

How Does Iowa Workforce Development's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division Help People with Disabilities?

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Iowa Workforce
Development

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

OBJECTIVES

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Provide a brief overview of
IVRS services for students.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

Provide IVRS updates

IOWA HAS TWO VR AGENCIES

Rehabilitation Services Administration

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Iowa

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Iowa Department for the Blind

WIOA LEGISLATION: KEY CH

01

Added Pre-ETS

02

Limitations on
subminimum wage

03

Collaboration between
IVRS and IDB

04

Specified the need to
avoid supplanting

05

Added Potentially
Eligible

06

Always focus on CIE

DEFINITIONS

- Potentially Eligible (PE): Any student with a disability who is currently on an IEP or covered under the provisions of section 504, regardless of whether the student has applied for, or been determined eligible for IVRS.
- IVRS Eligible: A student with a disability who has applied for, and been determined eligible, for IVRS.

DEFINITIONS

- Pre -Employment Transition Services: Activities for students with disabilities that provide an early start at job exploration. They also assist with making decisions about post -secondary education and/or employment.



WHO CAN ACCESS SERVICE



- Potentially Eligible for IVRS
 - Students with documented disabilities, in an education program, between the ages of 14 through 21
 - For potentially eligible, IVRS staff coordinate needed Pre-ETS but there is no individualized plan for employment (IPE)
- Eligible for IVRS
 - Students have applied for and been determined eligible for IVRS services
 - IVRS staff include needed Pre-ETS as part of the IPE, which includes additional services unique to the individual that assist them in achieving competitive integrated employment
 - Adults with disabilities

IVRS SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE

All services are individualized for the unique needs of the individual with a disability receiving them to allow that individual to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment. Examples of services include:

- Assessment
- Vocational counseling and guidance
- Self-Employment
- College training
- Occupational/vocational training
- Work-based learning experiences
- Job readiness training
- Disability-related skills training
- Supported Employment
- Customized Employment
- IPS
- Rehabilitation technology
- Information and referral
- Job search supports
- Interpreter services
- Benefits planning
- And more!

IVRS also offers other services to support the services listed:

- Transportation
- Maintenance
- Personal Attendant

COLLABORATION IS CRITICAL

How IVRS collaborates with schools:

- IVRS staff cover every school within the State of Iowa
- IVRS staff work with the schools to make Pre -ETS available to all students with disabilities
- IVRS and schools work together on outreach to students with disabilities
- IVRS staff inform and engage school staff
- Schools invite IVRS to IEP meetings
- IVRS works with schools to ensure students with disabilities are included in school activities
- Parent engagement is encouraged and stressed
- Funding decisions are made within the Memorandum of Agreement between IVRS and the Department of Education; and within the Memorandum of Agreement between IVRS and IDB
- IVRS works with schools to develop a local school plan that outlines the responsibilities of the local school, AEA, IVRS/IDB and other partners involved



Connect early with IVRS, so staff can assist with connections to community resources (e.g., waiver services, options for housing); work-based learning experiences, and other support services.

Ensure students are completing tasks and assignments provided to them.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

Hold high expectations for your student, IVRS, and the school.

Ask about options for appropriate accommodations (e.g., assistive technology) for your student.

Encourage your student to participate in classes and to attend all Pre-ETS activities and/or appointments with IVRS.

As IVRS and the school are providing opportunities for self-advocacy and choice, work with the student at home to do the same.

IVRS UPDATE

IOWA BLUEPRINT FOR CH

- IVRS was one of 14 state VR agencies awarded a Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) grant
- DIF -SWTCIE: move individuals from subminimum wage to competitive integrated employment
- Five-year grant (10/1/22 - 9/30/27), totaling \$13,875,048.55 with an additional year of evaluation at \$230,000
- Goal: Advance and improve systems so that Iowans with disabilities have competitive integrated employment opportunities that lead to economic security.



IOWA BLUEPRINT OBJECTIVES

- Students:
 - Developed a Collective (large group of over 130 individuals with lived experience, parents, agency staff, community providers, stakeholders, etc.) that all come together to work on systems change for the state of Iowa
 - Working on developing a Direct Support Professional Registered Apprenticeship and quality pre-apprenticeship program that will be available to students
 - Six pilot sites focused on ensuring services begin earlier for students; resulting in uninterrupted services for youth with disabilities
 - Offering IPS-Y for the first time in Iowa
 - Offering CE to youth and training Iowa providers to reach fidelity in services provided
 - Developing resources for parents/students on information learned through evaluation

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING

Visit: <https://ivrs.iowa.gov/welcome-ivrs/iowa-blueprint-change-dif-grant>

Sign up on the website for Collective meetings, or take the survey to provide your information so we can contact you

About IVRS

- About IVRS
- IVRS Highlights
- IVRS Process
- Frequently Asked Questions
- IVRS Policies
- IVRS Forms
- Join Our Team
- Agency Reports
- Iowa Blueprint for Change (DIF) Grant**
- DIF Service Map
- Iowa Government Realignment Updates
- VR Funding

[Year 2 Work Plan.pdf](#) (151.04 KB)

Newsletters +

IBC Collective +

Resources +

Survey

Please fill out our Iowa Blueprint for Change survey to share your thoughts!

[Take Iowa Blueprint for Change Survey](#)


Contact

If you have any questions, please contact:

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You can also contact:

- Changing the Narrative: [Kelly Strydom](#)
- Youth Transition: [Paul Fuller](#)
- Apprenticeship: [Ashley Banes](#)
- Policy: [Ben Grauer](#)



THANK YOU

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