

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan - State Goals and Priorities

The designated State unit must:

- (A) Identify if the goals and priorities were jointly developed and agreed to by the State VR agency and the State Rehabilitation Council, if the State has a Council, and jointly agreed to any revisions.
- (B) Identify the goals and priorities in carrying out the VR and Supported Employment programs.

Goals and Priorities

The bureau, in collaboration with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), conducted a comprehensive assessment of the rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities and identified four major goal areas. These goals and priorities will be used to carry out the Supported Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. The SRC jointly agrees with BRS on these goals and priorities for the coming year.

Each of the goal areas contains a set of priority areas that the bureau could address in the coming year. We cannot address every issue identified as a need, but attempted to build goals broad enough to address the major themes. Four priority areas were chosen based on their frequency of occurrence in the assessment. One additional goal was developed to address implementation of WIOA.

Goal 1: To implement the provisions of WIOA specific to the VR program.

Priority areas:

- pre-employment transition services
- employer services
- service delivery
- performance accountability measures
- subminimum wage

Goal 2: To improve the quality of vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities.

Priority areas:

- customer service and provision of information
- ongoing skill development
- use of social media
- provision of information on resources, labor market information and training/education programs

Goal 3: To increase employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, particularly those individuals from unserved or underserved populations.

Priority areas:

- individuals from minority backgrounds
- young adults with disabilities
- individuals with psychiatric disability
- individuals with autism spectrum disorders

Goal 4: To increase access to services for all individuals with disabilities.

Priority areas:

- services for individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- services for individuals whose primary language is Spanish
- cultural competencies for staff

Goal 5: To create effective partnerships designed to advance employment for Connecticut citizens with disabilities.

Priority areas:

- businesses
- Community Rehabilitation Providers
- state agencies with a specific emphasis on core WIOA partners

These broad goals are intended to be five-year goals, with the priority areas being flexible enough to change from year to year if necessary.