and independent futures.

PAES LABS IN NEVADA

HELPING STUDENTS EXPLORE THEIR FUTURE

Across Nevada, PAES Labs have become a key part of how VR Nevada supports students through Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). These labs give middle and high school students with disabilities a hands-on way to explore different types of work in a safe, realistic setting. Students can try out hundreds of tasks from technology and business activities to service, construction, and production, helping them discover what they enjoy and where their strengths are. For many students, PAES is the first time they get to see themselves in a future career.

PAES Labs also help our VR counselors and school partners learn more about each student's work habits, interests, and skill development. Instead of focusing on tests or grades, the lab shows how students work: staying on task, problem-solving, following directions, and building independence. This information helps guide transition planning and allows VR Nevada to connect students to the right services, training opportunities, and next steps.

Because PAES Labs are in schools throughout the state, students from all backgrounds and communities can access this resource. They provide a meaningful way for young people to learn about work, gain confidence, and prepare for adulthood. For VR Nevada, PAES Labs represent our ongoing commitment to giving students real opportunities to explore, grow, and move toward successful employment and independence.

VR NEVADA DISABILITY INCLUSION PARTNER INITIATIVE

The VR Nevada Disability Inclusion Partner Initiative recognizes businesses in the State of Nevada that hire Nevada VR clients. Businesses can be presented the Disability Inclusion Partner window stickers, custom crystal award, and/or wall mounted plaque. The VR Disability Inclusion designation can be used by your company and will let your customers know you proudly support disability inclusion.

Criteria for recognition will vary by level of Business size (small, medium, and large). All criteria recognitions are based on 1 calendar year. The criteria for most of the awards are based upon the following measures:

Small Businesses will be based on 25 or less employees.

Medium Businesses will be 26 to 50 employees.

Large Businesses will be 51 to 100+.

All awards are presented at the employers' place of business. Presenters are from the VR Executive staff, local VR District Managers, Business Services team members, Supervisors from the Internal Job Development team, and other dignitaries.



Goodwill of Southern Nevada Las Vegas, NV

We were thrilled to honor their ongoing commitment to creating meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. During our visit, Mary Brabant, Director of Disability and Volunteer Programming, and Rick Neal, CEO, shared inspiring words about Goodwill's strong partnership with VR Nevada and their shared dedication to fostering inclusion and empowerment in the workplace.

Home Depot Reno, NV

The VR Nevada team had the privilege of visiting the West Reno Home Depot to present the store with our Disability Inclusion Partner Award. The award was presented to Serena O'Beirne, Associate Support Department Supervisor, along with team members Marti, AJ, Joseph, Noah, Bruno, Nick, and Angelo. Together, we're making a positive impact and paving the way toward a more inclusive future for all.





STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

What are Pre-Employment Transition Services?

Significant changes in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 2014 now provide Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies across the nation with the opportunity to provide expanded services in five specific focus areas to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) or 504 plans, whether or not they have applied or been found eligible for VR services.

These services can be provided to groups of students who are potentially eligible for VR services, and also to students with higher needs who have open cases with VR. Individualized services are carefully planned in coordination with a student's IEP. The services can be provided to students in Nevada starting as early as 14, if they have school-based IEP or 504 plans.



Pre-Employment Transition Services focus areas include:

1. Job exploration
2. Work-based learning experiences
3. Exploring opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational programs
4. Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
5. Instruction in self-advocacy, which may include peer mentoring



2,571 Students



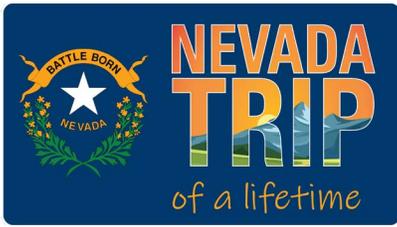
14 School Districts



64 Schools Served

Students with Disabilities (SWD) Who Received Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) FFY25

\$3,810,534 Total Spent on Services Provided



NEVADA TRIP LAUNCHED IN 2024



NEVADATRIP.NV.GOV

The Nevada TRIP (The Roadmap Through Innovative Partnerships) interactive website is a powerful tool helping students with disabilities, their parents, and educators navigate the process from elementary to middle to high school and beyond to adult life and independence.

At Nevada TRIP, we believe every traveler deserves a solid roadmap, the right tools, and a supportive crew.

Currently, the website is publicly available to all through the Visitor's Pass. It is also available for Student Registration in 3 Nevada pilot school districts: Carson City, Humboldt, and White Pine, with more districts to come!

Spring 2026: Douglas, Nye, Pershing

Spring 2027: Elko, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Washoe

Spring 2028: Churchill, Clark, Esmeralda, Mineral, Storey and the State Public Charter



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CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES

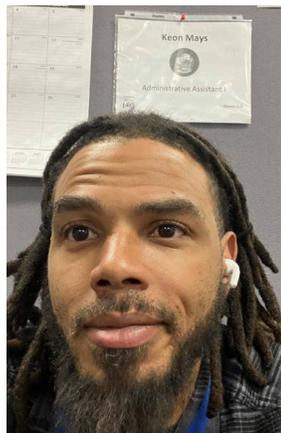


DONNA BATES *BEN Operator*

Donna was born with Optic Atrophy, where the main nerve from the eyes to the brain is not operating at full capacity. Donna attended public school in Clark County and graduated from UNLV with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Public Relations. Her enthusiasm for her business and caring for the customers is evident in every interaction. Walking the facility with

her, every smile is returned with positivity by the staff. She serves the 700 employees by providing all manner of meals and snacks from her self-service micro-market. Not only has she built a successful business but also started a "Little Library" book exchange in the breakroom with her own books and bookshelf.

Donna is truly an example of how to work hard for your goals, find success and bring a little joy to those around you along the way.



KEON MAYS *DWSS*

Keon Mays began his journey with Vocational Rehabilitation in 2022, determined to rebuild his life after a devastating car accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Keon never lost sight of his goals. With the encouragement and guidance of his Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, he participated in training, received vehicle modification services, and successfully

completed the 700-hour program, gaining valuable experience along the way. The program helped him strengthen his skills, prepare for employment, and regain confidence in his abilities.

Today, Keon proudly works as a Computer Support Specialist with the State of Nevada, DHHS, Division of Welfare, where he applies his technical skills and continues to grow professionally.

FULL STORIES ONLINE

<https://vrnevada.nv.gov/success-stories/>



The Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI) provides a variety of services to eligible individuals, whose vision is not correctable by general eye care.

The Bureau helps individuals with vision disabilities make decisions about their future employment through evaluation and testing tailored to the participant's needs. The program also offers counseling and training to help individuals learn to maneuver safely with confidence.



VR has embraced the legislatively-enhanced 700 - Hour Program, which creates employment pathways for individuals with disabilities. These employment opportunities are with state agencies, and afford the employer and employee 700 hours to determine if the individual is a good fit for the job. This program has been highly successful, having placed over 100 individuals in the last year and a half.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES

FULL STORIES ONLINE

<https://vrnevada.nv.gov/success-stories/>



ROCHELLE "ROSE" WILSON

Donetsia's Boutique

At 33 years old, Rochelle "Rose" Wilson has lived with epilepsy for as long as she can remember. Growing up, seizures and light sensitivity made everyday activities challenging, and finding employment seemed nearly impossible.

With her VR Nevada counselor's support, she explored work options that matched her strengths and needs. For the first time, she found a job that truly fit — sewing for a

small business owned by a kind and understanding employer, Donetsia's Boutique. Her supervisor, Ms. Kelly not only recognized her talent but also made it possible for her to work from home in a safe, comfortable space.

Today, she describes feeling happy, capable, and grateful — both for the work she loves and for the people who helped her get there. She credits Vocational Rehabilitation and her counselor for believing in her and opening the door to independence and purpose.

Donetsias Boutique is a small independent online boutique based out of northern Nevada. This small woman owned and operated business offers custom made clothing items and Native American regalia, ribbon skirts, shirts and dresses. Donetsias is known for their intricate work on skirts with removable lace.



KERSTIN LAW

Facilitate Joy

Kerstin began her journey with VR in May 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. At intake, she held an associate's degree and soon began pursuing her bachelor's in graphic design. With the support of her counselor, she also participated in VR sponsored programs such as CRAVE Camp and Campus Connections, which helped her build confidence and career readiness.

Kerstin shared that before working with Vocational Rehabilitation, she feared employment might be out of reach due to challenges associated with autism, particularly communication skills. With her counselor's guidance, she developed her professional skills and secured a three month internship with Facilitate Joy, an organization that supports individuals with autism and ADHD. VR provided transportation assistance, and by the end of the internship, her dedication and creativity led to a permanent part-time position.



Facilitate Joy! helps people, understand and work with their neurodivergent traits, build friendships and community, and address practical, real-world challenges. We appreciate the value of neurological differences while acknowledging the challenges we face.

COLLABORATIONS

"Simply, we are just better together."



Nevada VR's ongoing partnership with the Lyon County School District braids funding to improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities in Lyon County by providing them with support, PAES labs, transition coordinators, resources and access to college and career pathways.



TheNextStep, is a collaboration with the Carson City School District and VR. The Next Step serves students from 18-22 who are interested in exploring work, having work-based learning experiences and developing their vocational skills in preparation for employment.

tapestry

Tapestry Fulfillment Inc. and VR partnered develop an inclusion academy to train individuals with disabilities in distribution and warehouse tasks. The inaugural cohort of four VR clients received four weeks of training in picking, packing, and preparing products for shipment, supported by an external job coach and Tapestry staff. Upon completion, three clients were offered full-time or part-time employment at \$17 per hour. Tapestry, located in North Las Vegas, handles distribution for luxury brands like Coach, Stuart Weitzman, and Kate Spade, and is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and diverse workplace.



Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a collaboration with the Clark County School District (CCSD), BVR and local businesses such as Sunrise and Mountain View Hospitals and the Greer Center at CCSD. In the year long program high school students are assigned to worksites at locations where they can gain work experience by completing several work rotations with support from their teachers and BVR work-based trainers.

SEPHORA

The Sephora Training program is a collaborative training program between VR, Capability Health and Human Services and the Sephora Distribution Center in North Las Vegas. The training lasts 9 weeks, and clients learn soft skills as well as rotate between 3 warehouse/stocking positions in the warehouse. Once successful, the clients become permanent employees of Sephora. This collaborative program has served 21 clients in the last state fiscal year (SFY 23).



VR has embraced the legislatively-enhanced 700 - Hour Program, which creates employment pathways for individuals with disabilities. These employment opportunities are with state agencies, and afford the employer and employee 700 hours to determine if the individual is a good fit for the job. This program has been highly successful, having placed over 100 individuals in the last year and a half.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Gabby Villalba - Rehab Technician II

I remember my interview for the front desk position at Vocational Rehabilitation like it was yesterday. It was September 2018, and I had been referred by Jon Ponder from Hope for Prisoners. The night before, I stayed up researching what VR did because I wanted to be ready – I had never been fully prepared for a job interview before. I wanted this opportunity more than anything. Just six months earlier, I had walked out of prison for the second time after almost four years. I knew my past might hold me back, but I was determined to try.

During the interview, I was upfront about my history. I told the panel I was a felon, recently released from prison, and a recovering addict. I expected judgment – but instead, I was met with kindness. They looked at me not for my past mistakes, but for my potential. When they told me they wanted to give me a chance, I couldn't believe it. Two weeks later, I started at the front desk of the Westbay office. I gave that job everything I had. I learned as

much as I could about VR and the people we serve. Six months later, I was promoted to Rehabilitation Technician II – a milestone that showed me how far I had come.

Now, seven years later, I'm still here, proud to work for Vocational Rehabilitation and even prouder to say I've been clean for ten years. My clean date is 10/15/2015. I use my story to encourage others who feel trapped by their pasts. When clients tell me they can't move forward because they're felons, addicts, or living with a disability, I tell them, "The box you think you're in is self-made – you have the power to break out." I know firsthand that change is possible. I've lived it. The stigma will always exist, but we don't have to live under it. We can rise above it. I did – and I'm not done yet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT PROJECT SEARCH RENO



Vocational Rehabilitation in Northern Nevada is proud to partner with Project SEARCH National, Renown Regional Medical Center, Sierra Regional Center, and United Cerebral Palsy of Nevada to bring Project SEARCH back to our community. This international program has provided individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to build real-world job skills through a nine-month internship at a host employment site.

Renown Regional Medical Center serves as the host employer, offering internship rotations in departments such as pediatrics, environmental services, transport, progressive care telemetry, discharge, and medical/surgical units. The hospital's diverse departments create an immersive learning environment where interns gain hands-on experience and develop transferable employment skills.

The current internship cohort runs from August 2025 through June 2026. While Project SEARCH primarily serves youth ages 18-24, Renown's program also welcomes adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to ensure equitable access to competitive, integrated employment opportunities. This year's nine interns, ages 20–52, are supported by community partners who help them build skills, stamina, and meaningful workplace relationships.

Project SEARCH participants nationwide achieve strong outcomes - 72% secure competitive employment after completing the program, with average wages of \$13.83 per hour and 24-hour workweeks. Vocational Rehabilitation and its partners remain committed to continuing this successful initiative in Northern Nevada.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Troy Jordan

*Deputy Director of Programs,
DETR*

The 2025 legislative session ended in June and there was subsequent special session this November. During the regular session, the legislature appropriated the largest amount of general fund money to the vocational rehabilitation bureau, which was a significant victory for our agency, our staff, and the members of the public we serve. On the other hand, several significant bills did not pass during the 2025 general session. The following bills affecting the bureau were considered by the legislature during the 2025 session

I. Bills that passed:

AB 407: This bill requires an original equipment manufacturer of certain equipment designed for a person with a physical disability to make certain documentation, parts, and tools for the diagnosis, maintenance or repair of the equipment. It also limited the original manufacturer's liability from certain damage caused by a faulty repair job by a third party.

AB 442: This bill requires government agencies who grant money to non-profits to pay the non-profit for the services within 30 days of the invoice being received by the government agency

AB 284: This bill requires Medicaid in Nevada to establish reimbursement rates for epilepsy treatment and therapy devices.

II. Bills that failed:

AB 395: This bill requires healthcare facilities to have qualified sign language interpreters for people who are deaf and hard of hearing available either on site or remotely for patients.

AB 247: This bill requires certain accommodations of persons with physical disabilities at public meetings including Communication Access Realtime Translation and required the department of education to recognize American Sign Language as a foreign or world language course of study.

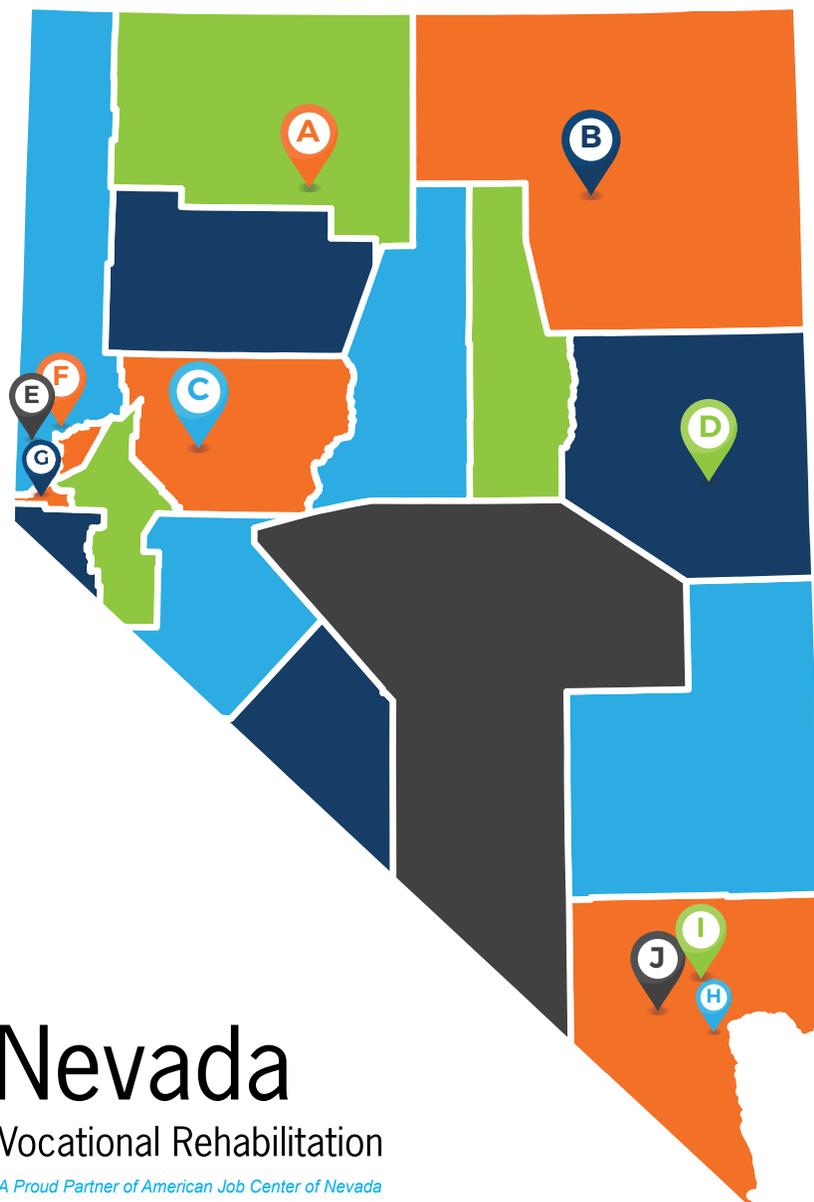
SB 357: This bill required the state board of education to prescribe standards for programs of instruction or special services for pupils with visual impairments or hearing impairments.



NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED

BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

CARSON - 286	EUREKA - 7	NYE - 22
CHURCHILL - 98	HUMBOLDT - 46	PERSHING - 11
CLARK - 5306	LANDER - 5	STOREY - 4
DOUGLAS - 111	LINCOLN - 2	WASHOE - 1969
ELKO - 124	LYON - 220	WHITE PINE - 50
ESMERALDA - 0	MINERAL - 7	OUT OF STATE - 26



V
R Nevada
Vocational Rehabilitation
A Proud Partner of American Job Center of Nevada
At Work for Disability Inclusion

OFFICE LOCATIONS

BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

A WINNEMUCCA

475 W Haskell Street, Suite 2
Winnemucca, NV 89445
775-623-6544

F SPARKS

2281 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
775-284-9520

B ELKO

172 6th Street
Elko, NV 89801
775-753-1931

G CARSON CITY

1933 N. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-0400

C FALLON

121 Industrial Way
Fallon, NV 89406
775-426-6568

H HENDERSON

4500 E. Sunset Rd., Suite 40
Henderson, NV 89014
702-486-0300

D ELY

1500 Avenue F, Suite 1
Ely, NV 89801
775-289-1675

I NORTH LAS VEGAS

2827 Las Vegas Blvd North
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-486-0200

E RENO

4001 S. Virginia St. Suite H-1
Reno, NV 89509
775-284-9600

1325 Corporate Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502
775-823-8100

J LAS VEGAS

3405 South Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89169
702-486-0100

3016 W Charleston, Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-486-5230

6330 W. Charleston, Suite 190
Las Vegas, NV 89146
702-822-4214