
FFY 2015 Annual Report

Prepared for:
The Honorable
Jay Inslee
Governor
and

Janet LaBreck
Commissioner
US Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration



Washington State Rehabilitation Council
Building Inroads to Employment and Success

Dear Governor Inslee and Commissioner LaBreck,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair for the Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) during this past year. The work we do on the WSRC can be very challenging at times, because we are the voice to many in this State that are sometimes voiceless. The strength in our partnership with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) allows us to be the voice that helps to make the DVR system accessible and supportive of all those with disabilities who come to its door seeking employment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jana Finkbonner'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jana Finkbonner
Washington State Rehabilitation Council, Chair



DVR
Division
of Vocational
Rehabilitation

Dear Governor Inslee and Commissioner LaBreck,

The past year, 2015, was very positive for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), the Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC), and Washingtonians with disabilities seeking employment working with DVR. The partnership DVR has with the WSRC is vital to ensuring services are provided in a manner that best serves the customers of DVR. I am looking forward to another year of solid collaboration between DVR and the WSRC which benefits the citizens of this great State.

Sincerely,

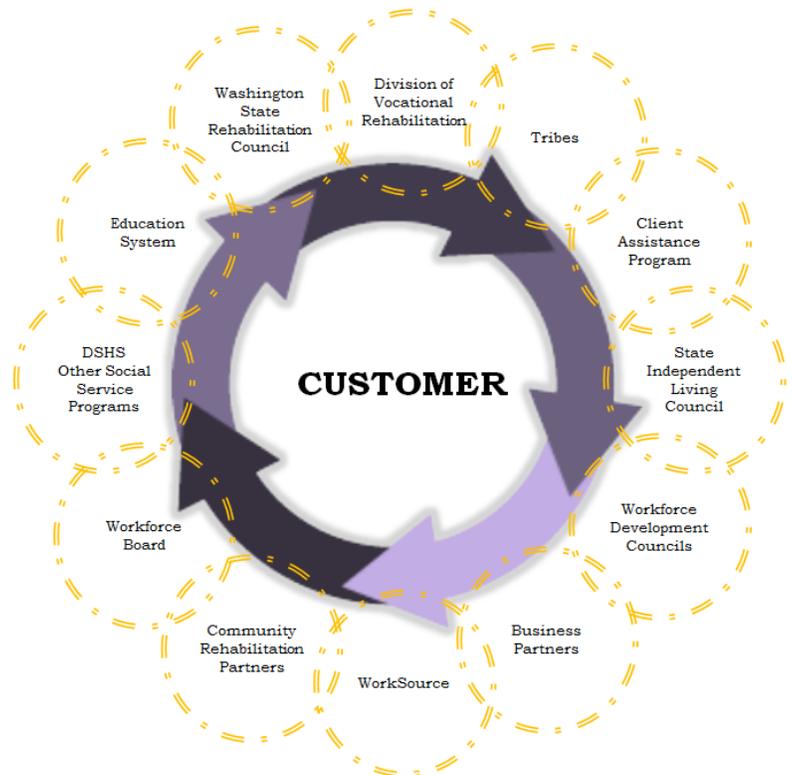
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andres F. Aguirre'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Andres Aguirre, Director
Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

CUSTOMER CENTERED PARTNERSHIPS

In FFY 2015, the WSRC and DVR partnered together more than ever before. Because of this strong partnership, and the partnership of all other programs, customers are better served.

- **Updating the WAC**
DVR is overhauling the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for the first time in eight (8) years. The WSRC has been working hand-in-hand with DVR to ensure that all WAC updates benefit customers.
- **Implementing WIOA**
To ensure all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) changes benefitted customers, the WSRC was involved with the development of training to all staff.



Continued Advocacy for Correcting DVR's Misalignment within DSHS Structure

In September 2013, the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration published its monitoring report, containing comprehensive evaluations of DVR. The report's primary finding and area for corrective action (Section 5 A, Section 6) concerned DVR's alignment within the DSHS reporting structure. Specifically, **DVR's current organization within RA is not in compliance with federal law.**

1. Current alignment does not comply with federal law. Action must be taken to restore DVR to an organizational status within DSHS comparable to that of other major organizational units.
2. Because DVR does not independently manage its funds, facilities, staff and organizational priorities, it is unable to:
 - a. Fully comply with federal law
 - b. Serve customers in accordance with established best practice
3. Failure to comply with RSA corrective actions could result in loss of federal funds, amounting to 72.5% of DVR's operating budget, which would affect the availability of services annually utilized by more than 20,000 Washingtonians with disabilities.

Washington State Rehabilitation Council **WSRC**

WHO IS THE WSRC

People with disabilities have influence in shaping the vocational rehabilitation services they receive. **The WSRC is that means of influence.**

WSRC Vision

To help individuals with disabilities get good jobs that pay well.



WHAT THE WSRC DOES

We partner with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to make decisions that better serve the customer. **We ensure the customer's voice is always heard.**

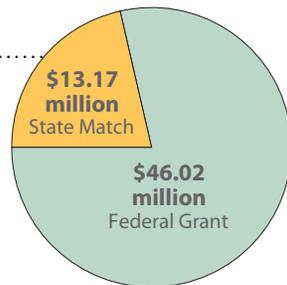
WHO DVR SERVES

DVR serves Washingtonians with disabilities who wish to achieve their goals for employment.



DVR FUNDING SOURCES

For every \$1.00 Washington invests, DVR receives \$3.78 from the federal government.

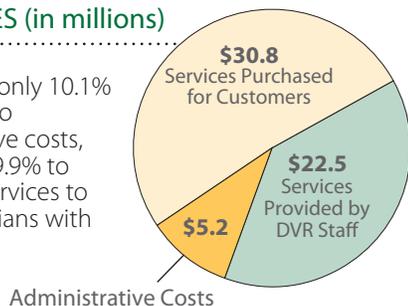


DVR's PERFORMANCE IN FFY 2015

- 3,191** Washingtonians with disabilities obtained or maintained employment through DVR
- 19,707** Washingtonians with disabilities served
- 11,070** Plans for Employment implemented, creating unique paths to employment
- 4,947** New Individualized Plans for Employment developed and written

DVR EXPENDITURES (in millions)

DVR utilizes only 10.1% of its funds to administrative costs, allocating 89.9% to providing services to Washingtonians with disabilities.



In addition to careers with the State of Washington, nearly 100 DVR customers obtained employment at federal, county, city, and public education settings.

DVR CUSTOMERS IN WA's LABOR FORCE

Through DVR, Washingtonians with disabilities find jobs uniquely suited to their skills, abilities, and interests. The top five businesses employing DVR customers are:

- 1 Walmart
- 2 Safeway
- 3 Goodwill Industries
- 4 Fred Meyer
- 5 Compass Group



DVR continues to partner with Washington's leading businesses to build advanced careers for Washingtonians with disabilities. These Washington businesses include:

- ★ Lowes Hardware
- ★ Costco Wholesale
- ★ Microsoft Corporation
- ★ Amazon
- ★ Macy's



WASHINGTON STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Council Members

The skill and dedication of our members determine the Council's success. Sixteen members served on our council in 2015. Most of the Council members are people who identify to have disabilities. Many of our members have, at one point or another, utilized vocational rehabilitation services in Washington State or another State. The council is also diverse in terms of gender, race, age and, geography. Following are brief profiles of those who served on the council in 2015:

Andres Aguirre, *Olympia*, Representing DVR Administration (Ex-Officio Member)

Bill Youngman, *Seattle*, Representing DVR Staff (Ex-Officio Member)

Dale Kosier, *Puyallup*, Representing the State Independent Living Council

Erica Hansen, *Olympia*, Representing the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Jana Finkbonner, *Bellingham*, Representing Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Jerry Johnsen, *Seattle*, Representing the Client Assistance Program

Justin Pool, *Yakima*, Representing the Client Assistance Program

Kathy Powers, *Seattle*, Representing Business and Industry

Kelly Boston, *Olympia*, Representing Business and Industry

Leandro Razo, *Grandview*, Representing Advocacy of and for People with Disabilities

Mike Hudson, *Seattle*, Representing Business and Industry

Philip Bradford, *Tacoma*, Representing Labor

Valerie Arnold, *Elma*, Representing the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Vanessa Lewis, *Tacoma*, Representing Washington PAVE, our state's parent education organization

Vickie Foster, *Seattle*, Representing Current or Former Customers of VR Services

Susan Kautzman, *Spokane*, Representing Community Rehabilitation Providers

The roles and responsibilities of the Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) are outlined in the in the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by WIOA.

- Review, analyze and advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).
- Advocate for improving service delivery for customers of DVR.
- In partnership with DVR, develop, agree to and evaluate the effectiveness of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.
- Contributing to the development of the DVR's State Plan and tracking its implementation;
- Analyzing program and performance data to assess DVR's performance on federal performance standards and indicators; and,
- Collaborating with DVR to develop and conduct comprehensive needs assessments and surveys of customer satisfaction.