

Description of the Order of Selection, Its Justification and the Outcome, and Service Goals within Each Category of the Order

BRS has operated under an Order of Selection Policy since 1991 when it determined that it could not meet the needs of all eligible consumers. The Order of Selection Policy gave priority status to individuals with significant disabilities. The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 required the Bureau to develop, in cooperation with the SRC, criteria that define “individuals with the most severe disabilities” and to assure that such individuals receive priority status for services under an Order of Selection Policy. Consequently, effective July 1, 1994, the following Order of Selection Policy was implemented to provide services to individuals eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Terminology has been updated to substitute the term “significant” for “severe,” in accordance with more recent amendments.

1. Individuals with disabilities shall be served in the following order of priority:
 - FIRST** All eligible individuals determined to have a most significant disability.
 - SECOND** All eligible individuals determined to have significant disability.
 - THIRD** All other eligible individuals.
2. All individuals shall be placed in the highest priority level for which they qualify.
3. Every individual within a higher priority level shall be served before individuals in the next lowest priority level are served.
4. Should funds become limited, the agency may need to limit services within a priority group. If this becomes necessary, individuals will be served chronologically on the basis of the date of eligibility determination.

Individuals with significant disability are defined as those meeting the definition in 6(21)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

In order to be in the first priority group of persons served under the Order of Selection, i.e., individuals having a most significant disability, the individual must be determined to meet the following criteria:

1. The individual must meet the criteria for significant disability, as defined in Section 6(21)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998; **AND**
2. (a) have serious functional limitations in three or more functional areas (such as mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance or work skills) in terms of an employment outcome; **OR**
 - (b) will require significant ongoing disability-related services **on the job** in order to maintain employment following vocational rehabilitation closure from time-limited services.

All eligible consumers receiving services under an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) as

of the end of business on June 30, 1994, regardless of their priority status, continued to receive services as necessary until the attainment of their vocational goals and/or closure of their cases. For individuals who began receiving services under an IPE after June 30, 1994, the Bureau has been able to serve all individuals in Priority Categories I and II (i.e. those individuals determined to have either a Significant or Most Significant Disability) since November 1994. The Bureau will continue to serve all individuals in Priority Categories I and II to the extent that resources are available. The Bureau will continue to carefully assess this situation.

Applicants shall receive services necessary to determine their eligibility for VR services without regard to the order of selection and to the extent that funds are available. Depending on their level of eligibility, individuals may be placed on a waiting list to receive services at a later date.

SERVICE AND OUTCOME GOALS FOR FFY 2007 (10/01/06 - 9/30/07) BY ORDER OF SELECTION PRIORITY

The Bureau has established the following outcome and services goals to be achieved for each priority category during Federal Fiscal Year 2007.

**CUMULATIVE SERVICE AND OUTCOME GOALS BY PRIORITY
FEDERAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

	Eligible Most Significant	Eligible Significant	Eligible Non-Significant	TOTAL
Applicants				3,580
Acceptances	1,887	1,258	5	3,150
New Plans	1,305	870	0	2,175
Rehabilitations	771	514	0	1,285

TIME FRAMES

All priority groups will have a determination of eligibility within 60 days unless there are mutually agreed upon extensions. For those not on the waiting list (Priority Group III) employment plans will be developed and, on average, individuals will be in service within 90 days of eligibility. Delays for legitimate planning purposes will be well documented. Since the Bureau is serving both Priority I and Priority II and no change is anticipated, this projection holds for both groups. Twenty-one (21) months is the average anticipated time frame for successful completion of the rehabilitation process for individuals in Priority I and Priority II with positive employment outcomes.

COST PROJECTIONS

Projected Title I purchased service costs for Priority I and Priority II are about \$9,500,000. This projection does not separate the costs by priority.

These cost projections are based on serving the numbers of individuals identified in Attachment 4.12(b). They are higher than what we expect for FFY 2006, when client service expenditures are predicted to reach approximately \$9,000,000. We anticipate increased results in FFY 2007 due to the predicted growth in service delivery as the Bureau continues to expand and deploy new staff on caseloads. These projections remain significantly lower than actual expenditures in the years prior to FFY 2004. This is due to cost containment measures that primarily emphasized eliminating unnecessary consumer services spending in response to the significant resource reductions at the State level.