

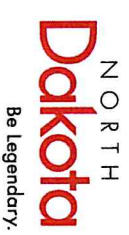


## ***Senate Bill 2012***

Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Bekkedahl, Chairman

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Vocational Rehabilitation | January 17, 2023



Health & Human Services



# HHS Goal: Help ND become the healthiest state in the nation

We'll focus on three actions to accomplish this:

Invest in the  
**FOUNDATIONS**  
of well-being

Ensure everyone has the  
opportunity to realize  
their **POTENTIAL**

Give everyone the  
**OPPORTUNITY** to  
decide to:



Economic  
Health



Strong, Stable  
Families



Be Healthy



Behavioral  
Health



Services Closer  
to Home



Be Active



Physical  
Health



Early Childhood  
Experiences



Find & Prevent  
Disease Early

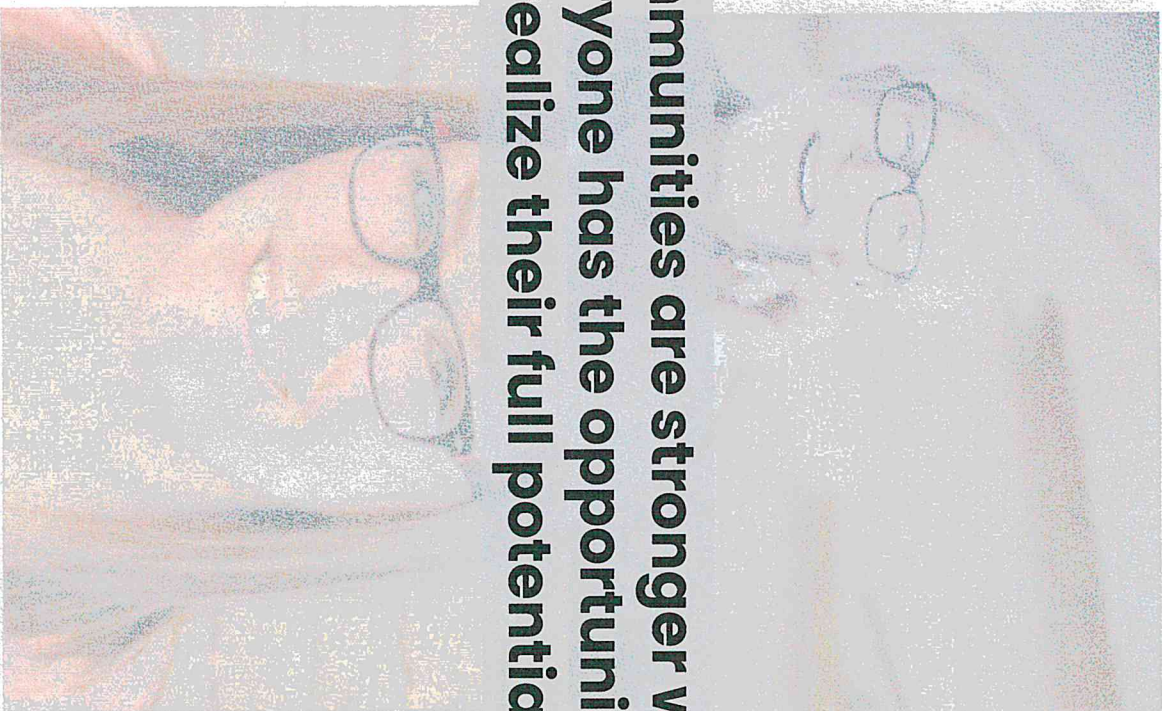
Efficiency  
Through  
Redesign

High-  
Performing  
Team





**Communities are stronger when everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential**

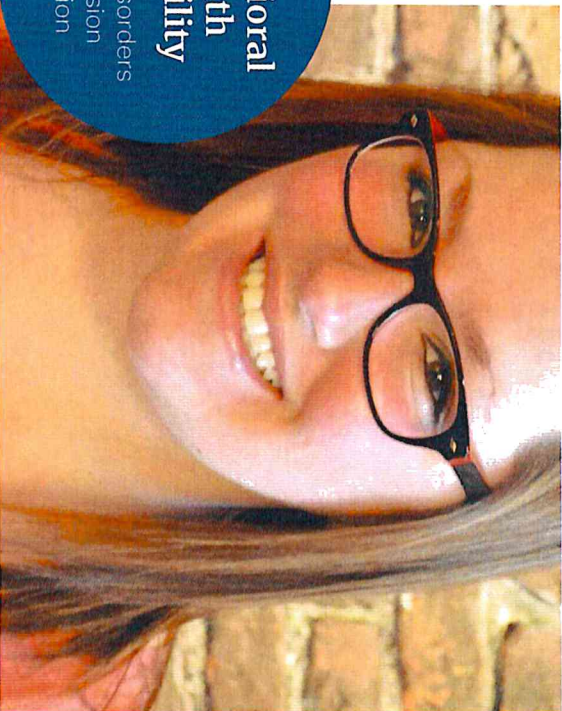




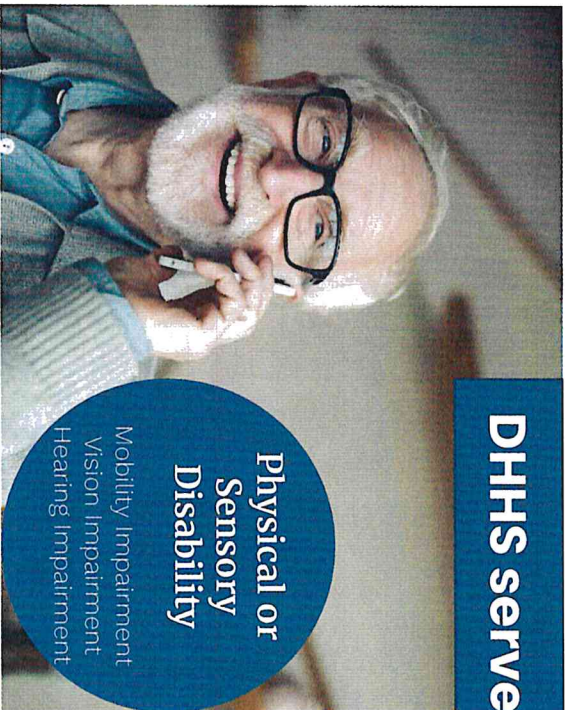
# DHHS serves people with Disabilities



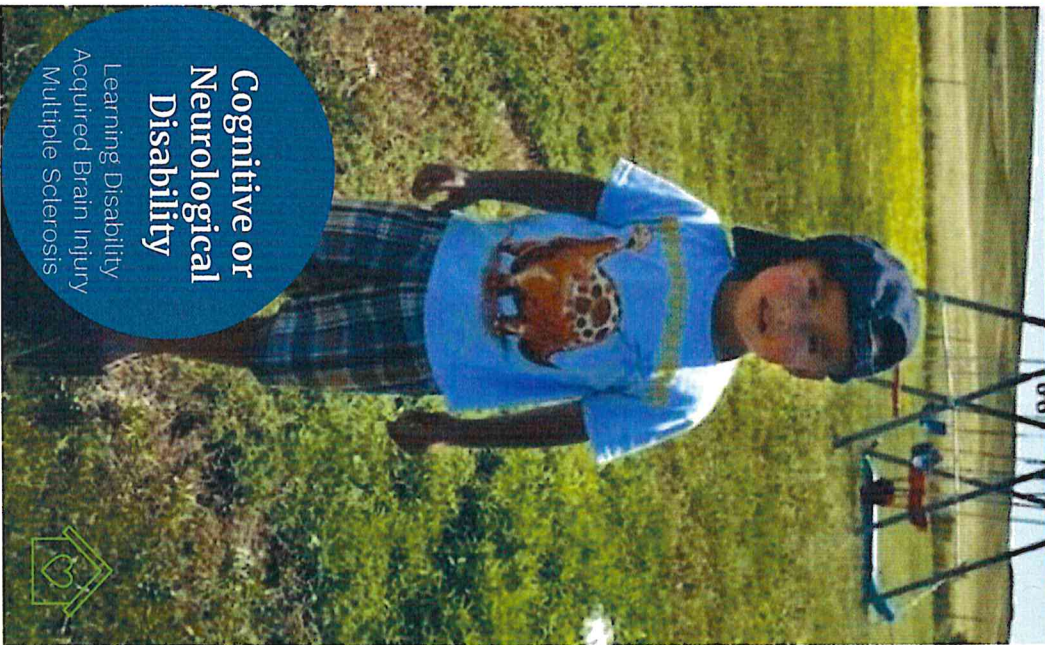
**Intellectual Disability**  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
Autism Spectrum  
Down Syndrome



**Behavioral Health Disability**  
Anxiety Disorders  
Depression  
Addiction



**Physical or Sensory Disability**  
Mobility Impairment  
Vision Impairment  
Hearing Impairment



**Cognitive or Neurological Disability**  
Learning Disability  
Acquired Brain Injury  
Multiple Sclerosis





# Vocational Rehabilitation Section Program Purpose

**Assists North Dakotans with disabilities to enter or re-enter the workforce through individualized services**

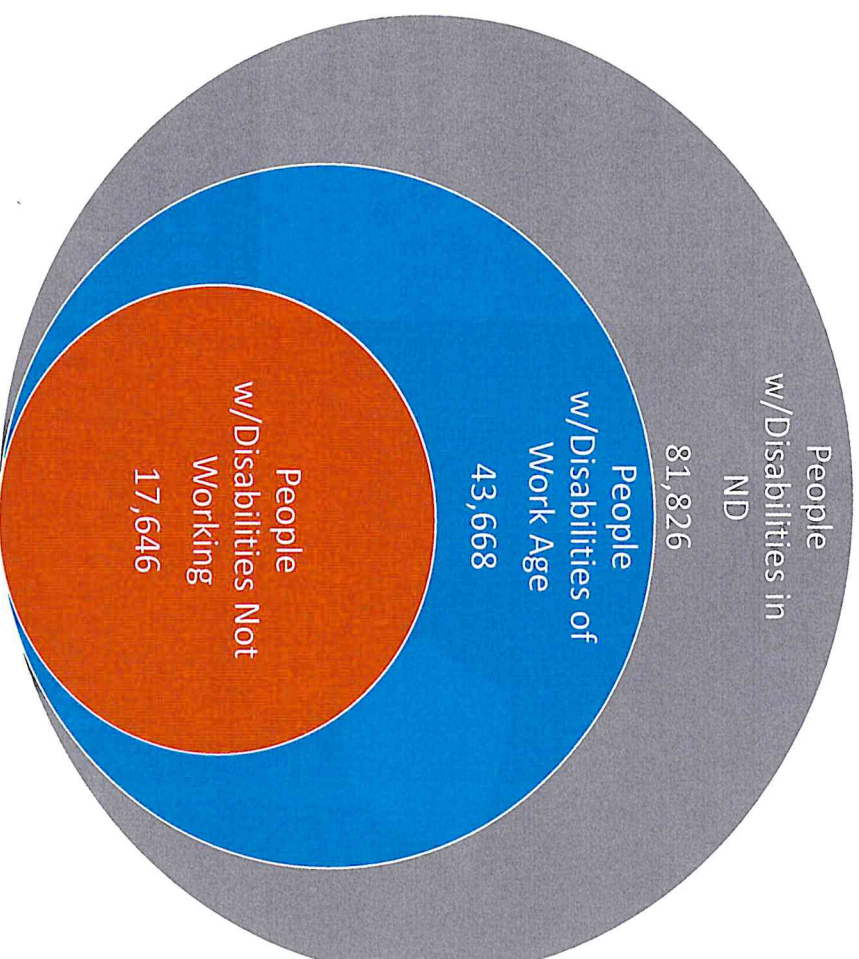
- Assess skills and abilities
- Identify a vocational goal
- Develop an individualized plan to achieve employment
- Provide services that result in competitive integrated employment





# Vocational Rehabilitation

## - An Essential Part of the Workforce Solution





# Vocational Rehabilitation Section Eligibility

- Physical or mental disability
- Barrier to seeking, maintaining, or advancing in employment due to disability
- Individual requires and will benefit from VR services





# Vocational Rehabilitation Section Services

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Pre-employment Transition Services to Students with Disabilities
- Vocational Training
- Assistive Technology
- Hearing and Vision Services
- ADA Consultation to Businesses
- Placement Site Recruitment
- Job Placement





# Connecting in School: Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ets)

Assists students with disabilities in making the transition from high school to post secondary education programs and/or competitive integrated employment  
(age 21 or younger and 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above)

**2021-2022**

Served students in  
71 ND schools





# Connecting with Employers: Services to Businesses

Any ND employer is eligible for  
VR services (non-profit or for-profit  
business or government agency)

- Assist employers in connecting to an untapped labor pool of people with disabilities
- Retaining existing, well-trained and productive workers who may have developed or have a worsening disability
- Providing education on disability awareness, tax incentives and the Americans with Disabilities Act

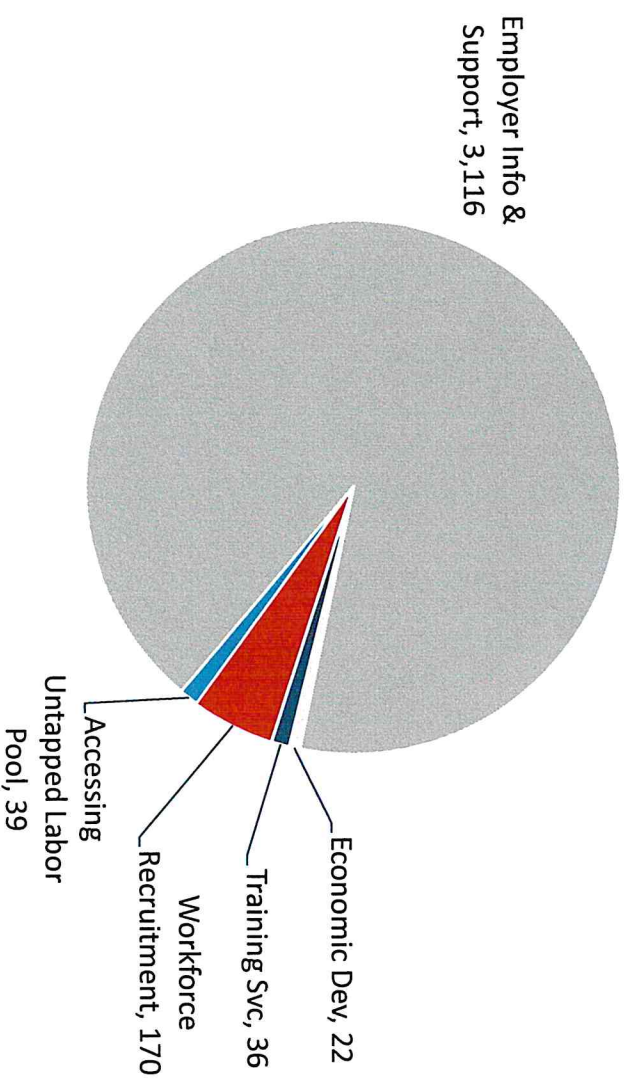




# Connecting with Employers: Services to Businesses

In FFY 2022, VR staff  
provided 3,383 services to  
1,850 different businesses

- ✓ Oil and Gas
- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Hospitality
- ✓ Administrative & Support
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Retail

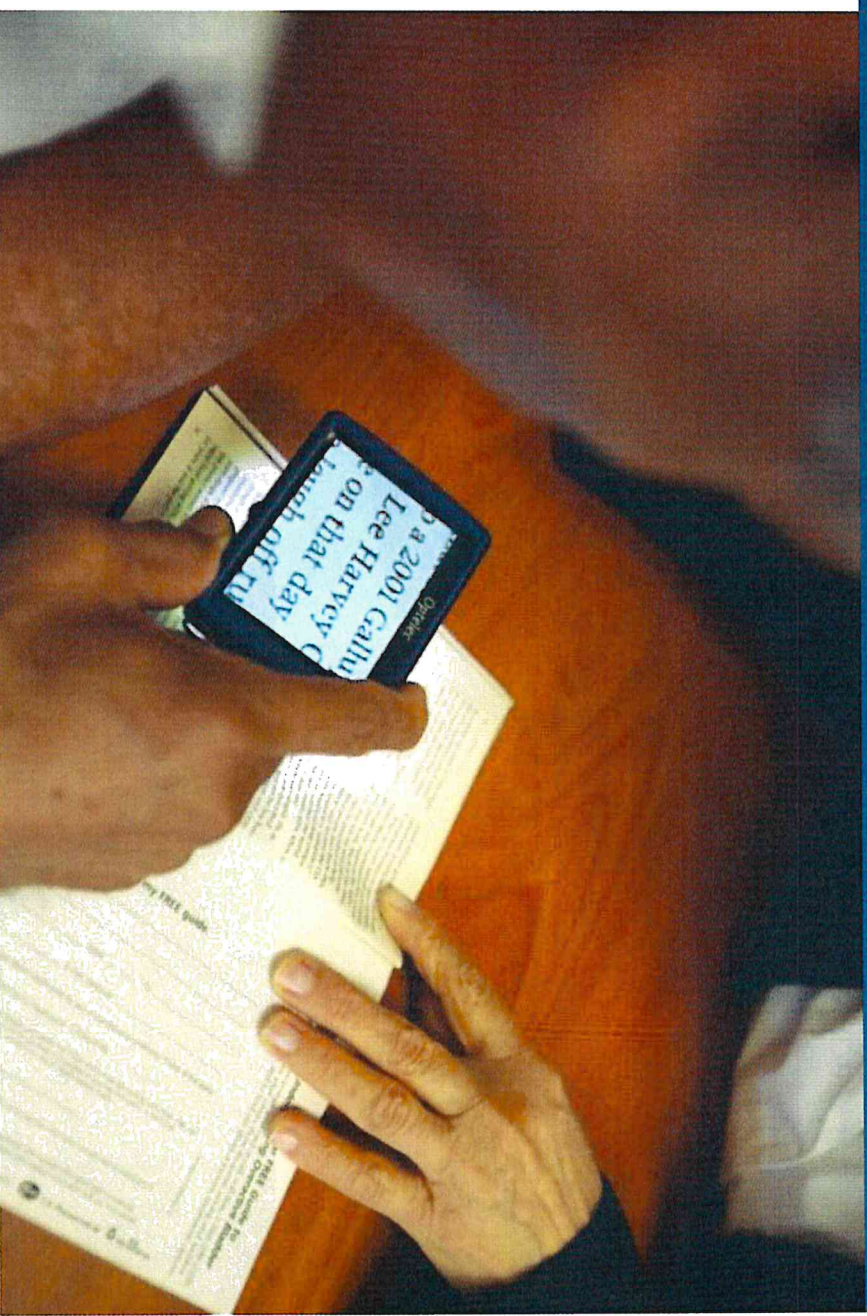




# Connecting at Home: Older Individuals who are Blind or Vision Impaired

## Assessment of need for home modifications and equipment

- Assistive Technology Devices and Training – magnifiers, lighting, etc.
- Communication Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Home or environmental modifications/equipment
- Counseling, Advocacy, Training, and Support

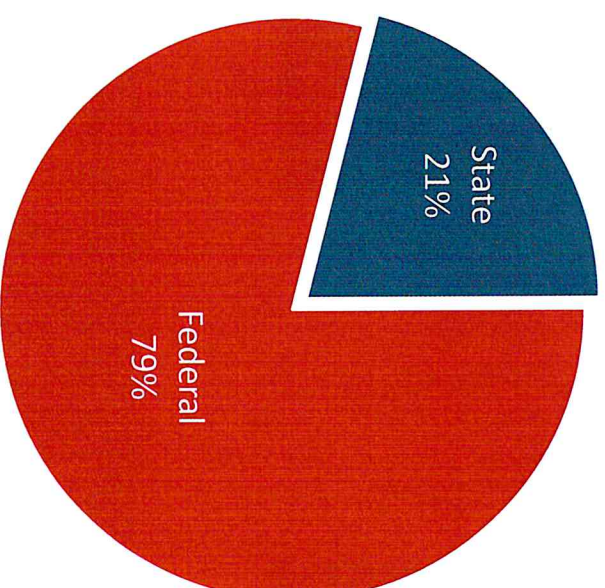




# Vocational Rehabilitation Section Return on Investment

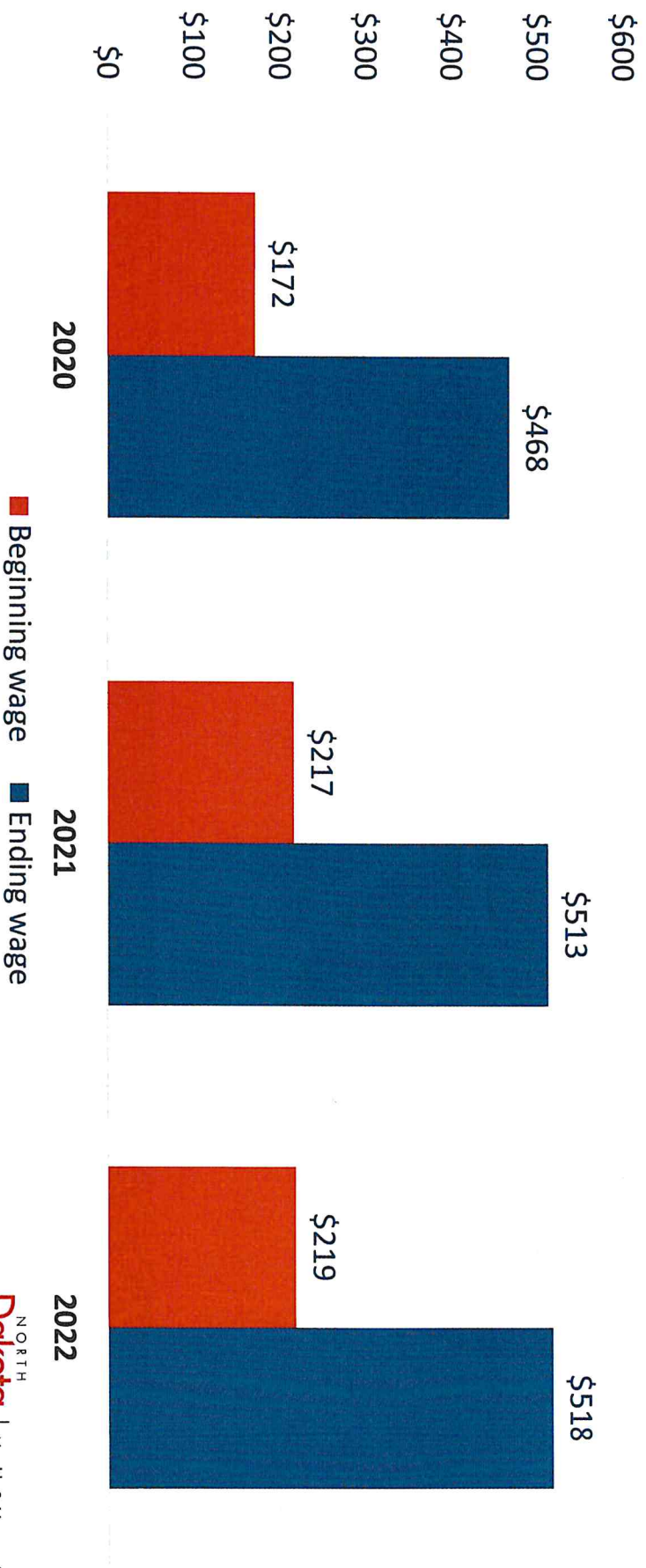
For every **one dollar spent**  
on Vocational Rehab services  
Clients **earnings increase by**  
**\$10.43/hour**

For every **one dollar spent**  
on Vocational Rehab services  
Clients **pay \$2.09 in taxes**



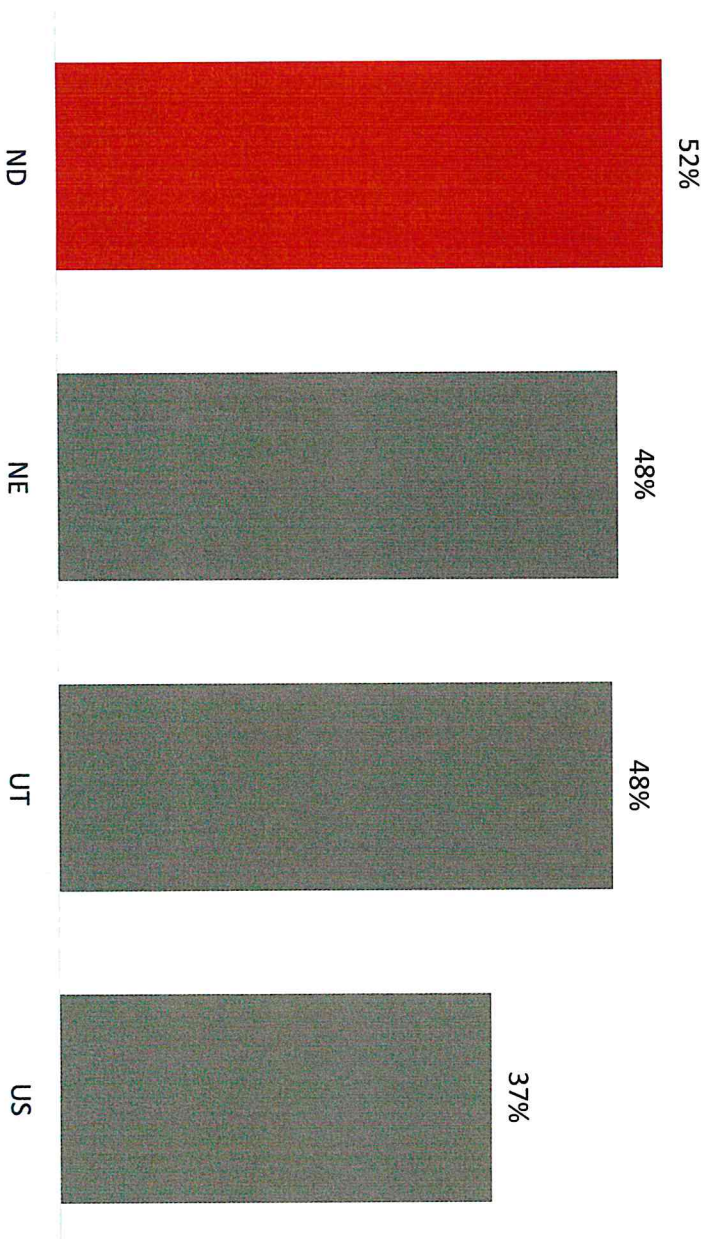


# In FY22 the weekly wage of VR clients increased an average of 136% after receiving VR services





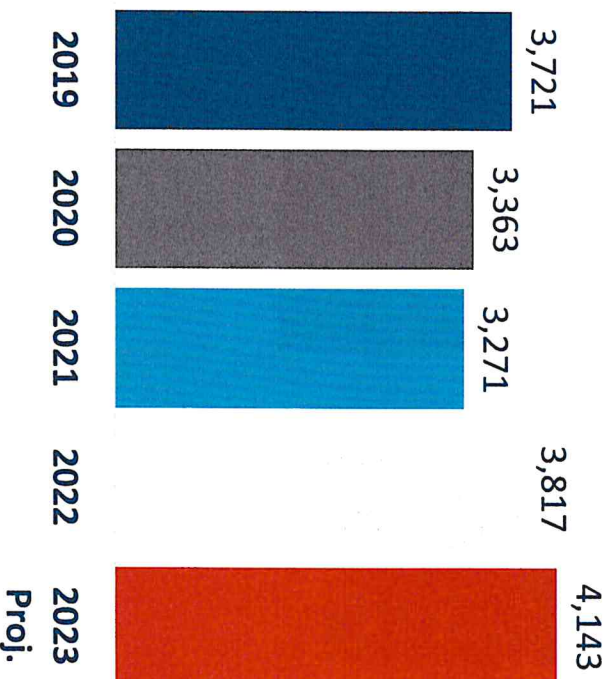
# ND is 1st in the U.S. by % of People with disabilities who are employed



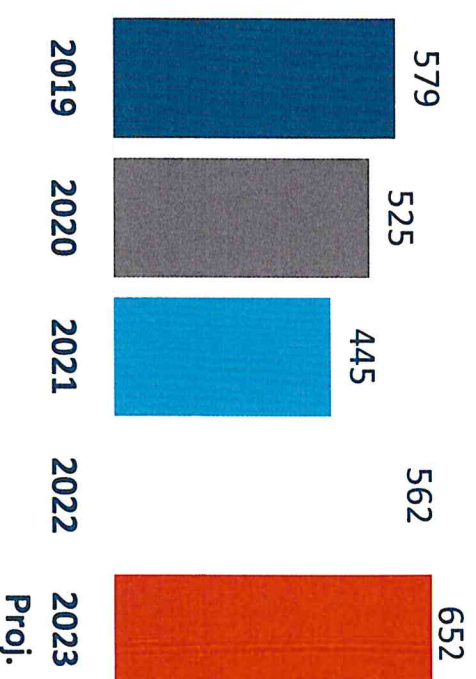


# Successful Placements increased by 26% from 2021-2022

VR Clients Enrolled/In Process

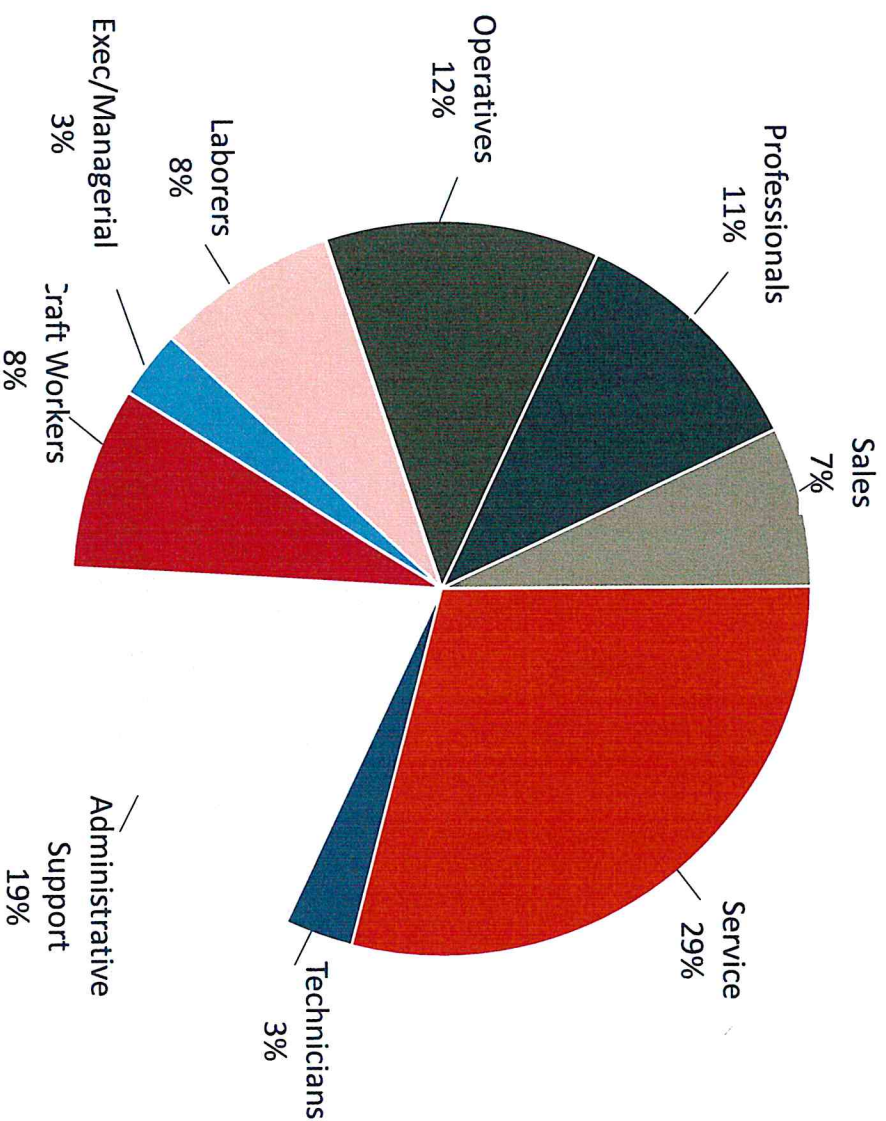


VR Clients Successfully Placed





# VR Client Job Types – FFY 2021





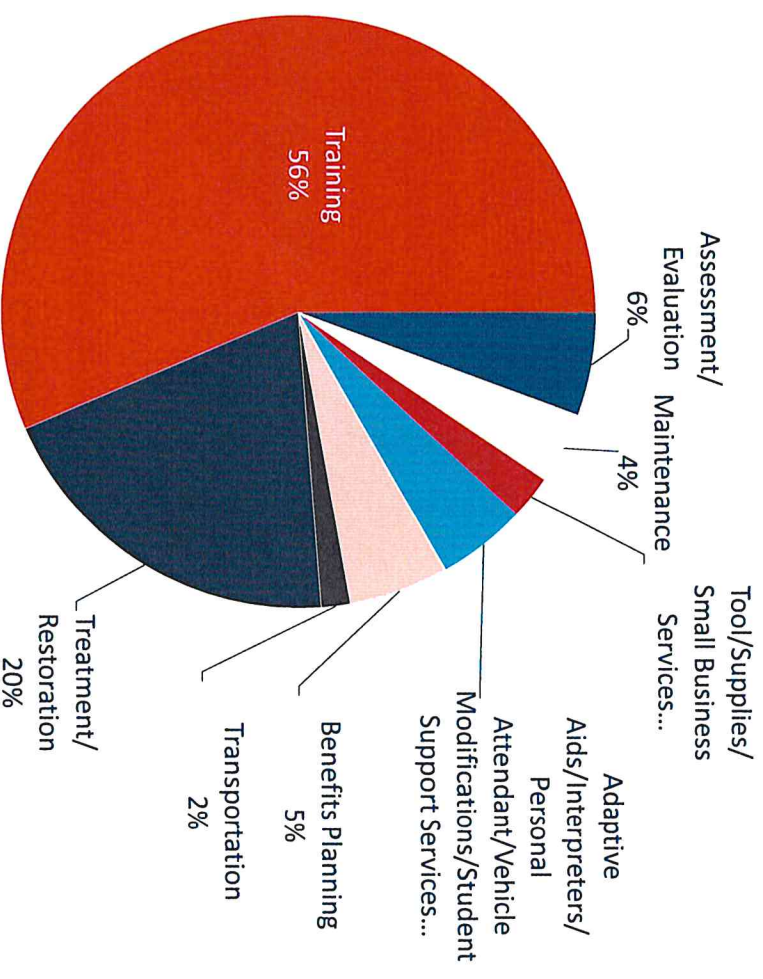
# Case Service Expenditures FFY 2022 - \$2,685,887

The largest share of VR's service expenditures (56%) support training

- On-the-Job Training
- Work Experience
- Job Development
- Customized Employment
- Supported Employment
- Post-secondary Tuition

Treatment/Restoration services account for 20% of service expenditures

- Therapy/Medical visits (PT, OT, behavioral health)
- Hearing and vision aids





# Supported Employment/Customized Employment Tax Credit

## Tax Incentive (HB 1409 / 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly)

- Created a 'business income tax credit for employment of individuals with developmental disabilities or severe mental illness'
- Up to 100 businesses were eligible for 25% of up to \$6,000 in wages paid annually for each employee if the individual needed Supported Employment or has a significant disability requiring Customized Employment in order to obtain employment
- Note: HB1409 modified bill passed in 2019-21 legislative session by adding supported employment

# 74

## Tax credits approved

0	CY2019
0	CY2020
28	CY2021
46	CY 2022

## Under consideration

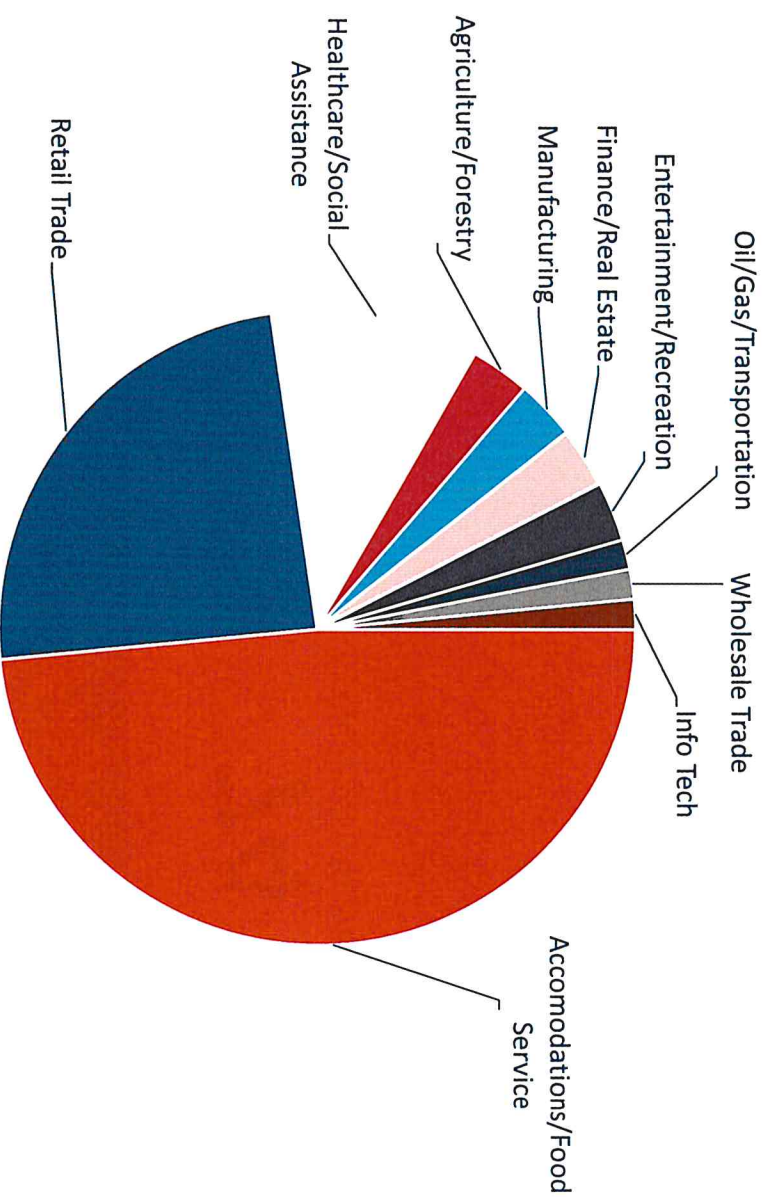
### HB 1244

- Increases to 200 businesses
- Removes sunset clause



# Supported Employment/Customized Employment Tax Credit

These industries  
have been identified  
as having high  
workforce needs by  
Job Service and  
Department of  
Commerce





# Additional Programs

## **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)**

- Adults age 55+, and below 125% of poverty threshold, gain skills toward re-entering the workforce. Participants may not necessarily have a disability.

## **Federal Plan Responsibility**

- WIOA Unified State Plan for Workforce – DOL (along with JSND, Adult Education and English Literacy, Dept of Commerce, and DPI)
- State Plan for Independent Living – Admin for Comm Living/HHS

## **North Dakota Assistive**

## **Councils and Commissions**

- Statewide Rehabilitation Council
- State Independent Living Council

## **Designated State Entity for Centers for Independent Living**

- Independent living skills training
- Information and referrals for orientation and mobility
- Transition services – from institutions to home/community based; also youth transition to independent living
- Peer mentoring
- Advocacy



# Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 14,756,463	\$ 3,022,033	\$ 17,778,496
Operating	7,379,680	906,012	8,285,692
IT Services	12,708	(4,708)	8,000
Grants	11,204,626	(404,943)	10,799,683
Total	\$ 33,353,477	\$ 3,518,394	\$ 36,871,871
General Fund	\$ 9,060,209	\$ 637,033	\$ 9,697,242
Federal Funds	24,098,266	2,740,464	26,838,730
Other Funds	195,002	140,897	335,899
Total Funds	\$ 33,353,477	\$ 3,518,394	\$ 36,871,871
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	85.00	-	85.00



# Vocational Rehab: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE  
RECOMMENDATION  
**\$3.5 MILLION**

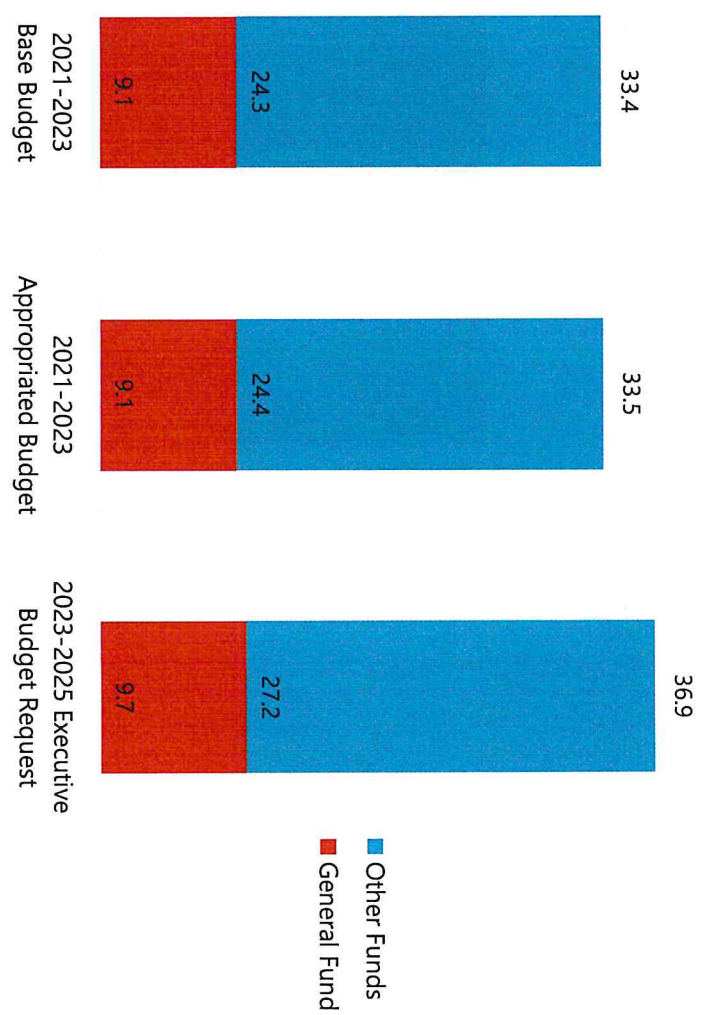
Salaries – \$3.0M

*Senior Community Service Employment  
Program/SCSEP - \$900k (transfer from Aging  
section)*

Operating Fees and Services – \$384k

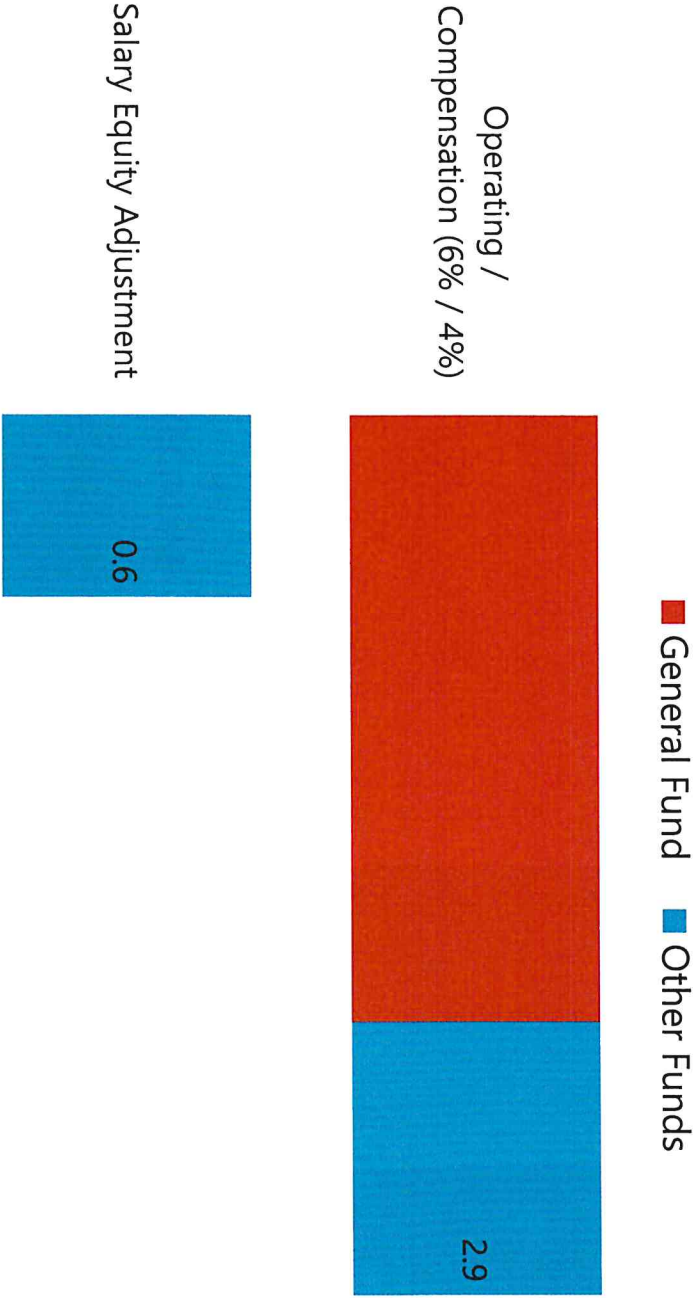
Increased Pre-Employment Transition Service –  
young adults into workforce; required to  
provide services statewide

Rents/Leases – \$394k increase (shift from HSC  
budget)

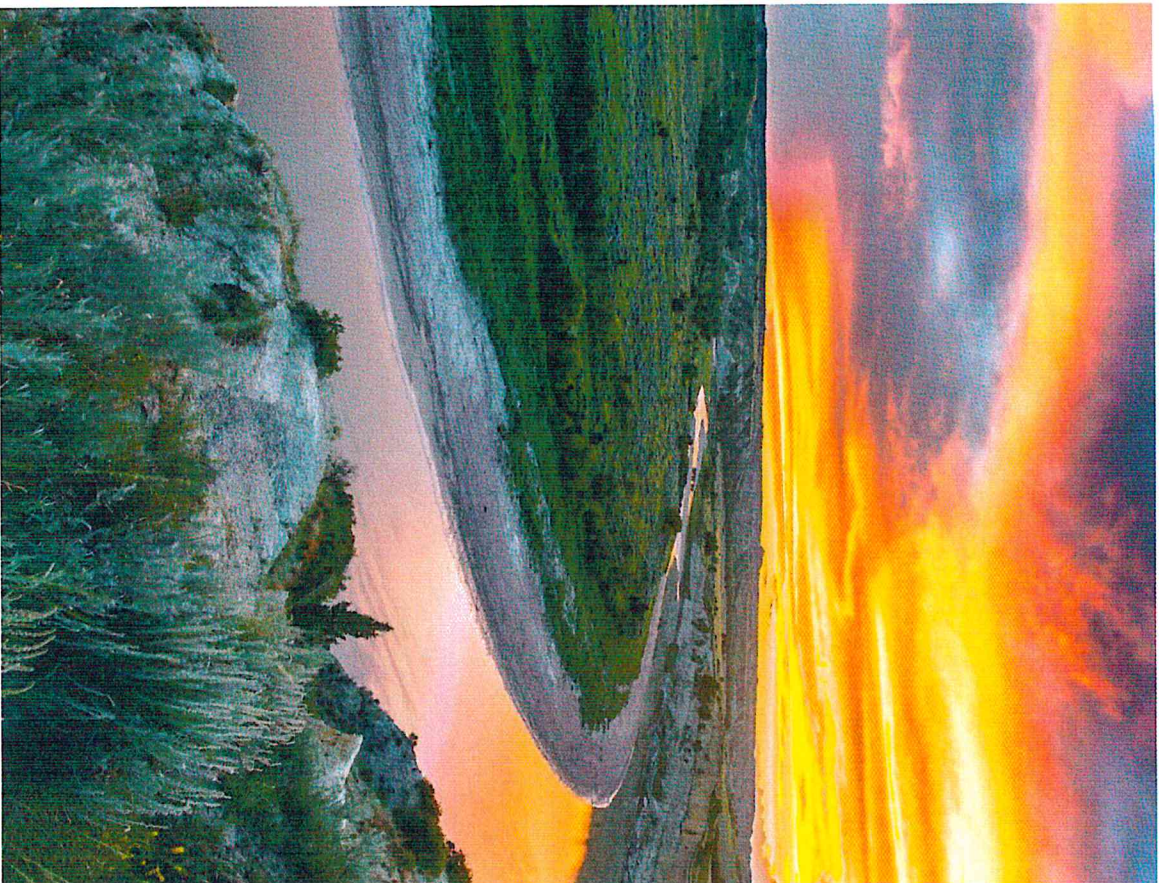




# Vocational Rehab: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)







## Contact information

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