

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

FFY 2022-2023 • ANNUAL REPORT

Director's Message



Kathy Smith
Director, DVRS


I'm so pleased to say that this has been another busy year, with important successes to celebrate. We continued to provide vital services to people with disabilities in all 100 counties, expanded our partnerships across the disability services system, and launched new programs, like Project Spark!, to increase opportunities for people with more complex barriers to employment and independent living.

Over the last year, more than 23,906 clients received employment services under an individualized plan, with 2,927 achieving their goal. Another 6,000 students with disabilities received pre-employment transition services to explore career options and prepare for life after high school. We provided independent living services to an additional 2,044 consumers, with 794 reaching their goals. We also saw initial success in efforts to reduce vacancy rates across the division, and specifically for rehabilitation counselors. As we implement new

recruitment and retention incentives in the coming year and increase awareness of career opportunities with our agency, we hope for even more success in this area.

Taking time to celebrate our success is so important to me because it lifts the spirit and reinforces my determination to achieve more in the year that lies ahead. I invite you to peruse the information in this report and hope it has the same impact on you!

Program Outcomes and Return on Investment

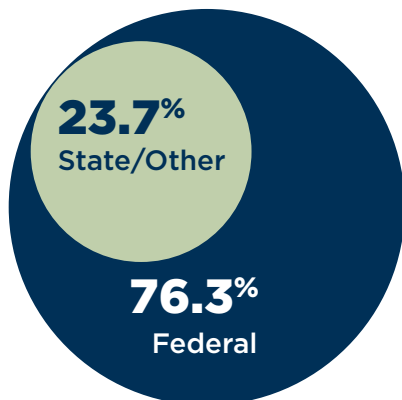
 **2,297** Individuals successfully exited the program in **competitive integrated employment**

 **\$13.18** average hourly wage

 **28** average weekly hours

 **26** average months from application to case closure

FFY 2022-2023 Program Cost



\$95.5 M
Federal funding

\$26.7 M
State/other funding

Return on Investment in Services

 **\$452 M**
5-year earnings of individuals exiting the VR Program in FY 2017

 **\$122.2 M**
Federal and State investment in VR services

Clients Receiving Services Under Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

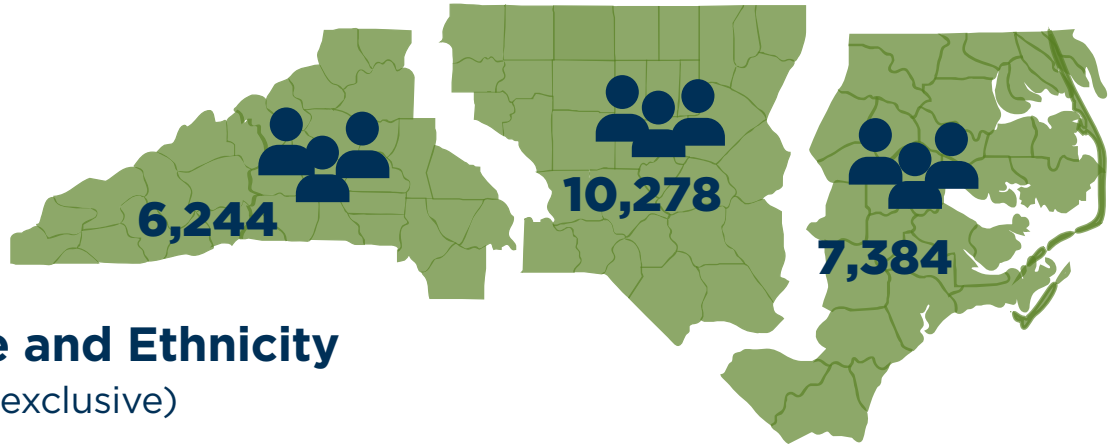


23,906

Individuals

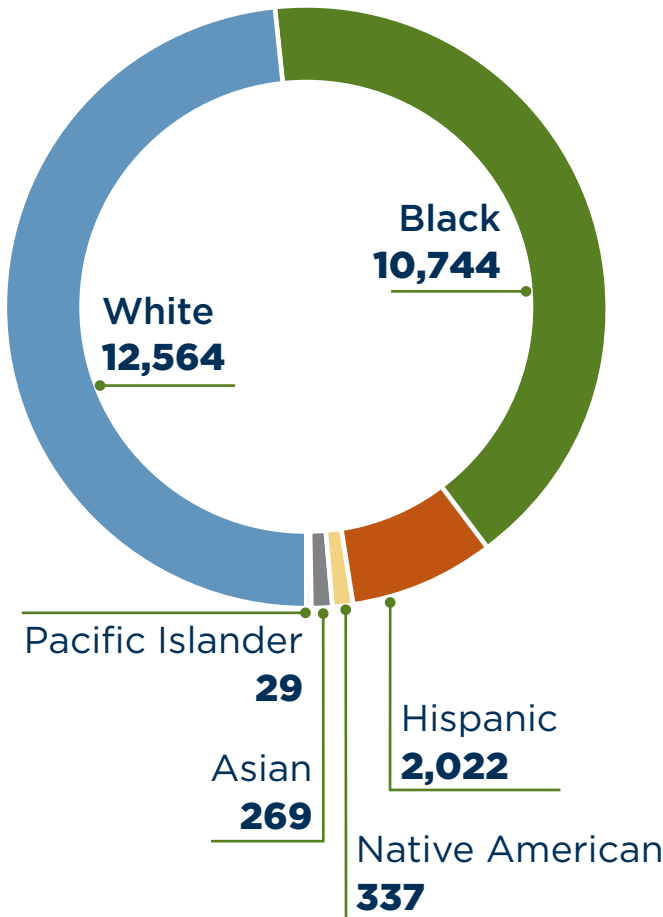
receiving VR services in North Carolina

VR Cases by Region

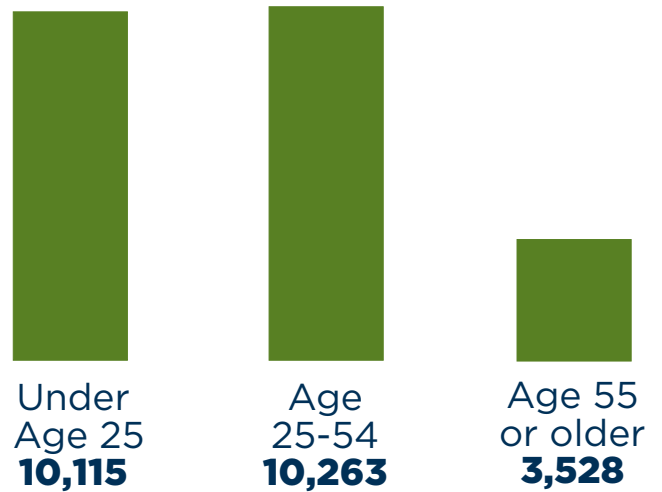


VR Cases by Race and Ethnicity

(not mutually exclusive)

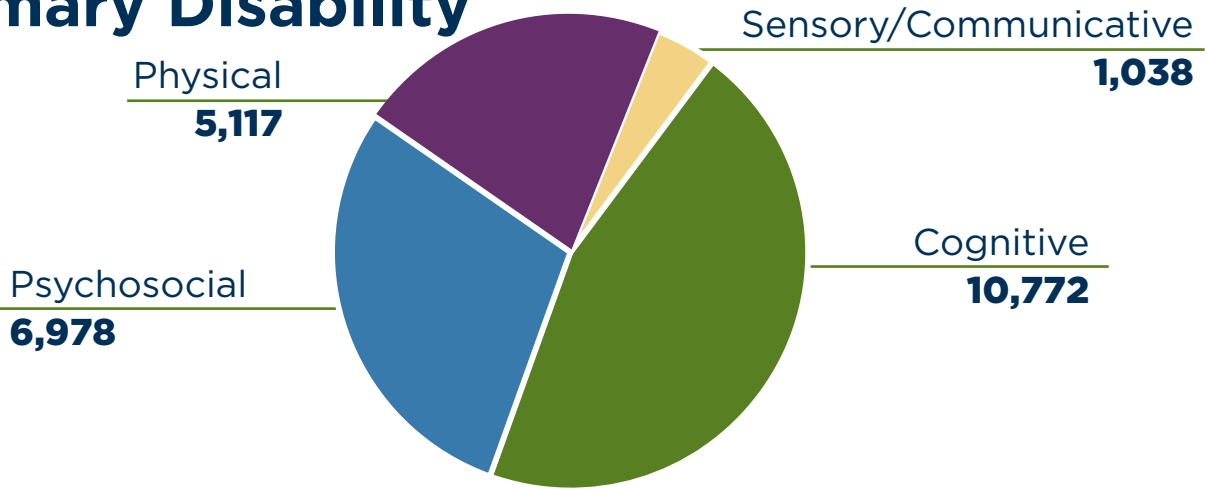


VR Cases by Age

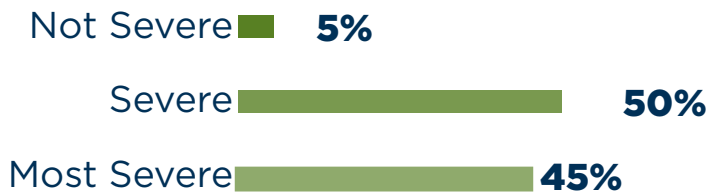


Barriers to Employment for VR Clients

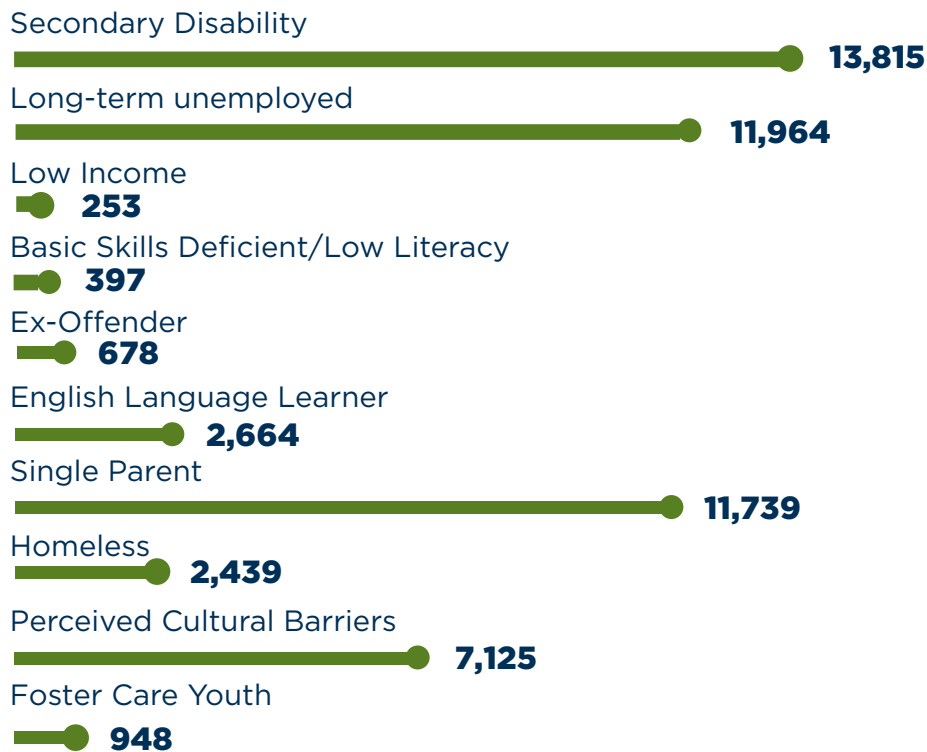
Primary Disability



Impact of Primary Disability



Additional Barriers to Employment



Snapshot of Community-Based Services



250 clients participated in a paid **VR Internship** to prepare for their employment goal



99 clients received specialized services through the **Brain Injury Support Services** program



746 clients met with a Work Incentives Planning Assistance counselor about **the impact of earned income on benefits**



1,955 individuals received **Supported Employment** services to help them succeed on the job



168 individuals participated in a **Project Search Transition to Work Program**



1,844 clients participated in **Work Adjustment Training** to acquire work skills and learn appropriate behaviors



8,673 clients received **Career Services**, like career assessments, counseling and workforce preparation activities; job search and placement assistance; and ongoing follow-up services



1,145 clients received VR-sponsored **Training Services** to attain a secondary degree or postsecondary credential

Youth and Student Services



Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

6,019 students participated in Pre-ETS to help them **explore career options and prepare for the transition from high school to adult life**



Transition Services

1,303 transition-aged youth received services to help explore and pursue career goals as they enter into post-secondary education, training, and other workforce preparation activities

1,261 transition-aged youth successfully exited the VR program after achieving their unique goals for competitive integrated employment and more independent living

SPARKING OPPORTUNITIES

The North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services received a \$13.8 federal grant to increase employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over a 5-year period, the Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment grant, renamed Project Spark, will support 300 individuals currently engaged in or thinking about entering subminimum wage employment as they transition to CIE.

People engaged in CIE work alongside other employees without disabilities. They earn at least minimum wage and get the same workplace benefits and opportunities as other employees doing the same job. Working in CIE helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities engage more fully in the community. They develop meaningful relationships with peers and build new skills and self-esteem. This offers a pathway that leads to more informed choices and greater independence. In partnership with three community rehabilitation programs, Project Spark is conducting outreach activities to recruit more participants, employers and service providers, and will soon be launching on social media - so stay tuned!

Independent Living Services



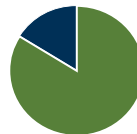
794 clients achieved their independent living goals



2,044 clients received services as part of their Independent Living Plan



856 Individualized Plans for Independent Living were developed and signed during the program year.



Of **1,781** applicants, **84%** were eligible for IL Services. Ineligible applicants were referred to other resources.

Assistive Technology Services



12,303 clients received services from the NC Assistive Technology Program



80 individuals received new or refurbished AT devices and equipment at no cost



1,111 individuals received training to help them use AT software and devices



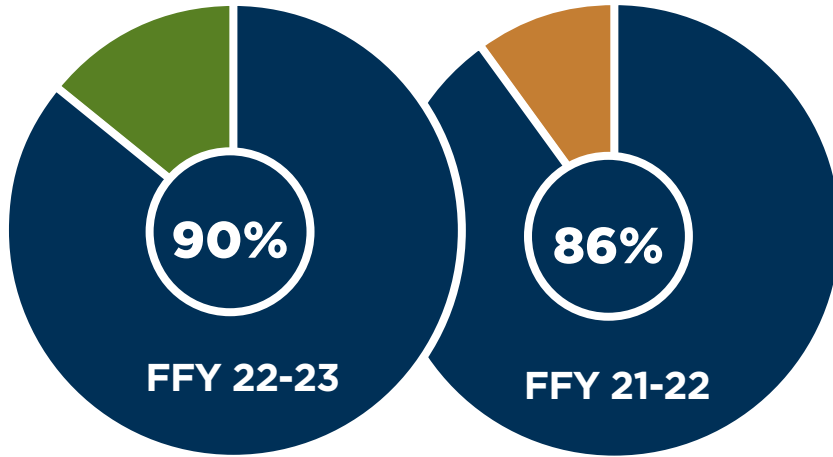
81,799 dollars saved by North Carolinians with disabilities on the purchase of AT



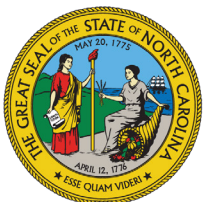
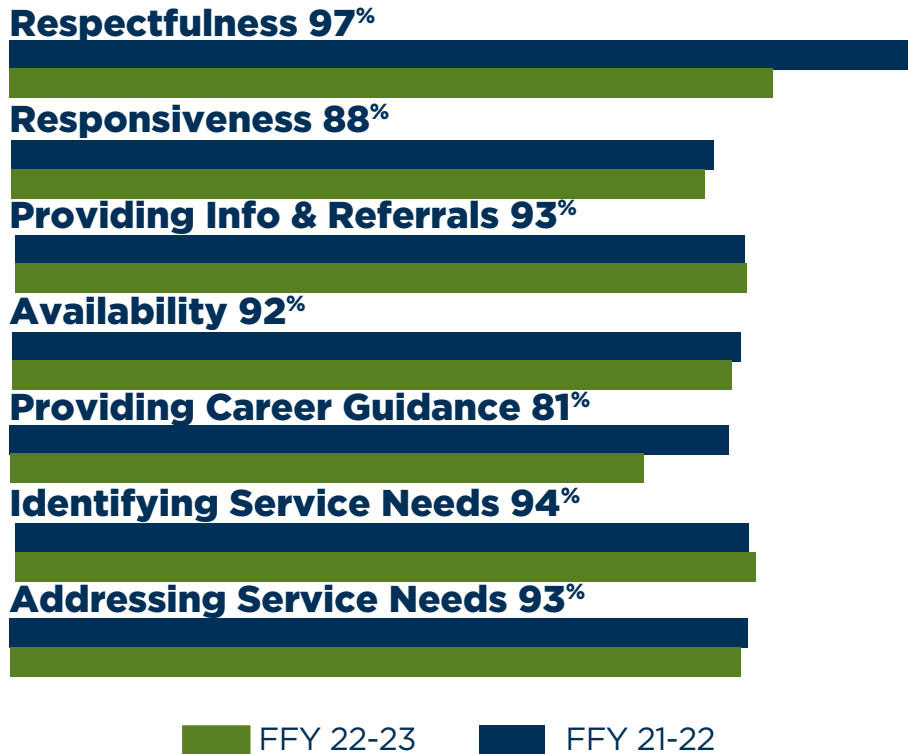
941 clients received no-cost short-term device loans through an NCATP partnership with the Division of Aging and Adult Services, with funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Overall Satisfaction with DVRS Services



Satisfaction with DVRS Staff



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 Employment and Independence
 for People with Disabilities

Learn more:
www.ncdhhs.gov/eipd