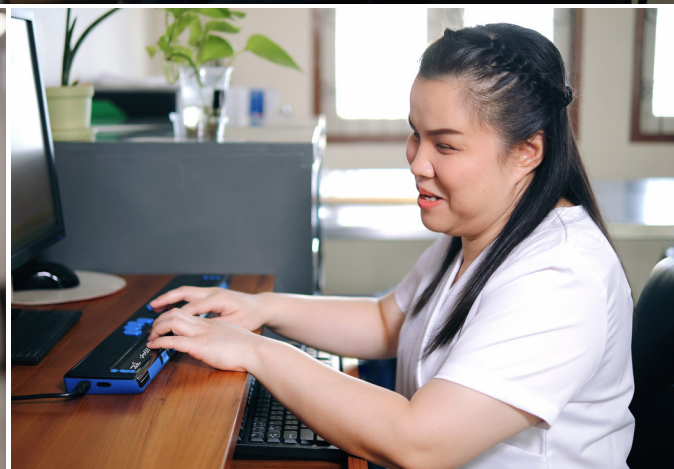


Alaska State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

2023 Annual Report



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

A proud partner of the American Job Center Network

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NOTE: This report covers the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23)
however, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's data compiled
for this report reflects State Fiscal Year 2022 (SFY23).

From the SVRC Chair and DVR Director

As the Chair of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) and the Director of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), it is our privilege to serve and assist Alaskans with disabilities in obtaining competitive and integrated employment. Our SVRC members bring a wealth of knowledge. We have seasoned board members who assist our newer members to understand their role in supporting the mission of Alaska DVR. Because of that effort, we see dividends from DVR's investment in the SVRC, ensuring it is well-supported and full of effective, diverse, and thoughtful members.

Alaska DVR continues to adapt to the changes made over the last year impacting service delivery and increasing the number of Alaskans with disabilities served. It is vital we build upon our progress to improve the social and emotional well-being of Alaskans with disabilities. We are a planning agency that works with the consumer to help them establish a career through "informed choice". Good jobs advance Alaskans with disabilities to a better standard of living and well-being. Good workers, including those with disabilities, help lift Alaskan businesses to new heights.



SVRC Chair, Travis Noah



DVR Director, Duane Mayes

SVRC Committee and Members

Travis Noah**CHAIR**

Anchorage
Consumer

Mandy Link**VICE CHAIR**

Anchorage
Parent Training and
Information Center

Dave Bérube

Anchorage
Client Assistance Program

Robert Croley

Anchorage
Business

Doug Gryzbowski

Kenai
Vocational Rehabilitation
Counselor

Sarah Huntsinger

Eagle River
Community Rehabilitation
Program

Nate Kile

Anchorage
Consumer

Ashley Maximus

Wasilla
Business

Duane Mayes

Anchorage
Director, Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation

Michael Merritt

Anchorage
Consumer

Alison Nielson-Bryant

Anchorage
Alaska Workforce Investment
Board

Alicia Ore

Anchorage
Consumer

Marcus Sanders

Anchorage
Business

Trevor Shaw

Ward Cover
Business

Coleen Shivers

Juneau
Alaska Dept. of Education &
Early Development

Leila Taylor

Anchorage
Section 121

Emlie Woodward

Fairbanks
State Independent Living
Council

**The Alaska State Vocational
Rehabilitation Committee**

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) is composed of volunteers from around the state who are appointed by the Governor to both advise and partner with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Members help shape policy by participating in strategic planning, needs assessments, consumer satisfaction surveys, and ongoing program evaluation.

Members include people with disabilities, community rehabilitation program service providers, representatives from independent living, Department of Education and Early Development, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) programs, advocates, VR participants, and business leaders.

Each year, the SVRC submits this report on the status of the DVR program to the Governor and to the United States Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration.

DVR Strategic Plan



Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Mission

To assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

The SVRC and DVR continuously work to improve the delivery of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to Alaskans with disabilities. A keystone of this work is an ongoing, three-year cyclical strategic planning process, which is the responsibility of DVR and SVRC leadership. The strategic planning process utilizes data captured from the triennial Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) report. The results of the CSNA are used to develop DVR's priorities.

The strategic planning team includes the DVR management and leadership teams, SVRC members, the Client Assistance Program, and Tribal VR programs. The four goals listed below were identified for the 2020-2023 planning cycle and provide organizational direction and focus for DVR. Specific teams are tasked with duties that will ensure these goals are met. These assigned tasks are reviewed and updated quarterly.

Goal 1: Provide High-Quality Services

DVR will deliver high-quality vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and assist them with obtaining employment that is consistent with their career goals. This goal reflects DVR's continued focus on improving the VR service delivery system.

Goal 2: Provide Highly Skilled Staff

DVR will recruit, employ, retain, and train the most qualified and highly skilled rehabilitation staff. This goal reflects the value that DVR places on well-trained staff and the need for succession planning.

Goal 3: Improve Organizational Systems

DVR will continuously evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of organizational systems and identify opportunities to develop innovative solutions for necessary changes. This will include implementing advancements in technology as resources allow, analyzing current business practices to improve service delivery systems, and ensuring critical applications/systems are current.

Goal 4: Provide Leadership in the Workforce System

DVR will maintain a leadership role in expanding vocational opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities. This goal is to strengthen our connection to other programs that serve individuals with disabilities. DVR will continue to collaborate with other agencies to improve the delivery of VR services.

DVR Director Highlights

By Duane Mayes, DVR Director

In fiscal year 2023, we saw increases to Alaska DVR's:

- Applications by 6% (964)
- Eligibilities by 2% (818)
- Individualized Plans for Employment by 11% (593)

One of our top successes is the number of Alaskans with disabilities placed into competitive and integrated employment (292), and the increase in hourly wage from \$16.87 in fiscal year 2022 to \$18.66 in fiscal year 2023. This is a significant increase compared to previous years and should be celebrated. We are doing extensive outreach to our employer community statewide with the Business Engagement Services Team (BEST). I personally now hear from employers from across the state that they know who DVR is and how we can help them. They value hiring Alaskans with disabilities because they make great employees when it comes to performance and longevity. We see extensive evidence this is happening not just within the state of Alaska, but throughout the country.

As shared in last year's annual report, a time-limited Alaska Work Matters Taskforce (AWMTF), supported by Governor Dunleavy, was established in early 2021 to address and improve programs and policies specific to competitive integrated employment for Alaskans with disabilities throughout the state. The AWMTF met formally five times with numerous subcommittee meetings, wrapping up their work with a final report in September, 2022. The AWMTF consisted of Alaskans with disabilities, employers, tribal

partners, State of Alaska beneficiary boards, key department leaders, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (The Trust). A total of twenty-two recommendations were identified, some of which include:

- State of Alaska as a Model Employer for individuals with disabilities, including DVR's Provisional Hire Program.
- Building the capacity of the private sector to enhance employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- Designing youth transition programs providing career development, work-based learning experiences, and parental involvement.
- Establishing Employment First initiatives recognizing that work in the general workforce (competitive integrated employment) is the first and preferred outcome in the provision of publicly funded services and supports of all working age individuals with disabilities, including individuals with the most significant disabilities.
- Improving transportation policies to address options that are reliable and accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- Implementing stay at work, return to work policies and programs for individuals who become ill or injured on the job.
- Supporting disability owned and disabled veteran-owned businesses through procurement and contracting systems.
- Enhancing rural traditional skill development such as subsistence, self-employment, etc.
- Expanding the use of the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model.

- Developing a policy enhancement recommendation report relating to improving employment outcomes for Alaskans with disabilities.
- Promoting telework as a core-employment strategy.

Over the past year, multiple presentations have been given to our community partners, State of Alaska beneficiary boards, national organizations in the field of disability, and key leaders within the Alaska Legislature and the State of Alaska's Executive Branch. With the AWMTF recommendations now set in stone, it is our job to educate key leaders. As many of the AWMTF members would say, the value of work matters. Employment is the most direct and cost-effective way to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve independence and economic self-sufficiency. Employment of individuals with disabilities revitalizes Alaska's economy by growing the taxpayer base while simultaneously lowering the State's public assistance and medical benefits costs.

Over the past year we have seen improvements with the State of Alaska as a Model Employer of individuals with disabilities; an increase in the number of employers in the private sector that are employing Alaskans with disabilities; an increase in activities through career-based grants for youth with disabilities; and funding to the Anchorage School District for the role of out of the College Ready, Career Ready, and Life Ready Academies Model designed to improve transition services for students with disabilities districtwide. We are also seeing telework as a core employment strategy for Alaskans with disabilities statewide.

It is critical that we maintain our momentum to memorialize the recommendations identified by the AWMTF. As I am often quoted in saying, competitive integrated employment for Alaskans with disabilities is a "game changer".

As we enter into the next year, we will have a new Combined State Plan as required by the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) to outline what Alaska is doing to help individuals with disabilities enter into high-quality jobs and careers, a new five-year Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan that will incorporate many of the recommendations outlined in the AWMTF report, and a new three-year DVR Strategic Plan developed by the SVRC and DVR Leadership using data from the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment.

I've been privileged to work most of my career with Alaska DVR. I have met many Alaska DVR professionals who have dedicated their lives to helping Alaskans with disabilities. Over the last two and a half years, we lost two of those dedicated individuals to terminal illnesses. It is my hope that we continue to honor their memory by carrying on the work they so dearly loved.

My best,

Duane



DVR at a Glance

Individuals served by DVR represent demographics as vast as Alaska itself. Although each individual has their own unique story, looking at aggregate numbers can help provide the community with an understanding of the overall scope of Alaska's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program.

Vocational Rehabilitation Outcomes for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023

- 1,951 individuals received services from the VR program
- \$3,446,700 was spent on individuals in the VR program
- \$1,489,001 was spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services provided to students with disabilities under the Potentially Eligible program
 - 91 Alaskan cities hosted PE programs
 - 68% of the PE programs occurred in rural Alaska
- \$183,521 was spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services provided to students with disabilities under the VR program
- 964 new individuals applied for services
- 1,951 individuals received information and referral services
- 292 individuals exited the program employed with an average wage of \$18.66/hr. The average wage increased by \$1.79 from last year. The minimum wage in Alaska is \$10.85

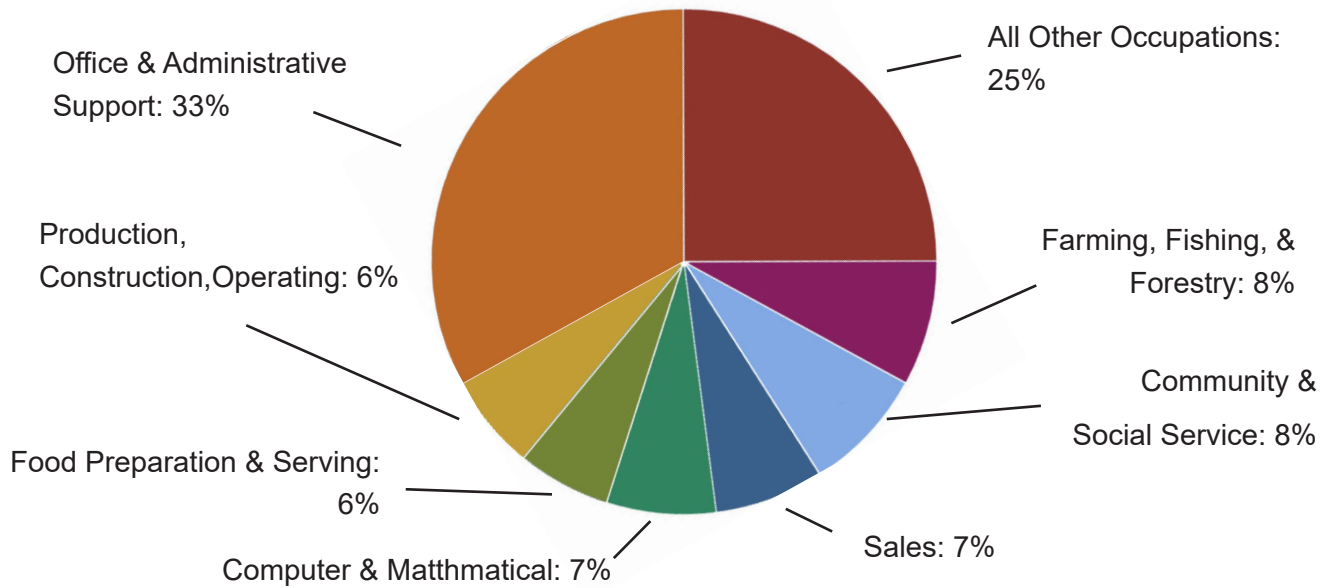
Of the 292 individuals who exited the program:

- 250 were employed in the private sector
- 30 were employed in Federal, State, or Local government
- 12 were self-employed

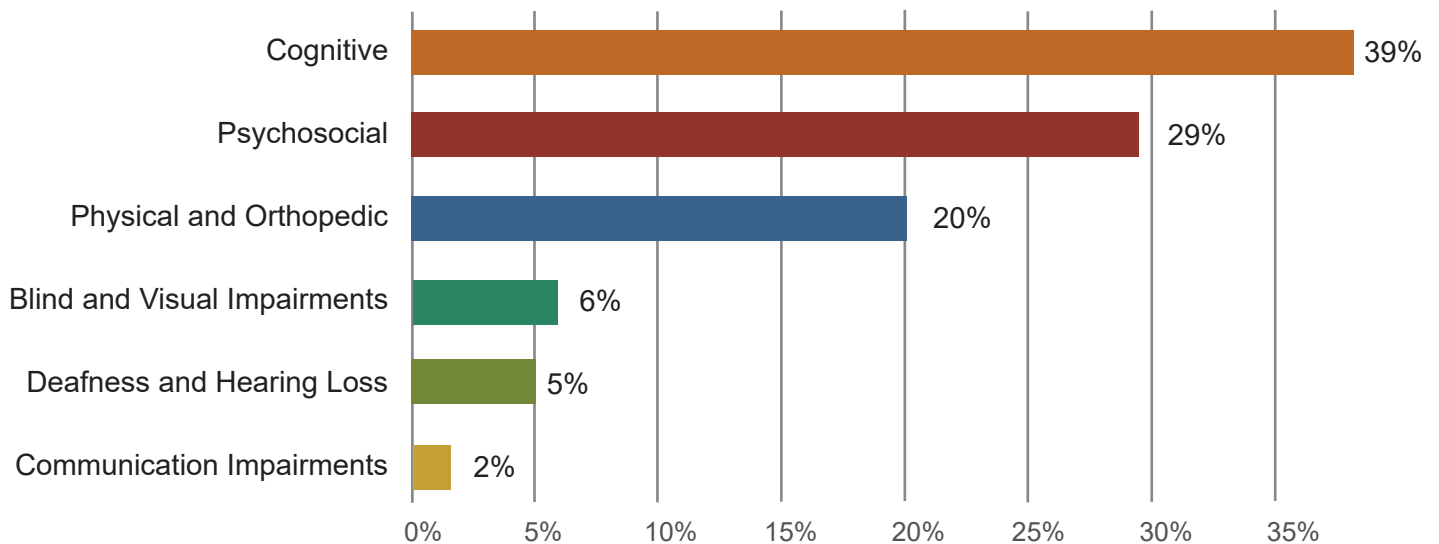
Who DVR Serves

- 98% of individuals receiving services were significantly disabled, with multiple barriers to employment
- 63% were Caucasian; 22% were Alaska Native; 9% were Black or African American; 4% were Asian, and 2% were Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian (participants may identify as one or more racial groups)
- 1,434 Students with a Disability (age 14-21) received Pre-Employment Transition Services from both the VR and Potentially Eligible programs, spanning 92 different communities across Alaska

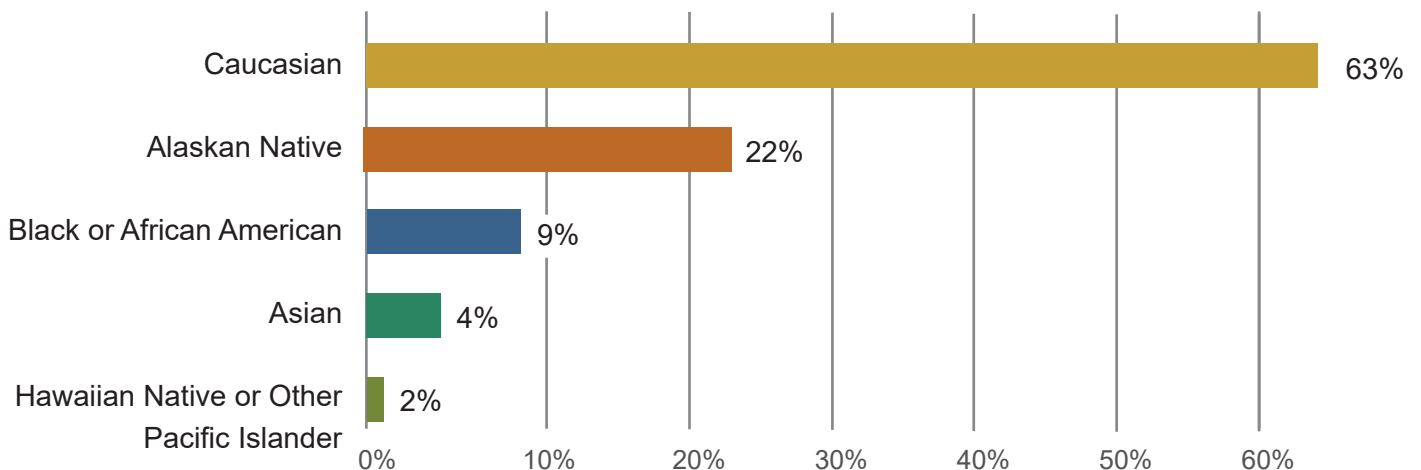
Occupations of DVR Participants after Exiting the Program SFY 2023



Disabilities of DVR Participants SFY 2023



DVR Participants by Race SFY 2023





DVR Purchased Services SFY 2023

The federal agency that oversees DVR is the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA identifies five specific service category focus areas provided to individuals with disabilities:

Career Services

Career Services consists of identifying the needs of individuals as their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) is developed. Career Services includes services such as labor market information, vocational assessments, diagnosis and treatment, and counseling and guidance. Career Services are provided to assist individuals in obtaining or retaining employment.

Training Services

Training Services are provided to assist individuals in accomplishing their vocational goals. Training Services are available for individuals who are unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment that leads to self-sufficiency. Training Services includes services such as college/university enrollment (junior, four-year, and graduate levels), occupational/vocational training, on-the-job training, and apprenticeships. Training Services assist individuals in obtaining an education credential, such as a degree or certificate, which will increase

their probability of achieving competitive integrated employment.

Other/Supportive Services

Other/Supportive Services are available to participants who are receiving career or training services and to assist in reduce barriers to employment. Other/Supported Services includes services such as support for transportation, personal assistant services, maintenance, rehabilitation technology, reader services, and interpreter services.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) under the VR program

Pre-ETS are a specialized group of services provided to Students With Disabilities (SWDs) to prepare them to transition from an educational setting to post-secondary education or employment. Pre-ETS under the VR program are delivered to SWDs who have applied for VR services and can be provided at any stage in the VR process. These services are provided to a participant of the VR program who is 14-21 years old and currently enrolled in an educational program such as high school, college, or other recognized educational program. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended, identifies five distinct Pre-ETS activities: Job Exploration Counseling; Work-Based Learning Experiences; Counseling on Enrollment Opportunities in Post-Secondary Education; Workplace Readiness Training and

Consumer Quote from Satisfaction Surveys

“From the start to the very end it was a group effort... and I had so many resources helping me make the best, informed choices for my career path. I was so fortunate to have such a wonderful team.”

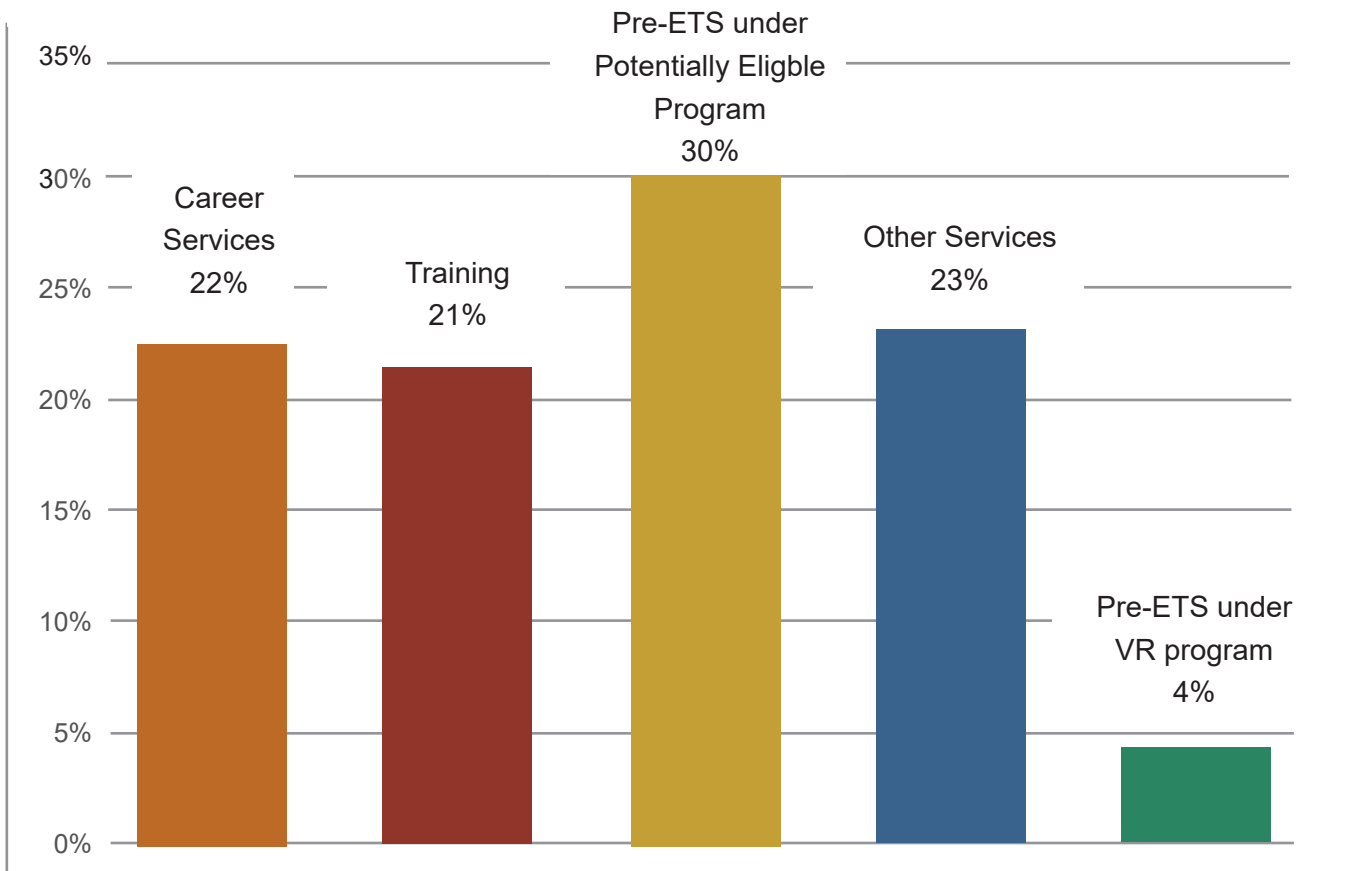
DVR Purchased Services continued...

Independent Living; and Instruction in Self Advocacy. DVR provided Pre-ETS services under the VR program to 66 SWDs throughout SFY23.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) under the Potentially Eligible program

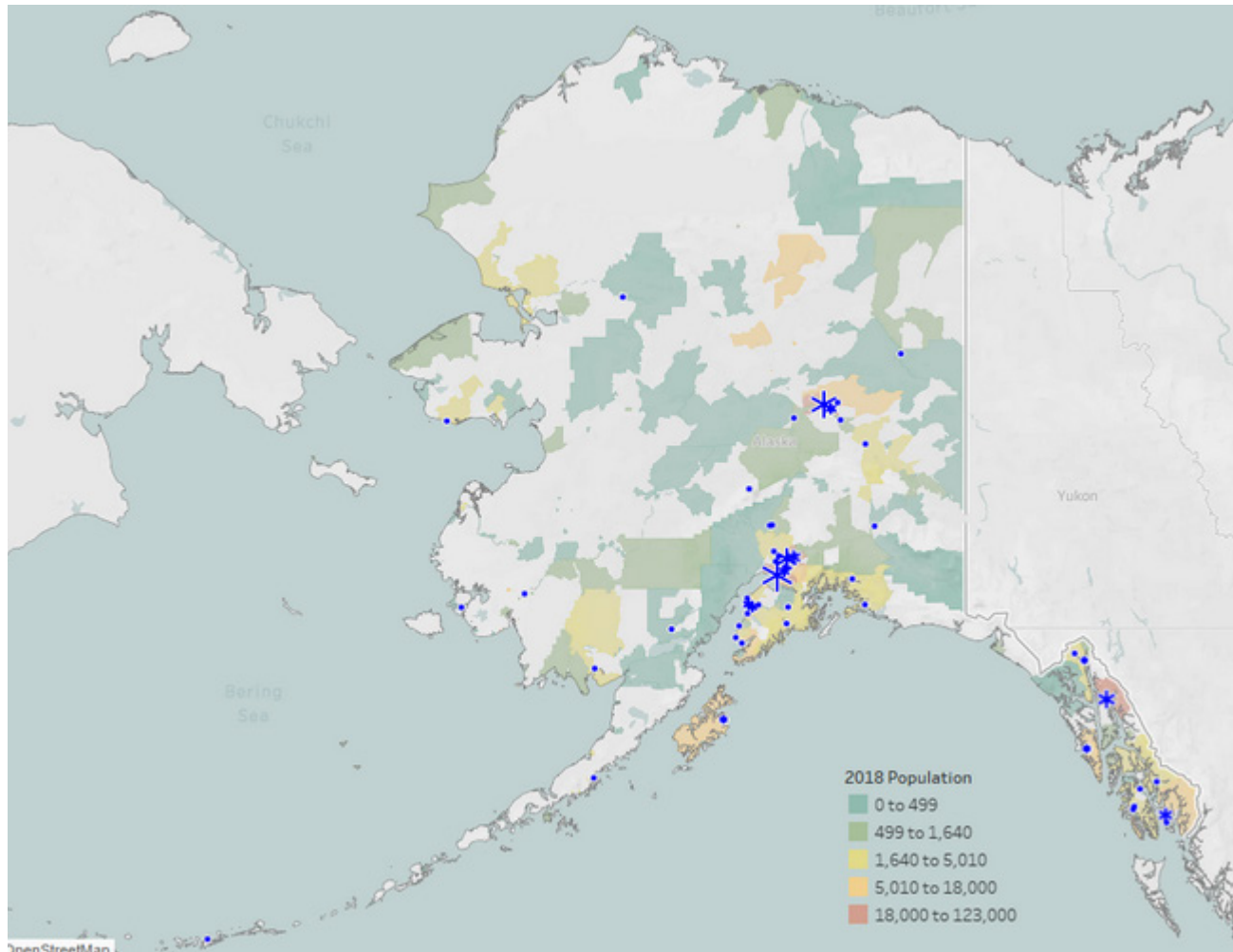
Similar to the Pre-ETS under the VR program described above, Pre-ETS under the Potentially Eligible program provides Pre-ETS to Students With Disabilities (SWDs) who are not applicants of the VR program, but who are considered to be potentially eligible for VR services. These services are provided to SWDs who are 14-21 years old and currently enrolled in an educational program such as high school, college, or recognized educational program. These SWDs are also provided with Job Exploration Counseling; Work-Based Learning Experiences; Counseling on Enrollment Opportunities in Post-Secondary Education; Workplace Readiness Training and Independent Living; and Instruction in Self Advocacy. DVR provided Pre-ETS services under the Potentially Eligible program to 1,368 SWDs in 91 different cities throughout SFY23. This is an increase of 392 SWDs from last year.

Purchased Services SFY 2023 (\$4.9 million)



Locations of Alaskans Served SFY 2023

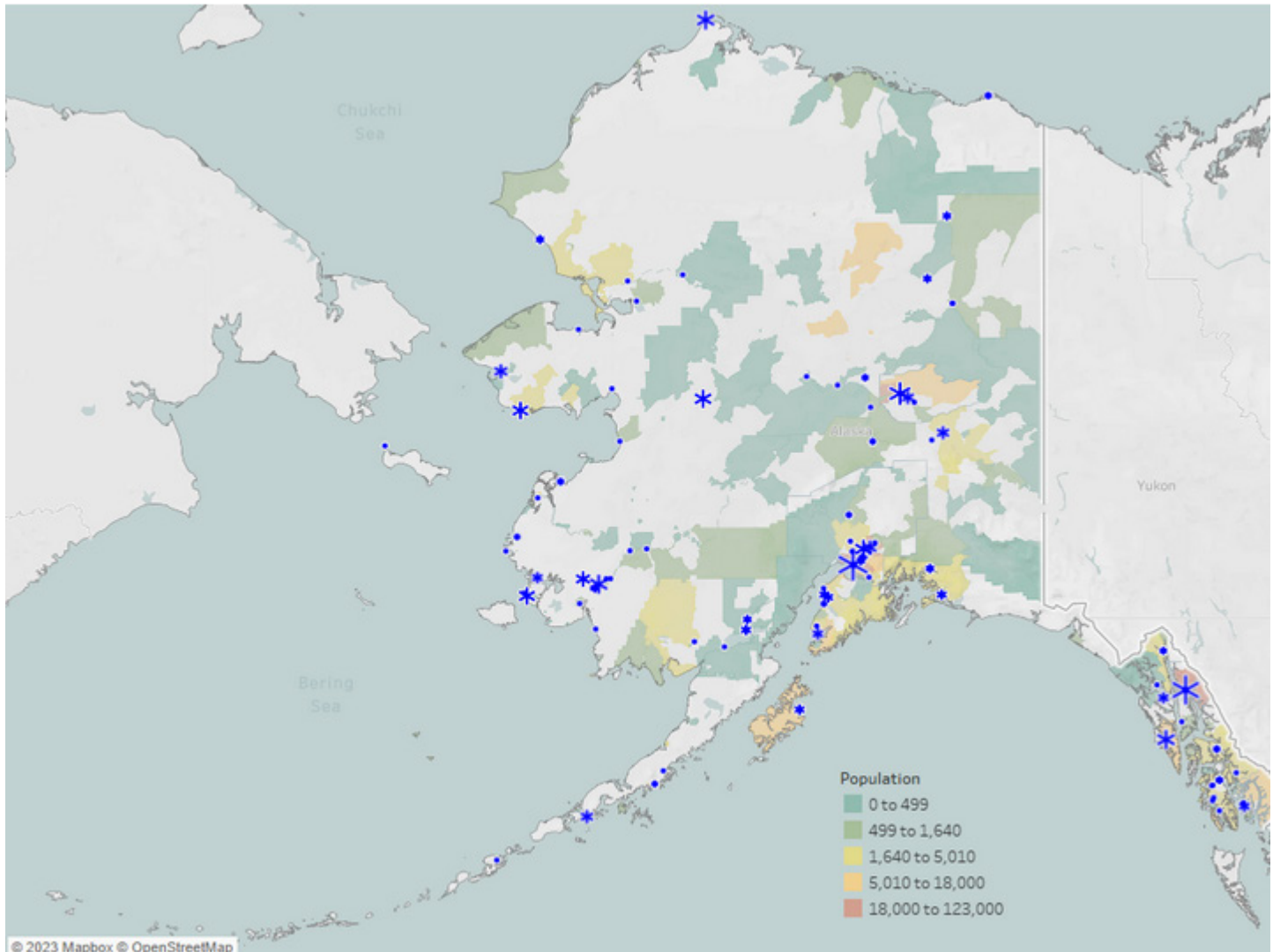
1,951 Participants Served by the Vocational Rehabilitation Program in 52 Communities



Vocational Rehabilitation Program: These are individuals who have applied for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and have been assigned a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to assist them towards achieving competitive integrated employment.



1,434 Students With Disabilities Participants Served in 92 Communities (Potentially Eligible and Vocational Rehabilitation Program)



Potentially Eligible Program: Pre-Employment Transition Services are services provided only to Students With Disabilities (SWDs) who are not applicants of the VR program, but who are considered to be potentially eligible for VR services. These services are provided to SWDs who are 14-21 years old and currently enrolled in an educational program such as high school, college, or recognized educational program.



Consumer Satisfaction

Survey of Participants Who Exit DVR Services

The SVRC oversees the on-going consumer satisfaction survey sent to DVR participants who were closed after an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) was developed.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey Highlights

DVR is a consumer-driven organization where a participant's self-involvement and informed choice during the vocational rehabilitation process are vital for success. The consumer satisfaction survey focuses on four points: Consumer and Staff Interaction, Consumer Involvement, Program Information, and Program Satisfaction.

Surveys are sent to participants' email addresses via the online survey tool, SurveyMonkey. The surveys are sent on a monthly basis to individuals who have exited the program after an IPE was developed. Currently, 95% of DVR participants who meet the established survey parameters have a valid email address, which is a 2% increase from last year. The average monthly response rate is 6.3%. Each area outlined below experienced an increase in positive responses from the previous year.

Treating the Consumer Participant with Respect

Ninety-one percent of DVR participants who responded agreed that staff replied promptly to their questions, requests, and informed them of changes, a 10% increase from last year. Additionally, 88% of respondents felt staff were polite and helpful on an on-going basis during the life of their case, a 7% increase from the prior year.

Informed Choice and Involvement in the DVR Process

Eighty-five percent of respondents were pleased with their involvement in the decision-making process that led to their IPE. This is an 18% increase from last year. Additionally, 85% stated that Alaska DVR helped them understand their abilities so that they could choose a job consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, capabilities, interests, and informed choice which is an increase of 11% from the previous year.

Referral of Others and Program Satisfaction

Respondents indicated an 82% satisfaction rate of the DVR program and the services they received. This result is a significant improvement from last year's 67% satisfaction rate. Overall, 82% of respondents stated they would recommend Alaska DVR to others, an 8% increase from last year.

Review

The results of the surveys are reviewed on a quarterly basis and forwarded to regional office managers for follow-up and further action if needed.

"I had so many resources. DVR got me hooked up with other agencies.
Beyond grateful." - DVR Consumer



All Respondents SFY 2023 - Survey Categories

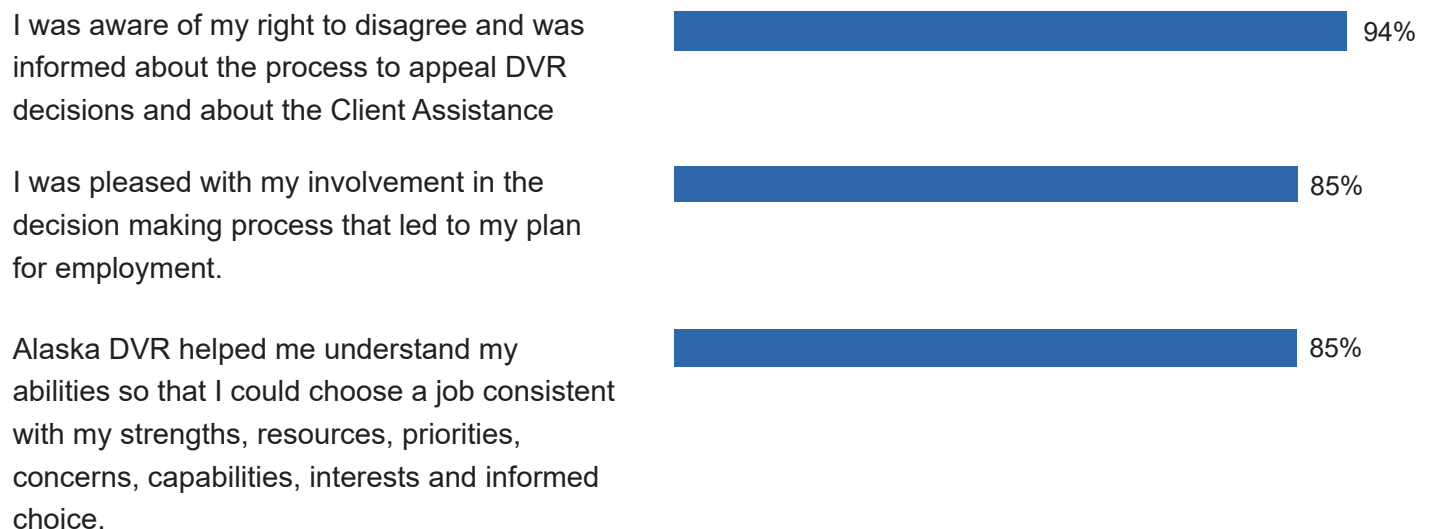
1. Program Satisfaction



2. Program Information



3. Consumer Involvement



4. Consumer and Staff Interaction



SVRC Expenditures and Resources

SVRC 2023 Expenditures

The SVRC FFY 2023 funds were used for expenses related to quarterly meetings and for a member to attend the virtual portion of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation's Fall conference. Four quarterly meetings were held via video conference. Prior to the pandemic, the SVRC would meet face-to-face at least once during the year. However, due to COVID-19, all meetings were virtual in FFY 2023. Meeting costs included the use of a court reporter and the provision of accessibility options for the public and members with disabilities.

2024 Resource Plan

FFY 2024 funds will be used to support the SVRC's quarterly meeting expenses, including one face-to-face meeting to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, if health and safety concerns allow. This will involve travel and accommodations for members and staff, a court reporter, a sign language interpreter for public testimony, conference room rental, and meeting accessibility needs of the public and members. Funds will also be used to pay for travel, room and board, and conference registration for two members to attend a National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils conference.



DVR, along with other Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development divisions, visited the Joint Base Elmendorf - Richardson to hear about their specific hiring needs.



In partnership with DVR, the SVRC engaged in a broad range of activities during FFY 2023, October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, to help ensure the quality of DVR's services.

SVRC Activities FFY 2023

- Collected public testimony from around the state via email, phone, and written letters.
- Held four meetings via video/teleconference. Each meeting focused on different regions: Anchorage/Mat-Su, Rural, Northern, and Southern.
- Increased new member recruitment efforts, in order to address challenges stemming from the pandemic. Feedback has been that many businesses are short staffed, and the staff they do have are stretched thin.

Speakers

At each meeting, reports were given by the DVR Director, Duane Mayes; Chief of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Mariah Krueger; DVR Rehabilitation Manager(s); and from the following partner members: Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, the Client Assistance Program, and the parent training organization "Stone Soup Group." There were also a variety of guest speakers from disability, community, tribal, and workforce development agencies.



The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) invited Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Director, Duane Mayes, to Chicago to present on the final Alaska Work Matters Task Force Report, including community-based learning experiences for youth with disabilities. The trip was sponsored by the Council on State Governments.

SVRC Subcommittee Activities

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) has five standing subcommittees: Executive; Program Evaluation; Assistive Technology; Planning and Recruitment; and Policy, Public Relations, and Resources.

Below is a summary of each subcommittee's role and activities.

Executive

The Executive subcommittee's role for the SVRC is to help all members and subcommittees work effectively as a team. The Executive subcommittee comprises the chair of the SVRC, the vice chair, and the chairs of the other subcommittee chairs.

The subcommittee held monthly teleconferences where members reviewed the work of the SVRC as a whole, assigned work to the other subcommittees, and planned the SVRC's quarterly meetings. The DVR Director attended the Executive subcommittee meetings as a nonvoting member, providing high-level updates on DVR priorities and initiatives.

The Executive subcommittee also planned the SVRC's quarterly meetings.

Program Evaluation

The purpose of the Program Evaluation subcommittee is to review and analyze the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, its functions, services, and outcomes. The Program Evaluation subcommittee also worked in collaboration with the Recruiting and Planning subcommittee on recruitment.

Members from each subcommittee met to brainstorm recruitment ideas and review documentation for tracking recruitment options.

Assistive Technology

The Assistive Technology (AT) subcommittee provides "consumer-responsive and consumer-driven" input and feedback on how the federal AT Act funds are used in the state of Alaska. The goal of the AT Act is to help individuals who experience a disability, get the AT needed to improve their quality of life and independence. The subcommittee's goal is to promote the use and knowledge of AT for Alaskans with disabilities. This includes how AT provides improved access and independence and decreases barriers. The AT subcommittee brings formal recommendations to the SVRC for further actions.

This past year the AT subcommittee met virtually with Assistive Technology of Alaska's (ATLA) Director, Mystie Rail, and the DVR AT Coordinator, Jason Caputo, every two months.

DVR Director, Duane Mayes, also provided an update on transferring funds from DVR's AT Loan Fund to ATLA. The SVRC had previously suggested this to DVR, and DVR agreed this would be a more efficient use of the funds considering ATLA's AT focus, diverse programs, and the restrictive nature of the rules governing the AT Loan Fund. The transfer of funds will require a statute change, and DVR is working with a legislative sponsor to support this change.



SVRC Subcommittee Activities continued...

Planning and Recruitment

The Planning and Recruitment subcommittee's role is to collaborate with DVR on the preparation and renewal of the WIOA Combined State Plan, the triennial Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, and recruitment of new committee members. This subcommittee held multiple meetings via videoconference where it reviewed the current member recruitment efforts for vacant committee seats, planned for when seats would become vacant, and strategized how the SVRC could reach potential members with diverse perspectives and limit vacancies while maintaining quality, active members.

Quality recruitment continues to be a priority for the SVRC, and the pandemic and consequent hiring challenges continue to make recruitment difficult.

Policy, Public Relations, and Resources

The Policy, Public Relations, and Resources subcommittee's role is to provide guidance and recommendations to DVR on their policies as well as input to both the SVRC and DVR on their public relations efforts. This includes collaborating with the SVRC Planning and Recruitment subcommittee to coordinate SVRC member recruitment efforts.

This past year, DVR has had minimal policy updates. The subcommittee provided input to the DVR Communications Lead on how best to promote SVRC public testimony and meetings.





Public Testimony Examples

Public testimony was collected at each of the committee's quarterly meetings. These are a few examples.

"When walking I was struck by a drunk driver, put in the hospital for 3 months and they told me I may never walk again. This was devastating to me, and didn't think I would make it, I was miserable. I was in so much pain all the time.

I contacted DVR, and worked with a counselor after an orientation, he told me about the MASST program. I was interested, as I knew it would get my foot in the door with the State and that I would be able to get a position after learning about all the resources available.

I have been with the State for 6 years in January now and love my job.

I will always be thankful for DVR for assisting with my employment needs with the state and able to get off disability, work a full-time job, and go back to school."

- DVR participant

"DVR helped me a lot in my career and in my life by providing me a hearing aid for my hearing clarity problem. Your services help a lot of people with disabilities like me. Continue to help others and doing good on people who need help."

- DVR participant

"I have worked closely with DVR for the last seven years as a CRP providing various services in the Anchorage bowl area. Overall, I have had a positive experience working with DVR and this is due largely to open communication between my department and the various counselors that we have worked alongside. While roles have evolved and changed over the years we have maintained communication and the same overarching goal of finding and maintaining employment for the folks that we serve.

This is not to say that there have not been any hiccups, we have had miscommunication and changes in processes that needed to be worked out, but this was overcome with open communication."

- Community Rehabilitation Provider

"DVR services significantly impacted my life in a positive way. Without assistance from my counselor and team, I would most likely be homeless and without work.

For those of us with complex PTSD we navigate the world through a lens of neurodivergence, and to feel supported, we need service providers to be well-trained and have a deeper understanding and compassion for the adversities we face. My counselor has done a wonderful job supporting me as I worked to create a better world for myself and others. I deeply respect her empathic approach."

- DVR participant

The Committee Seeks Your Input



The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee invites you to:

Apply for Membership

If you care about issues pertaining to disability and employment, the SVRC encourages you to apply for a seat on this committee. You may apply at: <https://gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions/apply-for-a-board-appointment/>

You may also apply by sending a completed Boards and Commissions application, resume, and a brief letter explaining your desire to serve the State of Alaska to:

Office of the Governor

Attention: Director of Boards and Commissions

P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK, 99811-0001

For more information, contact the Boards and Commissions office:

Call: 907-269-0006

Fax: 907-269-7463

E-mail: Boards@Alaska.Gov

Attend a Meeting or Public Forum

All State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee meetings and forums are open to the public. Meeting dates are available at <https://labor.alaska.gov/svrc/svrc-meeting-calendar.html>. Notification of meeting times and agenda are posted 30 days prior to meetings at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>.

More information about the SVRC is available at www.labor.alaska.gov/svrc.

Share Your Thoughts and Ideas with SVRC

Call: Voice/TDD 907-465-2814 or 1-800-478-2815

Mail: Chair, State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

PO Box 115516

Juneau, AK 99811-5516

E-mail: dol.svrc@Alaska.Gov

Examples of DVR's Social Media Outreach

Alaska DVR social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).



July is Disability Pride Month, and July 26 marks the 33rd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which protects the rights of Americans with disabilities in all areas of public life.

DVR's Business Specialist, Lynne Sauve, and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Angela Gray, celebrated by attending the Anchorage Disability Pride event last week in Delaney Park.

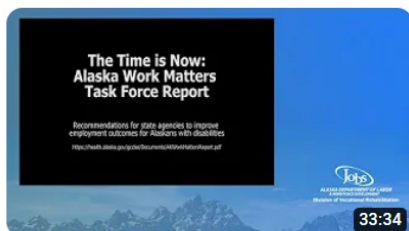


Congratulations to DVR's Anchorage Eagle River Counseling Region! They received an honorable mention for the Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award, Customer Service Excellence Team.

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Acting Commissioner Muñoz traveled to Anchorage and joined DVR Director Mayes to recognize this dedicated group.

The DVR Anchorage Eagle River Counseling Team includes John McKay, Michael Meeks, Annis Killen, Tammy Williamson, Konstance Miller, Megan Schiele, Jennie Engebretsen, Michaela Phelps, and Luke Hobbs. Their manager at the time was current DVR Deputy Chief, Kate Duder.

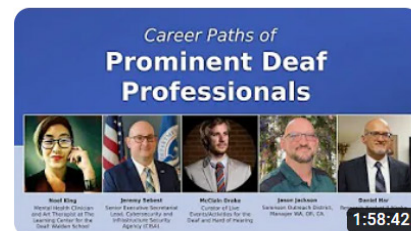
Examples of DVR YouTube Videos



The Time Is Now: Alaska Work Matters Task Force Report
123 views • 10 months ago



History of the Deaf Professionals Network
135 views • 1 year ago



Career Paths of Prominent Deaf Professionals
378 views • 1 year ago

Examples of DVR's Social Media Outreach *continued*



Thank you ENSTAR Natural Gas Company for our partnership!

DVR Business Solution Specialist, Carol Polito, met with ENSTAR Natural Gas Company Customer Service Supervisors and Manager, and HR Department Director and staff, to learn about their hiring requirements and candidate preferences.

ENSTAR Natural Gas Company understands the value that all employees bring to their company and is committed to providing an environment that is diverse, inclusive, and accessible for all.

We look forward to helping ENSTAR hire more great employees!



In this excerpt from an usually internal podcast, DVR Director Mayes and Regional VR Manager Gina Bastian talk with host Jason Caputo about the 50th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act and National Disability Employment Awareness Month. - [Link to video](#)

Two More DVR Staff Recognized for Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award

Congratulations to DVR's Chief of Rehabilitation Services, Mariah Krueger, and American Sign Language Interpreter, Ryan Scortt! Each was nominated for a category of the Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award: Mariah for "Leadership, Individual" and Ryan for "Customer Service Excellence, Individual."

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Acting Commissioner Muñoz traveled to Anchorage and joined DVR Director Mayes to recognize these hard-working professionals.



Alaska State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

2023 Annual Report

Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor

Catherine Muñoz, Acting Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor
and Workforce Development

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

PO Box 115516

Juneau, AK 99811-5516



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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