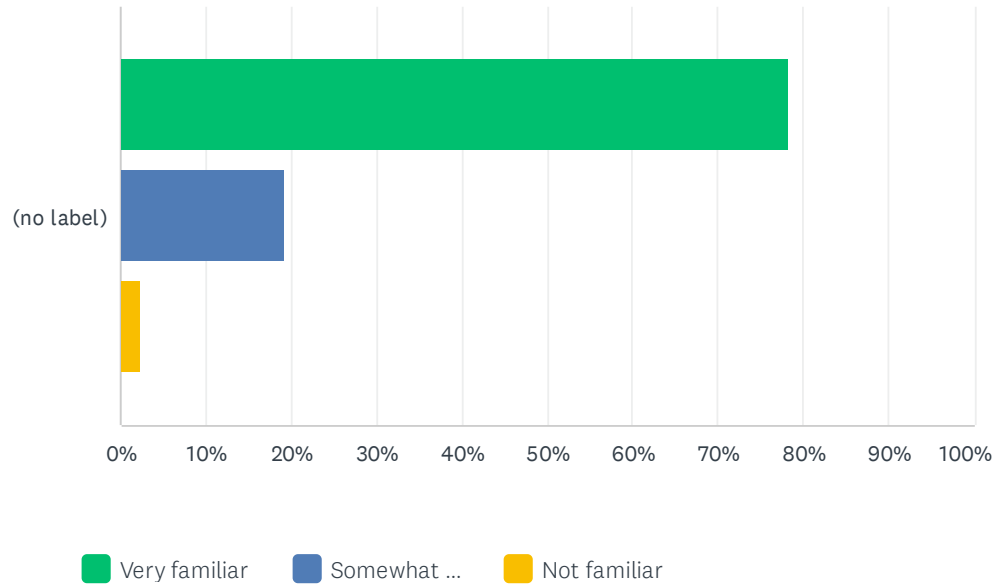


Q17 How familiar are you with the services provided by the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation?

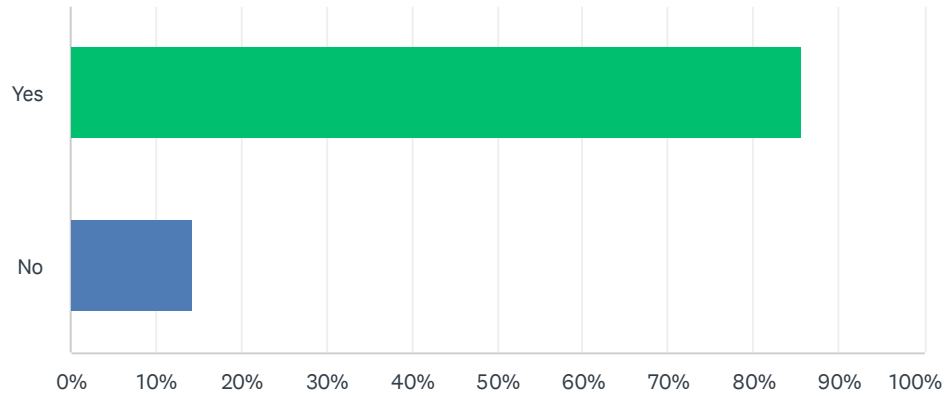
Answered: 327 Skipped: 1,211



	VERY FAMILIAR	SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR	NOT FAMILIAR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	78.29% 256	19.27% 63	2.45% 8	327	1.24

Q18 Have you had any direct personal interaction with the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in the last five years?

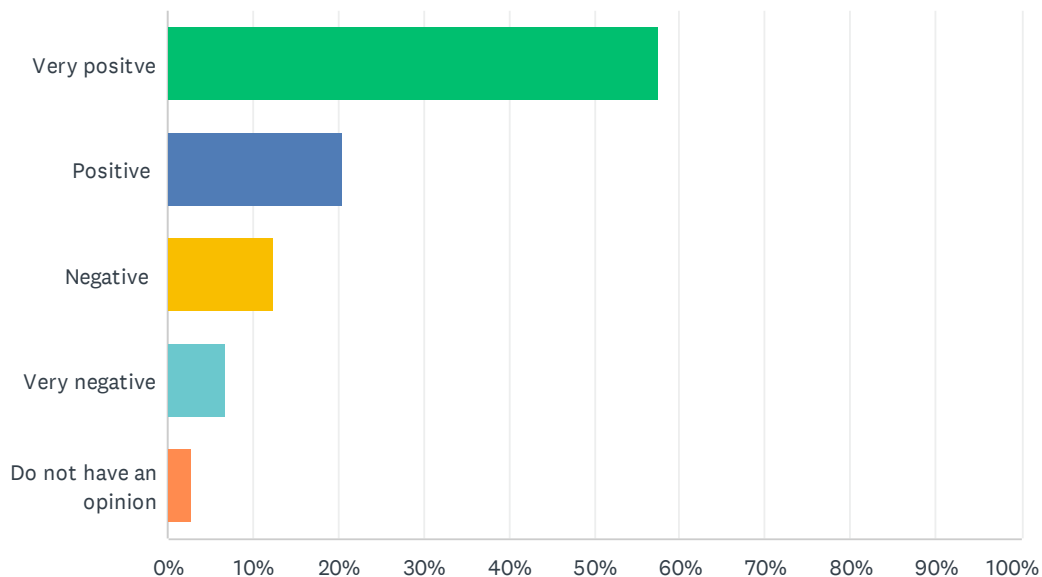
Answered: 329 Skipped: 1,209



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.71%	282
No	14.29%	47
TOTAL		329

Q19 Overall, what is your opinion of the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation?

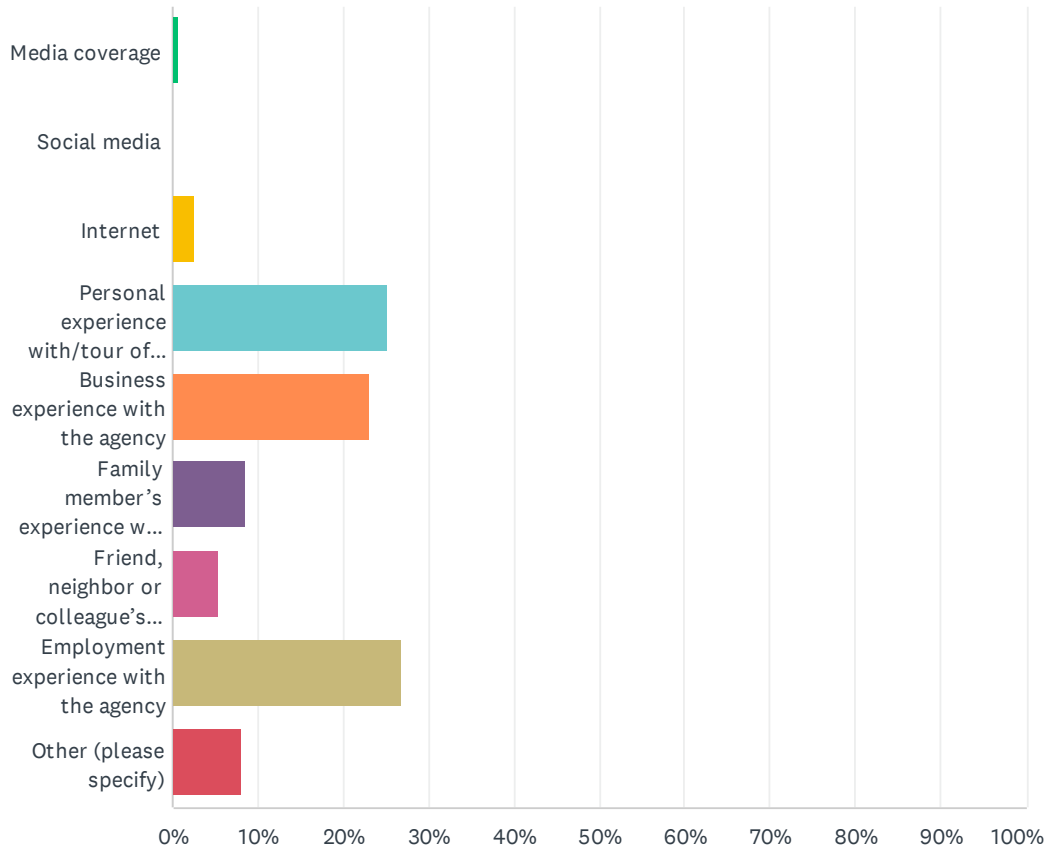
Answered: 326 Skipped: 1,212



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very positive	57.67%	188
Positive	20.55%	67
Negative	12.27%	40
Very negative	6.75%	22
Do not have an opinion	2.76%	9
TOTAL		326

Q20 Which of the following has most influenced your opinion of the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation?

Answered: 325 Skipped: 1,213



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Media coverage	0.62%	2
Social media	0.00%	0
Internet	2.46%	8
Personal experience with/tour of the agency	25.23%	82
Business experience with the agency	23.08%	75
Family member's experience with the agency	8.62%	28
Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the agency	5.23%	17
Employment experience with the agency	26.77%	87
Other (please specify)	8.00%	26
TOTAL		325

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
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Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

1	Personal, Business, Colleague and Employment Experience	3/3/2025 4:37 PM
2	Both personal and then later business experience.	3/3/2025 12:17 PM
3	Partnership through the school district.	3/3/2025 11:46 AM
4	VR's has direct relationship with my organization	2/28/2025 10:16 AM
5	Both my child and my own experiences	2/27/2025 9:20 PM
6	The work my children's case manager has done	2/27/2025 3:40 PM
7	A representative from SCDVR comes to our high school to meet with our students eligible for services and communicates with team members such as teachers, guidance counselors and families.	2/24/2025 1:28 PM
8	N/A	2/24/2025 7:48 AM
9	Contact with a voc rep for my special ed students and work based learning.	2/20/2025 11:00 PM
10	Vocational Rehab serves the students that I teach.	2/20/2025 2:37 PM
11	other work-related experiences	2/20/2025 12:59 PM
12	Agency support for me during cardiac rehab after a heart attack which was a huge assist for me getting back to work.	2/14/2025 9:58 PM
13	VR visits our university to assist students with Tuition Assistance and Internships.	2/14/2025 1:11 PM
14	Partnership with the library - I specifically have offered Workforce Classes/Workshops for this group.	2/13/2025 2:34 PM
15	As a high school job coach, I visit the SCVRD Beaufort Job Readiness Training Center once per week with students who qualify. I supervise and teach vocational skills to students with disabilities in an actual work setting. This prepares them for post-secondary employment and is not available in the classroom. The VR counselor assigned to the students develops a plan for each student and helps the students gain employment following graduation from high school, training programs, and college. Many hard and soft skills are taught to the students as well as industry standards. The counselor works job coaches, parents, students, teachers, businesses, and other agencies to assist students in preparing, achieving and maintaining competitive employment.	2/13/2025 9:25 AM
16	Working for Voc Rehab and the positive response from consumers	2/12/2025 5:34 PM
17	Printing	2/12/2025 4:25 PM
18	Special Education teacher of students with disabilities 18-21 years of age who access services	2/12/2025 3:14 PM
19	Client	2/11/2025 10:07 PM
20	Glenforest School	2/11/2025 7:49 PM
21	SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is one of Richland Library Business and Careers' Community Partners. We have collaborated with this agency for several years and refer customers to one another, depending upon each customer's specific needs.	2/11/2025 11:52 AM
22	All of the above listed along with actually witnessing the service delivery results	2/10/2025 11:46 AM
23	Employment experience with the agency as well as a family member's experience with the agency.	2/10/2025 10:32 AM
24	Worked partnering alongside agency-many clients used their services	2/6/2025 8:13 AM
25	lack of caring for our individuals we serve.	2/5/2025 10:38 AM
26	None	2/3/2025 4:32 PM

Q21 Please list any comments, concerns, or suggestions you may have about the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, including the ease of obtaining information online. Your response may be quoted verbatim in a Committee report.

Answered: 187 Skipped: 1,351

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	<p>Subject: Enhancing Employment Opportunities for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities through Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) Partnerships with the Disability Provider Network - Aligning South Carolina with National Best Practices</p> <p>Dear Honorable Members of the Government Efficiency & Legislative Oversight Committee, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the current employment outcomes for adults with intellectual disabilities who receive support from South Carolina's Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) program. In my personal experience, I fail to see students exiting school who qualify for disability and special needs supports acquire gainful, competitive employment through current VR services. While I appreciate the efforts of Voc Rehab, the number of successful job placements for this population remains critically low, indicating a need for substantial improvement. Adults with intellectual disabilities possess valuable skills and a strong desire to contribute to their communities through meaningful employment. However, they often face unique challenges in navigating the traditional job market. Current Voc Rehab strategies, while well-intentioned, do not consistently provide the specialized support and tailored services necessary for their success. I believe a significant and impactful solution lies in fostering stronger partnerships and contractual agreements between Voc Rehab and the Disability Provider Network. The Disability Provider Network possesses extensive expertise in working with individuals with intellectual disabilities, understanding their specific needs, and offering specialized supports. Contracting with the Disability Provider Network would create a "win-win" situation for all stakeholders:</p> <p>Increased Job Placements: The Disability Provider Network has established relationships with local businesses and a deep understanding of the supported employment model. This would lead to a substantial increase in successful job placements for adults with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>Enhanced Individualized Support: The Disability Provider Network can offer ongoing, personalized support, including job coaching, skills training, and advocacy, ensuring long-term employment success.</p> <p>Improved Efficiency and Resource Utilization: Leveraging the existing infrastructure and expertise of the Disability Provider Network would streamline service delivery and optimize the use of public resources.</p> <p>Empowerment and Inclusion: Meaningful employment fosters independence, self-esteem, and social inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities, benefiting both the individual and the community.</p> <p>Reduction of reliance on public assistance: by helping these citizens obtain employment, it will reduce the need for public assistance.</p> <p>Alignment with National Best Practices: It is important to note that South Carolina is an outlier in its approach. Out of the 50 states, 48 states (VR) contract with their Disability Provider Network for these vital services. South Carolina is one of only two states that do not. This demonstrates that there is a proven, and nationally accepted model that South Carolina is currently not utilizing. By contracting with the Disability Provider Network, Voc Rehab can access specialized expertise, expand its service capacity, and achieve significantly better employment outcomes for adults with intellectual disabilities. This collaborative approach would not only improve the lives of individuals with disabilities but also strengthen our workforce and build a more inclusive community. I urge the Government Efficiency & Legislative Oversight Committee to thoroughly examine the current Voc Rehab practices and consider the benefits of expanding partnerships with the Disability Provider Network. I believe this strategic shift would result in a substantial and measurable improvement in the employment outcomes for adults with intellectual disabilities in South Carolina, and bring South Carolina in line with the overwhelming majority of other states. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.</p>	3/3/2025 7:11 PM
2	They provide vital services to help people with disabilities gain employment.	3/3/2025 6:32 PM
3	<p>This agency is suppose to assist people with disabilities obtain employment in South Carolina.</p> <p>Some concerns: The services and experiences offered can be very different. The failure to</p>	3/3/2025 4:37 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

educate the public about their purpose often trickles down, missing the very people they are charged to help. There is a lack of continuity of service delivery, lack of creativity to their programming supports, lack of understanding by the employees who work there, lack of education/ outreach to businesses in South Carolina about people with disabilities, lack of concern for employment for people with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities, lack of knowledge, supports, opportunity and interest for those residing in rural areas of South Carolina. The employee turnover is very high contributing to poor outcomes for people with disabilities. It is a very guarded, confusing system which can be very intimidating to the people they are tasked with assisting. In turn this leads to a lack of opportunity or no opportunity at all. Imagine you make an appointment with your local office or you are invited to their office, you are met with difficulty to access: such as locked doors, intercom systems, pressing access buttons to accessible doors that are not operating, you are verified by checking with person you are to see. The staff decide when you are permitted access, all of this is done before you physically have access. You are then forced to produce identification which they actually can take or not to confirm identity. You then must wait for the person who will be seeing you. Can you imagine how intimidating that can be for someone just looking for employment or opportunity?

4	South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation has been a great partner of South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice for years.	3/3/2025 4:19 PM
5	Recent turnover at Voc Rehab hinders the consistency of services. I have worked with Voc Rehab for a few years now. In that time, we have gone through several job counselors.	3/3/2025 3:21 PM
6	Would like agency to enhance services for individuals with disabilities.	3/3/2025 3:13 PM
7	Great program.	3/3/2025 2:17 PM
8	I am very concerned it will go away because of DOGE	3/3/2025 2:00 PM
9	Vocational Rehabilitation has opportunity to provide many resources to families that I serve, however, system flaws keep families from accessing services. Barriers that some families is face is with the transition from Pre-Employment Transition Services to Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Families get lost in opening new cases, navigating new systems, etc. The "transfer" over to this is not fluid and leaves gaps in services for families.	3/3/2025 1:37 PM
10	SC Vocational Rehabilitation offers services to public schools to better prepare our students for post secondary opportunities. I have worked closely with the state agency as well as the local agency to better serve students with disabilities through providing pre employment training and access to outside resources. It is easy to obtain information online and VR will return phone calls as needed.	3/3/2025 1:21 PM
11	SCVRD does really important work which resulted in me being able to not only be part of the workforce despite my disabilities, but to now also help others grow in their potential to do the same. In particular, the post secondary education program and other work with students is exceptional at helping provide resources and motivation to students who feel defeated and incapable of having meaningful employment in their future. My counselor changed my outlook on the possibility of success and my company's work with SCVRD, expands that to countless others every year. Our society is more productive, and people's lives have changed so much, because of the work VR does. I am so thankful for the help they provided me when I was my most vulnerable. Today, I'm honored to return the favor and expand that support to other students through Lowcountry Academic Consulting's partnership with SCVRD.	3/3/2025 12:17 PM
12	N/A	3/3/2025 11:44 AM
13	The services they provide to our students with disabilities, and families, are invaluable. I know staffing shortages are an issue, so any assistance to help promote Voc Rehab may be helpful.	3/3/2025 11:44 AM
14	My son has had job placement with Vocational Rehabilitation. He is on the Autism Spectrum. He has also had great job coaches that help him be a contributing member of society. My son has needed this support because of his disability. I am also a person who is hearing impaired, which is a new development in the last two years. I am happy that they were able to help me to find funding for my \$8,000 bilateral hearing aids.	3/3/2025 11:17 AM
15	They are always so helpful with job placement.	3/3/2025 11:14 AM
16	SCVRD is not only my employer but has also provided unique and essential service to my family. My son, who is deaf received invaluable support from Voc Rehab, which led to him to	3/3/2025 9:37 AM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

become a successful and high –earning engineer. Without the assistance of SCVRD, his opportunities for success would have been more limited. The agency is easy to access and work with. It plays a vital role in helping individuals to get their first work experience or reenter the workforce and achieve independence. As someone who has decades of experience specializing in job readiness, I am proud to be a part of an organization that transforms lives and strengthens our community.

17	SCVRD does amazing work and is committed to helping South Carolinians with disabilities obtain permanent employment.	3/3/2025 7:31 AM
18	The process is smooth, VR assists anyone with specific needs and disabilities, and Vocational Rehabilitation are always very helpful, encouraging and they check in with their cliental.	3/2/2025 10:37 PM
19	Need a more seamless approach to assist those with disabilities find gainful employment. Starting in elementary school Non profits like Able start helping students, parents and educators learn skills to help them be independent in daily life. DEW, VR & DOE need to work together. There is so much red tape in each of these agencies.	3/1/2025 2:52 PM
20	The staff at our local Vocational Rehabilitation basically told me my son was not capable of doing any type of work without doing any type of assessment or try outs.	2/28/2025 6:36 PM
21	I have employed several people from Vocational Rehab in the past 5-6 years. It has been my privilege to partner with an organization that seeks to help people with special needs find the right job to be productive people in our society. They have worked very closely with us in helping their clients find the right productive niche in our business. I hope to continue this business partnership with them for many years in the future.	2/28/2025 4:35 PM
22	I have had personal business experience with SCVRD since 2022, while employed with 2 different employers. Based upon a mutually beneficial experience in my first opportunity working with SCVR, when I joined my current company in 2005 as the fourth employee, I encouraged our sole proprietor owner to engage in a long term relationship. This came to fruition and has resulted in great success for our company and wonderful training opportunities for the disabled “trainees/clients/service consumers” for which a high percentage have graduated through the system and have obtained full employment in the private sector.	2/28/2025 4:06 PM
23	NA	2/28/2025 3:25 PM
24	The agency promotes inclusion and supports the consumers vocational objective. Support is always found at Vocational Rehabilitation	2/28/2025 3:12 PM
25	I find it easy to access the SCVRD platform. The Website is user friendly.	2/28/2025 3:05 PM
26	Great employment opportunity and the overall commitment to helping others is gratifying and a true blessing!	2/28/2025 2:05 PM
27	I feel that services provided are good but could be better if there is less red tape. Providing the services could move along quicker for consumers	2/28/2025 1:15 PM
28	I think that the process for services has been streamlined to better serve the client in contrast to previous years. Samatha Ryals, our point of contact is very responsive to our organizational needs.	2/28/2025 12:55 PM
29	Poor communication, they do not practice active listening skills, want you to take any job they offer you, very poor services for people with Autism. They had a "Autism content expert" but moved them to a new position and did not fill that position. Also I have a friend who works at state office. They tell me the commissioner is no where to be found on Fridays.	2/28/2025 12:15 PM
30	The SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides vital rehabilitation services to individuals in local communities who otherwise would have difficulty overcoming the barriers they face when seeking employment in their quest for a better-quality life.	2/28/2025 11:35 AM
31	Great agency. Provides amazing services to individuals with disabilities who require the services to get back to work and/or maintain employment.	2/28/2025 11:29 AM
32	Outstanding services for persons with disabilities.	2/28/2025 11:20 AM
33	For people with disabilities Vocational Rehabilitation is more concerned with “not messing up your benefits” than helping to find employment or meaningful independence. If a client has education beyond a high school diploma or GED they don’t know what to do with you. Most of the companies at job fairs are only hitting for minimum wage jobs so a client with a degree is	2/27/2025 10:51 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

over qualified. Job openings are usually around the general area of the local Voc. Rehab. office Even though most clients don't live there and don't have dependable transportation to and from there. Finding a job isn't the problem it's getting hired. Counselors use the same job search resources that the general public uses .

34	The staff does not follow up as well as they should for someone with a disability. They send out denial letters before ever calling or emailing. Then you have to go into the. Office to explain why you didn't respond bc you never heard back or they did not follow up again. They instantly deny helping those who could work but only if it was an at home job. They don't help people find jobs with bad backs. They lack knowledge of what programs a person can truly qualify for. Not very accommodating to homeschool families.	2/27/2025 9:20 PM
35	Great	2/27/2025 6:56 PM
36	I would like to see more individualized training.	2/27/2025 5:43 PM
37	After waiting six weeks to hear back from Voc Rehab, I was told they hadn't received my medical records. I contacted every one of my physicians and none had even received a request for my medical records. One employee who had never met me before literally laughed in my face and asked me if I thought I could even keep a job. I realized this voc rehab employee wasn't going to do anything to help me. Six years earlier I had gone to Voc Rehab and they did absolutely nothing for me. It must be nice to get paid and get government benefits for doing absolutely nothing all day.	2/27/2025 5:36 PM
38	I feel that they can do better by picking up there're phones clients need them asking them questions without chasing after them	2/27/2025 4:59 PM
39	Our company partners to find jobs for SC DVR. We have been very pleased with the candidates that have been referred to us. We are always eager to help out.	2/27/2025 3:57 PM
40	Mr. Jimmy Sercey has been excellent with communication and case management.	2/27/2025 3:40 PM
41	The Columbia South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is the best one that I've visit everyone is very nice respectable they return calls on time they send out reminders of appointments I have nothing but good things to say 😊❤️ I would definitely recommend them to all my friends and family 😊😊❤️	2/27/2025 3:18 PM
42	After attempting to stay in communication with my counselor consistently looking for work, my requirements for wage reporting to Social Security under a temporary contract position were not made clear to me with the benefits specialist, and now I may face overpayments. I wanted to do the right thing and be responsible, I want to trust this organization to help people, but how can I do my best when there are breakdowns in communication internally and with different agencies like DDSN, with no acknowledgement of needing to improve within SC VR? I am more than just paperwork or a list of medications or medical conditions. If I want to work, I need a balanced and confident support system that respects my needs for accommodations and having the correct information go to the right people without delays. It's difficult to find information online when so much is kept confidential or in paper only at the main office. If I'm looking for work I'm IT Support, how do I find local employers that understand who SCVR is and what they do to help people? Having information online shows transparency and an online portal where the consumer/individual has access to share and update information, paystubs, resumes, and career field choices is very important. Phone calls, emails, in person meetings, and signing papers with pens is not enough. Closed training centers do not help people looking for work when it's not available.	2/27/2025 2:59 PM
43	I am concerned about funding being pulled from Vocational Rehabilitation because it is taking programs out of schools that need additional support.	2/27/2025 2:52 PM
44	Agency has good people but policy doesn't allow help for all as they claim.	2/27/2025 2:47 PM
45	This agency needs more oversight. They did not help my daughter because she has an intellectual disability. That's their job.	2/27/2025 2:30 PM
46	Funny how this service is available, yet adult people transplanting to SC with disabilities are unable to get transportation, obtain job interviews or even find disability socialization groups. I'm thinking such services are only available within the City Limits and there is nothing if you live in a rural part of the state.	2/27/2025 2:12 PM
47	N/A	2/27/2025 1:12 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

48	These employees need to be compensated more for the great job they do.	2/27/2025 11:13 AM
49	During my recent attempt to assist a client with a local Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) application appointment, the experience was less than professional. Upon arrival, the receptionist informed the VR counselor of our presence. However, when the counselor arrived, she immediately questioned my presence and purpose in a manner that felt inappropriate. Despite the receptionist signaling that the window was open, the counselor proceeded to ask, "Who is she?" and "Why is she helping him?" She also inquired why I had asked for her contact details (phone number, email, and VR ID) when assisting my client with setting up the appointment. These questions could have easily been addressed in a respectful manner directly with me, avoiding any unnecessary discomfort. Instead, the counselor closed the window without realizing that we could still overhear her. Her approach was unprofessional, and the tone of the interaction was discourteous. Afterward, the counselor called my client and his mother back for their appointment. The client's mother explained that her son had a medical appointment scheduled for the following Friday, and based on the results, there might be additional appointments. In response, the VR counselor informed us that a case could not be opened because the client was under doctor's care and would need a release to work form. While I understand the importance of ensuring proper documentation, I believe the application appointment should have proceeded, and if the client were unable to work in the future, services could have been suspended at that time. Overall, the entire interaction left us with a feeling of unprofessionalism and terrible customer service.	2/27/2025 10:39 AM
50	Very dedicated men and women.	2/26/2025 6:25 PM
51	SC Vocational Rehabilitation has been a vital partner for Goodwill Industries of Upstate Midlands in our quest to serve people of all abilities and backgrounds with employment and training opportunities. The programs that SCVRD provides its clients help people gain skills, earn needed income, and instills confidence and hope in those often overlooked and underserved. As a business partner, SCVRD provided critical labor, and innovative work supports, to help us meet business needs.	2/26/2025 4:30 PM
52	I teach the Employability Credential class at JL Mann in Greenville. We have a close working relationship with Vocational Rehabilitation. Our students are served by Vocational Rehabilitation in various ways such as Work Training Center and trial paid employment. VR counselors work with us, attend IEP meetings, and serve our students. Our school has toured the Training Center. Voc. Rehab also follows our students upon graduation for a period of time. We are thankful we have Voc Rehab as one of our business partners.	2/26/2025 12:57 PM
53	N/a	2/26/2025 8:56 AM
54	My issue is communication. When I first reached out on behalf of a consumer of mine they expressed they no longer had my consumer in the system. I have since had my consumer sign forms to start the whole Vocational Rehabilitation process all over again. Each time I reach out to someone, I am told I will receive a message or phone call within a day or two. I have been trying to receive contact for over a month now and this is extremely frustrating because I believe my consumer would benefit from finding a part time job and has the capability to perform a part time job. However, if I cannot receive any further contact except that the forms have been processed, my consumer cannot go further with VR.	2/25/2025 2:12 PM
55	Need VR Community Outreach Specialist Operating in areas of South Carolina to provide VR program/service information and connect citizens with program.	2/25/2025 11:16 AM
56	I have no specific experience, but voc rehab as a whole is a valuable tool for our state and its citizens.	2/24/2025 8:07 AM
57	I've had a really great relationship with our voc rehab counselor for Pickens County Teresa Nash. She attends most of our students IEP and parent meetings and has really great insight into job careers and helping them find the perfect job.	2/20/2025 11:00 PM
58	I have not sought information online regarding SC Vocational Rehabilitation. My experience with the VR counselor that is assigned to my high school has been very, very positive. I think this is one of the best things that we can offer students with disabilities to help them transition to post-school living.	2/20/2025 2:37 PM
59	no comment	2/19/2025 4:00 PM
60	As having personal experience working hand and hand with VR, I have noticed that they do not collaborate with other agencies they are partnered with and tend to do their own thing. I feel	2/19/2025 8:27 AM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

they do not truly care about the individuals they are working with- in that it comes off as if they are just another number to them. Their goal in my experience is that they are to help get people with disabilities a job whether it is part time or full time. These individuals then must work at the these jobs for 90 days for them to then be dropped from their case load. Say a person was starting out at a part time job, and had an opportunity to move to full time with benefits at another company, VR tends to talk them out of that especially if they are close to their 90 day mark, because if they were to switch jobs, that 90 days starts over for VR and they have to keep them on their case load. I have had multiple experiences where on our side we are trying to help young adults with disabilities obtain full time jobs with benefits and when they end up being offered the job, VR will come behind our backs and talk them out of it and into staying at their current position solely because they are almost at the 90 day mark for them on their end.

61	VR Services for students with disabilities in middle and high school are not supporting our children to access and attend post-secondary programs utilizing a coordinating service between IDEA and the Rehabilitation ACT.	2/18/2025 2:07 PM
62	N/A	2/18/2025 1:25 PM
63	Through my work with specific Counselors in the schools, I have had a good working relationship with them and the way they support our students. Some have been more supportive than others, but my work with the agency for Project SEARCH has been quite different. The way they supervise/oversee the Job Skills Trainer felt as if we were working against each other in the work place. The expectations of the Job Skills Trainer were more heavily guided by the Director than the way programming was set up for Project SEARCH. Support and understanding of Special Education disabilities and the needs of the family did not seem understood and led to a less than positive working climate. It felt as if we were 2 silos with different outcome goals.	2/18/2025 11:01 AM
64	This agency is not doing enough to serve this population. There are waitlists up to 10 years long for services.	2/18/2025 8:40 AM
65	I do not think it's fair to use the word negative. However, there is definitely room for improvement. I provide the same services privately so it's frustrating to watch a state agency not provide the necessary resources for our children & young adults. I believe that some case workers are better than others. Unfortunately, there are too few of them & it may be a better option for VR to contract out with private agencies. VR's purpose is to provide transitional services & our state does a poor job in that area. I will give them kudos for their Project Search Program but so few young adults are chosen to qualify to participate that you almost have to know how to work the system. We have such a large population that needs to be served.	2/17/2025 11:29 PM
66	Son has asperges. Has not been able to get a job through assistance with vocational rehabilitation for the past 5 years. They do not follow up with client to offer further help with getting a job.	2/17/2025 7:43 PM
67	VR Staff not understanding the partnership between the school and the transition process for students with disabilities. VR Staff not communicating in a timely manner with school personnel when cases are approved or additional information is needed; thus time is lost regarding services being provided. VR Staff lacking organizational skills and losing privileged information on more than one occasion. VR Staff does not seek out job opportunities for clients on their caseload.	2/17/2025 1:17 PM
68	Dept of Voc. Rehab. provides a great service to my business and is a critical partner in our success. In addition the services it provides to the community is fantastic.	2/17/2025 7:27 AM
69	SCVRD is understaffed and has a high turnover rate. I've had an open case with them since I was a high school student in 2016. It is difficult to find verified public information online about the services they offer, I feel like I'm left to do most of the job searching on my own, and I try to stay in contact with counselor and job coach, but slow responses. I have been on multiple job search websites and I have certifications a entry-level career in Information technology since graduating high school, but challenges finding opportunities. I need assistance with keeping a job, and Help with obtaining industry-specific credentials. There need to be more support in Self Advocacy, Job Exploration, and Benefits Counseling. I have Autism, Incontinence, and Attention Deficit Disorder, my need for medication, diapers, and mental health support are medically necessary for me to do my best work. I have no dependable transportation to and from work, so remote work is necessary. Also Fear of losing benefits	2/16/2025 9:06 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

(SSI, Medicaid). I wish there was a way for me to easily add or update my necessary information into a online system to make it easier for my counselor, or anyone at SCVRD, including when communicating with employers, with my consent, about my needs, to have secure, accurate up to date information, with less tie ups in communication. I'm tired of not being able to access my own information about my case file, I want access to my own records. There is a lack of communication between DDSN and SCVRD for those on HCBS Medicaid waivers. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) knowledge for VR staff is necessary beyond any doubt when connecting to any People with Disabilities, including their respected gender identity to acknowledge their feeling of safety. The Information Technology Training Center is old and has not been in use for several years. I am concerned a key occupation field is being left behind at a critical point to provide an accessible way to learn for people looking to work.

70	The committee should make an effort to talk to people with autism and intellectual disabilities. VR "says" they serve those people but they don't! #discrimination	2/16/2025 10:44 AM
71	My name is Cheryl Bigham. I have been a very grateful recipient of the Vocational Rehabilitation agency for several years now. I am a recent below the knee Amputee (from Diabetes). Over the years, they've provided me with hearing aids, dental work (have recently gotten dentures) eyeglasses etc.They provide the communities throughout SC with many valuable resources & programs. Based on my personal experience, I can't say enough about VR. My counselor, Ms. Summer Rigby, is so kind & lovely. Everyone in my local Camden office is. Last year, I had the good fortune to attend the Voc Rehab Evaluation Center in West Columbia. That was such a wonderful experience! I am a recent below the knee Amputee. Throughout my journey with VR, they've helped me with hearing aids, dental problems, eyeglasses, etc. Recently I was to start attending the job training program but have had to postpone it due to a family emergency.Everyone was so gracious by letting me resume the program very soon. I recommend Vocational Rehabilitation to everyone. Bless this community organization.	2/15/2025 4:00 PM
72	Vocational Rehabilitation is currently NOT providing the mandated services required under the Workforce Opportunities Act or the Rehabilitation Act of 1979 which states that any child who has an IEP or a 504 plan, and is of Transition Age, which is 13 in the state of SC, is entitled to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services, regardless of the fact of whether or not they qualify or not for Vocational Rehab services! This IS NOT HAPPENING CONSISTENTLY IN OUR STATE!!! In Florence County, I was first told that services were not available to anyone under the age of 16, because NO ONE in the Florence office is given anyone UNDER the Age of 16 Any services, even though the law mandates that 15% of their VR budget go specifically to Pre-Employment Transition services! Then, when I got the VR state ombudsman involved, he tried everything he could think of to try and provide my son the services he is legally entitled to receive, but one can not make something appear from nothing! So, when there simply are no people to offer pre-ETS services, no Pre-ETS programs to be had, or even the very beginning thoughts of how to try and find, solicit or offer such services in a community, an employee who is simply charged with making people do what that ought to be doing, who is in Columbia, can not create out of thin air, services and people which simply don't exist. So, try as he might I finally told the ombudsman I released him of his duties to try and help me as there was nothing he could do to help me. I also contacted Disability Rights of SC. After having me go through all of the appropriate channels of "higher ups" expressing my grievances, I finally realized that they too were not willing or able for whatever reason to formerly sue or take corrective measures in my behalf, so they were interactive at making anything happen for me a we'll. I was told that they were aware that these services were not being provides as they should be and that they were actively "negotiating" with the various players involved to try and come to a compromise that all could agree on...when I heard this, I was left feeling all the more confused, as I did not know governmental agencies had the freedom and flexibility to "negotiate" the terms when it came to whether or not they were or were not going to meet the legal mandates set forth by congress??? I didn't know they had that right??? So, this disturbed me and bothered me. All in all I also was left very upset realizing that the money we could be spending to properly train the largest minority group in our country (yes, the disabled population!), who are American citizens, who want to work, who would be tax paying, loyal employees and would add so much to the communities they served! Why nobody sees this population of Americans as the most valuable untapped resource we have in America, I just don't understand??? They are eager, willing and devoted! They are trainable, loyal and hard working! They are Americans not looking for the next best thing, so dependable! They are our societies most under utilized and untapped resource! If we would simply realize what lot of gold our disabled community is, as a work force, community	2/15/2025 11:12 AM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

members, and productive members of society, we would be doing EVERYTHING we could to do ALL we can to insure they are in as many jobs as possible because this serves EVERYONE's best interest and is a Win-Win for all!!!

73	My son has experience some of the most horiffic experiences with this agency. They look for reasons not to work and help our disability children. He got so frustrated he would get upset when we had to meet with them. They give no support and are never there when you need them. They dismissed him from support and he was fired from his job within a week. The on the job help they are supposed to give is a joke.	2/15/2025 9:31 AM
74	Anne McAuley was extremely helpful to me during my cardiac rehab to get back to work.	2/14/2025 9:58 PM
75	Staff are passionate about assisting their clients in preparing for the workforce, obtaining job training, and finding meaningful employment	2/14/2025 4:46 PM
76	The SC Vocational Rehabilitation Agency indeed plays a vital role in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in South Carolina. By providing personalized services, they empower eligible individuals to develop the skills and confidence needed to enter or re-enter into the workforce. Their comprehensive approach includes vocational assessments, job training, and placement services, ensuring that consumers are not only prepared for employment, but also supported throughout their journey.	2/14/2025 4:04 PM
77	This is by far the best employment experience I have had. To actually help people and make a difference in their lives is something that I have strived for my entire professional life. Vocational Rehabilitation allows me to be the best employee that I can be and to help people at the same time. Helping South Carolinians return to gainful employment and becoming contributing tax payers through gainful employment is the best job that I could ever ask for.	2/14/2025 3:17 PM
78	Scvrd provides numer services to place or return individuals with varying disabilities back into the workforce so that they can become Purpose Driven, taxpaying citizens. This is a win-win for the state as it provides a needed service to a consumer while at the same time boosting tax revenues.	2/14/2025 2:58 PM
79	Vocational rehabilitation center, help you to understand what opportunities out there in a community as relates to a job placement. they spent a lot of time figuring out what the next step. Did you need to take to make you successful in accomplishing your goals. They also help prepare you in their training center to accomplish your goals into prepare for success.	2/14/2025 12:54 PM
80	The services are not helpful - and very inconsistent	2/14/2025 11:29 AM
81	Communities are unsure of VR's relationship with students and families in the school system. Therefore when they graduate, they are not working or do not receive much needed services through SCDDSN.	2/14/2025 11:06 AM
82	Many individuals with disabilities state that they either won't help them or do not call them back. (Conway, SC)	2/14/2025 10:53 AM
83	This department is lacking in providing services to individuals with IDD/Autism diagnoses. The counselors are not trained properly and are not genuine in interactions.	2/14/2025 10:51 AM
84	SCDVR, located in Oconee County, SC, serving both Oconee and Pickens County does an outstanding job on a multitude of levels! I have personally participated in meaningful, collaborative partnership meetings with Voc. Reb over the last 3 years. I have also engaged in conversations with many individuals, who have, and are currently utilizing the much needed, and provided VR services. The Oconee County Sheriff's Office has developed a very strong, successful partnership with Director, Jeff Martin, and Coordinator, Dan Alexander, here in Oconee County. The development, rehabilitation, and training programs, and services offered via VR are not only first-class, but world-class services that truly make Oconee and Pickens County better places for community citizens to grow, learn, work, and live! We commend Oconee, SC-Seneca branch-VR for it's efforts towards transforming people, business/industries, colleges, and communities in Oconee County, SC!	2/14/2025 9:48 AM
85	None	2/14/2025 9:01 AM
86	The team's dedication and expertise were truly remarkable. Their commitment to helping individuals find fulfilling employment had a significant impact on those searching for work.	2/14/2025 4:32 AM
87	VR does not work well with people on the Autistic Spectrum	2/13/2025 5:58 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

88	Everyone who works there seems to be professional and care about helping people.	2/13/2025 4:44 PM
89	They are great and extremely flexible to partner with. I enjoy each time I interact with their director and know their main mission and purpose are being fulfilled throughout the community!	2/13/2025 2:34 PM
90	My main concern is the lack of economic mobility. Although the mission for Voc Rehab is great, it does not pay the bills for its employees. Several vital members of Voc Rehab have been employed for five plus years and received no pay raises by the agency. The only pay increases that are seen are given by the governor. To most in the branch offices it seems that only those in high up Columbia offices see any economic mobility.	2/13/2025 1:25 PM
91	Summer Rigby Owens from Camden Voc Rehab is phenomenal. She is very professional, always very timely in responses and always tries to help any referral we send to her at the Camden Voc Rehab office.	2/13/2025 1:23 PM
92	Job training and placement is of the utmost importance in getting people off of welfare and onto the rolls of the working class.	2/13/2025 12:21 PM
93	Voc Rehab has been a positive force for so many in our state. I have worked with a number of their clients and it makes a huge difference to have this agency and its personnel. They are doing an amazing job.	2/13/2025 11:08 AM
94	I was a consumer many years ago and was assisted in post-secondary education. My family members have been consumers and had very positive experiences and found jobs. I now work for VR and I love what I do and what we do for consumers. It is a wonderful place to work for and the Oconee/Pickens Office cares for their consumers so much.	2/13/2025 10:59 AM
95	The SC Dept of Vocational Rehabilitation is instrumental and germane to our Colleges' mission of "transforming lives and building communities, one student at a time". They assist the larger community, helping us in "providing students an exceptional and affordable learning experience that improves their quality of life, and advances economic development in the region by preparing a highly skilled workforce."	2/13/2025 10:43 AM
96	It is a very needed service for those individuals with disabilities whom are able to work part or full-time.	2/13/2025 10:12 AM
97	I wish they were more inclusive of our population and their disabilities, so as to not deny services	2/13/2025 10:03 AM
98	As a high school job coach, I visit the SCVRD Beaufort Job Readiness Training Center once per week with students who qualify. I supervise and teach vocational skills to students with disabilities in an actual work setting. This prepares them for post-secondary employment and is not available in the classroom. The VR counselor assigned to the students develops a plan for each student and helps the students gain employment following graduation from high school, training programs, and college. Many hard and soft skills are taught to the students as well as industry standards. The counselor works job coaches, parents, students, teachers, businesses, and other agencies to assist students in preparing, achieving and maintaining competitive employment. Each high school in Beaufort County visits the SCVRD/JRTC one time per week. The vocational skills gained are invaluable to the students' future success.	2/13/2025 9:25 AM
99	I don't find the agency is proactive in way it works with people with disabilities to assist them in preparing for, achieving, and maintaining employment.	2/12/2025 9:04 PM
100	The South Carolina DVR has played a vital role in providing Quality Evaluation services to the Oconee plant of Clarios LLC. We sent numerous loads of parts for evaluation over the past couple of years and have always had great, timely service from the SCDVR. In addition, the work provided has been outstanding...we have never had a customer complaint from material sorted by the SCDVR. We would recommend their services to any other business/manufacturer unreservedly.	2/12/2025 4:07 PM
101	We are the parents of 2 sons with autism and fragile x. I have been heavily involved with Disabilities and Special Needs (and Voc ReHab) for many years. The folks at Voc ReHab are VERY COMMITTED to helping improve the lives of all our special FRIENDS. I have been involved with the Executive Directors of Voc ReHab in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties for many years, and they are credits to the communities they serve!	2/12/2025 3:43 PM
102	Counselor assigned to our school RARELY meets with my students. When he does come to my classroom, it is on a random day while I am teaching class. I complete the paperwork needed for my students to participate in work-based learning experiences as well as to attend	2/12/2025 3:14 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

the job readiness training center. My students need to meet with the counselor to discuss employment and training options.

103	It is quite easy to get information about VR on the internet.	2/12/2025 11:30 AM
104	n/a	2/12/2025 9:35 AM
105	I believe that SCVRD is an outstanding organization that does vital work for our communities across the State. The department works hard to provide quality services to it's consumers on a daily basis all in an effort to enable them to be able to work through the limitation associated with their disability in order to maintain the employment they have or to prepare for and to obtain employment.	2/12/2025 9:23 AM
106	Vocational Rehabilitation does everything possible to assist consumers with whatever it takes to return to work. We provide training, counseling, guidance, inpatient drug treatment, referrals to other agencies such as Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug, WIOA, DSS, and/or Adult Education. We also have a wonderful training center where consumers can come to increase work stamina, learn to use prosthetics, and learn how to behave in the workforce. We provide classes in completing applications correctly, interviewing effectively, and creating resumes, as well as classes for professionalism, budgeting, stress management, and using social media safely and effectively in their job search. This truly is a great program, and it helps so many people every year.	2/12/2025 9:14 AM
107	We find SC Vocational Rehabilitation personnel very easy to contact and communicate with about our patients.	2/12/2025 7:31 AM
108	Awful agency. Awful leadership. Why is this a cabinet? They need oversight. They are disconnected and SC would be better off getting rid of them.	2/11/2025 10:07 PM
109	Our company has partnered with the SC VR to assist individuals with disabilities in finding employment. This partnership has assisted us as well as the individual. The staff have been hands on and the process has been easy. After seeing the positions posted online, they do not get paid what they are worth.	2/11/2025 1:16 PM
110	This state agency is critical to anyone with a disability who wants to go back to work. This program provides essential services to those with a disability.	2/11/2025 12:11 PM
111	The Department has an impeccable record of placing South Carolinians with a disability in lifelong careers.	2/11/2025 12:08 PM
112	As a school employee trying to navigate services for adults with disabilities and their options after transitioning out of school, it is difficult to understand the guidelines and services that are provided for an adult with disabilities who may need more support to access a job and what the steps are to receive services for employment.	2/11/2025 11:57 AM
113	Richland Library Business and Careers communicates with the SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation by email, on Zoom, and in person. All of these communication methods have worked efficiently for us with prompt results/actions.	2/11/2025 11:52 AM
114	Working for this employer has been a positive experience. The work environment is supportive, and I feel valued and appreciated in my role.	2/11/2025 11:26 AM
115	Positive work environment that provides support to employees.	2/11/2025 10:47 AM
116	Vocational Rehabilitation has a passion for the Consumers they serve.	2/11/2025 10:26 AM
117	Vocational Rehab offers so many services that the community and community healthcare workers are unaware of. It would be so beneficial if they did more marketing and if there was more awareness about how the agency assists individuals with disabilities with rehabilitation and with returning to work.	2/11/2025 10:16 AM
118	Vocational Rehabilitation truly is the state's best kept secret. The services they provide are invaluable in helping someone manage their disability and obtain successful employment.	2/11/2025 9:57 AM
119	My experience with SCVRD has been tremendous!! They have helped me and my family through some difficult time and i would not be where I am without the assistance of SCVRD.	2/11/2025 9:24 AM
120	The South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is a valuable and vital service, particularly for students identified with disabilities. I provide my students with VR applications and information in their junior year. It is explained as thoroughly as possible and parents are	2/11/2025 8:52 AM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

encouraged to consider this option by returning a completed application form and communicating with the VR Counselor. I would have provided a "Very positive" response to the question, "Overall, what is your opinion of the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; however, my students do not see a VR Representative on a regular basis. In the past, our high school has had to send emails to the assigned VR Counselor and/or the VR Business Specialist and/or the Area Manager to obtain services for our students. The VR services we have obtained for our students have been extremely helpful. Over time, my students have received assistance for school expenses, job opportunities, and work experience. My wish is that my students receive more regular appointments/visits from Vocational Rehabilitation.

121	I love them! They genuinely and purposely work in the best interest of the people they are trying to help. I look forward to having a long positive relationship with them helping provide jobs for the people of Columbia, SC.	2/11/2025 8:45 AM
122	We need to continue with this program in South Carolina to give an equal opportunity in the community to thrive	2/10/2025 6:36 PM
123	The services provided by SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation are imperative in helping add to the economy through assisting people in gaining employment.	2/10/2025 4:49 PM
124	SC Vocational Rehabilitation is a very positive agency.	2/10/2025 4:25 PM
125	VR is dedicated in assisting individuals with disabilities. Their concern & love for people is paramount. To help someone asking for help is a win win situation.	2/10/2025 4:08 PM
126	I believe it is an excellent agency that provides numerous benefits and services to disabled individuals. These services include the tangible services that you can see and measure; job placement, rehabilitation, Physical Therapy, etc. But also intangible benefits such as social skills, soft skills, team building, etc.	2/10/2025 3:49 PM
127	The department Servies has changed many lives for the better with employment and education.	2/10/2025 3:22 PM
128	The ability to provide a written response is only one way to reach the masses. The Office has always been responsive, and diligent in doing so.	2/10/2025 2:48 PM
129	I have had a positive experience working with the agency. We strive very hard to meet the mission of the agency.	2/10/2025 2:27 PM
130	VR Staff go above and beyond to help meet the needs of their Consumers as they seek to obtain employment in the community.	2/10/2025 2:23 PM
131	N/A	2/10/2025 12:55 PM
132	They can be difficult to get an appointment with and seem too overworked to fully meet the needs of clients	2/10/2025 12:54 PM
133	This agency is inspiring! I love the work we do! By enabling and helping people with disabilities to break through barriers with obtaining and/ or maintaining competitive employment they are able to be independent.	2/10/2025 12:45 PM
134	Wonderful place to work. It is very fulfilling to work for an agency that has the potential to make a difference for people. Our state is fortunate to have an excellent VR program that is constantly working to make things better for individuals who need VR services.	2/10/2025 11:56 AM
135	SC Voc Rehabilitation is the key to keeping South Carolinians working, becoming and staying independent. SCVRD has strategic tools, skills and programs that are available for enhancing individuals, needs. The website is accessible at all time	2/10/2025 11:46 AM
136	SCVR provides crucial services to individuals with a disability in SC that want to be employed.	2/10/2025 11:34 AM
137	This agency does great things for our community, state and country.	2/10/2025 11:16 AM
138	I believe further advancing communications with consumers would be helpful. Automatic appointment reminders would encourage the consumers to come into the office for appointments.	2/10/2025 11:11 AM
139	Very pleased with the devices	2/10/2025 11:09 AM
140	My only comment is that my team who helped me at vocational rehabilitation was life changing	2/10/2025 11:05 AM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

and made a very positive impact on me. It helped me during a very hard time and genuinely helped me maintain employment. The workers in my local office are all very kind and diligent people. Thank you.

141	Information regarding VR is accessible and easy to understand. They partner with several agencies so if there is information you need, and they do not have/know they provide information to assist.	2/10/2025 11:01 AM
142	They do a wonderful job.	2/10/2025 10:43 AM
143	The closest area office can be located and contacted via email from the website. The agency website is user friendly where programs can be reviewed.	2/10/2025 10:32 AM
144	Vocational Rehabilitation has had a positive impact on my life and given me a chance to be a productive citizen again. I am very thankful to be a part of the team now.	2/10/2025 10:29 AM
145	SCVRD does wonderful things to assist individuals with disabilities find, maintain and advance careers.	2/10/2025 10:04 AM
146	South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation goes above and beyond to ensure that lives are positively impacted through true added value service delivery.	2/10/2025 10:04 AM
147	SCVRD has amazing leadership and has created an environment where serving persons with disabilities is a priority while also doing its best to take care of employees.	2/10/2025 8:18 AM
148	SCVRD is a complete scam of the tax payers dollars. The leadership has only one concern and it's not the interest of those with disabilities, it's lining their own pockets. The good ole boy system is still in effect, but now it would be better described as the good ole gal system. Felicia Johnson has promoted all her closest friends to positions of power despite a complete lack of experience with most. Audit this agency immediately! The financial practices are questionable to say the least. The Allied Opportunities scam was the tip of the iceberg and even that was given a pass of any substantial judgement.	2/8/2025 8:49 AM
149	again, not sure why the rush to shutter an agency thst helps retrain disabled people is the proper way to help these people. Or maybe, like Trump and Musk, you really dont care about people not as well off as you are.	2/7/2025 5:49 PM
150	My adult son has autism, depression, and OCD. He has a documented history and medical records dating back for years. He was deemed eligible for DDNS services for ASD. However, he participated in Vocational Rehabilitation Services for two years and was never placed in a job. He spent a year at Florence Co. and a year at Horry Co. VR. Florence Co. told us they could not place him in a job. Horry Co. never did either but after months he began to get more depressed and was hospitalized. Now more recently the VR denied him having an intellectual disability under for Medicaid. This is appalling and needs to be corrected. This young man needs certain services and cannot get help from the state that my tax dollars support.	2/7/2025 9:44 AM
151	Vocational Rehabilitation is supposed to begin providing services for people with disabilities beginning in the high school years to help them transition from school to work with ease. This does not happen regularly. Their services and supports are antiquated and minimal. They do provide a job training site but the jobs in the training center (in Aiken) does not prepare consumers for any job in the community. VR needs more staff and provide more servcies that better prepare people to work.	2/7/2025 9:23 AM
152	SCVR is very difficult to work with when it comes to individuals with disabilities and special needs. Often, the department will determine they cannot work with the individual because they simply do no not understand intellectual disabilities nor are they open to work with them. People with disabilities choose to work with waiver funded job coaches through the DDSN system because VR is not receptive. Folks who do not have waiver services are out of luck. SCVR is behind all other states when it comes to employment services with this population. VR entities in other states have built successful partnerships with other state disability agencies and for some reason, South Carolina VR does not wish to.	2/7/2025 8:23 AM
153	I don't know where to start other then to see while I believe the commissioner is competent there's the air of a hostile work environment. The Human Resources Director is one of the most disrespectful, unprofessional and vengeful leaders I know ; how she speaks to people or rather at is unacceptable. The commissioner is aware of this as well, and at the same time the commissioner manages by intimidation. I would like to say the Boston street offices continuously deal with air conditioning issues during the summer . There's absolutely no	2/6/2025 8:24 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

engagement activities done at this site , while it is at others across the state . Wish you could do exit interviews or pull those from former staff members.

154	I wish that they did more to partner in the community and funded more services regardless of income.	2/6/2025 7:01 PM
155	N/A	2/6/2025 4:54 PM
156	I hope they assist people with special needs to be more self sufficient in the work environment.	2/6/2025 3:29 PM
157	The SCDVR has been extremely successful in increasing the GDP of our state by increasing the skills and therefore the employability of individuals with disabilities. Cuts to this program would be detrimental to our beautiful state's financial success. I have personally used SCDVR services to increase my own employability, and regularly refer my students with disabilities to this program. Me and innumerable others have increased our skills and education under this program, which has increased the GDP of our state. Do not cut this valuable program for any reason.	2/6/2025 12:39 PM
158	Chronic staff shortages within VR have severely impacted access to services for young people with disabilities transitioning from school to work. Collaboration between the school district and VR plays a crucial role in preparing students for the workforce and improving their chances of securing and maintaining employment after high school. However, when VR counselors are burdened with unmanageable caseloads due to open positions, it becomes difficult to provide the necessary support, leaving everyone at a disadvantage and more people left dependent on an SSI check unnecessarily.	2/6/2025 10:37 AM
159	SCVRD was helpful for me to get needed accommodations for my disability so I can continue my employment. This agency is vital to finding employment to persons with disabilities. This agency is one of the few that have a positive return on investment. Individuals with disabilities can reduce or eliminate the need for government assistance with help of this agency by finding employment. They work with employers of all sizes and increase employment for South Carolinians with disabilities. They are good stewards of tax payer dollars and are knowledgeable about employment and disabilities.	2/6/2025 9:44 AM
160	There are many things VR has done right, but unfortunately not for female employees who have dealt with sexual harassment by coworkers. HR mishandled the case accepting an apology from the male employee and stating that the staff member who was harrassed would not work with the male staff member. Shortly thereafter their departments were combined and continuous interaction occurred. This led to the female employee leaving the agency. The male employee is still working at VR obtaining bonuses and raises.	2/6/2025 8:50 AM
161	South Carolina VR does not treat people with disabilities with respect, equality or equity. The agencies focus is always monetary and many individuals needing services are ignored or not even considered (specifically those with developmental and intellectual disabilities). Many have been denied services or have had cases closed before anyone has even become familiar with an individual and their needs. It is very apparent they do not want to serve individuals with higher needs that may require accommodations. Also, several staff work well over 30+ hours and are not given any option of healthcare therefore they have a constant revolving door of staff. After working with and meeting SEVERAL VR employees over several years, I have found attitudes to be very poor. I left the disability sector all together because of actions like this and no longer being able to watch the disability community suffer due to the egos of state agencies. The disability voice is NEVER heard.	2/6/2025 8:13 AM
162	While they could do more to serve individuals with more significant disabilities, this Department is incredibly vital to providing services necessary in keeping our workforce pool and thus economy working effectively. We need as many folks as possible working so they can earn money to live as they choose.	2/5/2025 2:50 PM
163	They respect the disability community and we have had very close connections with them. They work closely with Able SC to prepare youth with disabilities for employment within the school and community.	2/5/2025 2:40 PM
164	My children should be able to get their dad's disability or at least draw from his SS because he can not fully work because he is paralyzed...yet they make such strict laws that nobody gets proper protection with employment or personal issues	2/5/2025 2:15 PM
165	I feel like the caseworkers do not really care about the people on their caseloads and that we	2/5/2025 1:25 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

are just numbers to them to check off a box or a list. I have been awaiting a call since April 2024. Left multiple messages and emails, and calls remain unreturned. I am very frustrated.

166	As a special education teacher with transitioning students, I have had the honor of partnering with the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Having the ability to give students with disabilities resources to assist with their transition from high school to the workforce is extremely beneficial in preparing them for positive work experiences. It also contributes to their well-being, ability to be working and upstanding citizens, and success beyond K-12.	2/5/2025 1:22 PM
167	VR supports persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism and persons with a Brain or Spinal Cord Injury. The challenges is the lack of experience with this population for the dedicated staff at VR. Additionally, there is a disconnect between those supporting people with IDD/Autism and Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries and the State Systems. Vocational Rehabilitation takes months to determine eligibility as well as work to find appropriate job opportunities for this population and with the lack of specific expertise, the individual could be receiving job coaching services from a dedicated and trained job coach in the DDSN system. Additionally both State VR and State DDSN refuse to cooperate with the overlap in this population and the loser ends up being the people that we are trying to support. VR indicates one thing and DDSN indicates the process as another. There is confusion and frustration with those providing the service and again, the loser is the consumer needing job coaching.	2/5/2025 11:00 AM
168	I work with students with disabilities and the resources that Vocational Rehabilitation Services has been excellent. They have helped in lining up my students in employment while still enrolled in school, and after graduation from high school as well. They have effectively provided my students with the employment skills need to obtain their jobs such as providing mock employment interviews, expectations and an opening for questions on how to do their job with efficiency just to name a few positives.	2/5/2025 10:43 AM
169	It is very difficult for individuals who live in rural areas to obtain VR services. Many of these individuals do not have the transportation needed to drive 30-45minutes to nearest VR location for enrollment service.	2/5/2025 10:39 AM
170	Agency is very dismissive and not promoting the people that trust us to advocate for them	2/5/2025 10:38 AM
171	This entity needs to be funded fully	2/5/2025 9:57 AM
172	LEAVE OUR AGENCIES ALONE. WE WILL NOT BE OPPRESSED AND HARMED BY LAWMAKERS. YOU WORK FOR US. and we are watching. We will remember who you side with and support during these dark days. Your actions will not be forgotten or go unnoticed. Stop acting like England back in the day and start protecting ALL people in your state.	2/5/2025 9:57 AM
173	SC Voc Rehab has been very helpful to my disabled daughter. They are organized, professional and supportive.	2/5/2025 8:55 AM
174	Vocational Rehabilitation helps to increase tax revenue by helping individuals that would be relying solely on disability to gain employment (part time or full). The agency goes above and beyond for the individuals and businesses it serves.	2/5/2025 7:42 AM
175	This agency has a lot of resources to help the citizens of South Carolina. Unfortunately, in some of the areas and the area directors are not very responsive to other agency referrals. I would suggest to longitudinal data of citizens served by each area. You will see some areas are excelling while others have fallen behind. This has occurred way before COVID but that is what they are using as an excuse.	2/5/2025 7:41 AM
176	Great program that help individuals with disabilities.	2/4/2025 4:07 PM
177	Please, please, please divert more funding to this agency. I'm not affiliated with them, but these are the kinds of programs we should be amplifying with taxpayer dollars and NOT investing more money into crooked and shady law enforcement offices. This Department changes lives who go on to create a ripple effect of positive change. This state needs this—urgently!	2/3/2025 11:05 PM
178	Taking care of a sibling with a intellectual disability and trying to get through to someone or even trying to find the correct rehabilitation centers to help is never good or positive they don't help you try to help your loved ones	2/3/2025 10:33 PM
179	Excellent agency. SCVRD does an outstanding job of providing services to assist persons with disabilities finding employment. This agency enhance the quality of life of persons with	2/3/2025 9:20 PM

Public Input Survey About Agencies Under Study -2025-

	disabilities by empowering them to become more self sufficient and a tax paying citizen.	
180	The South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is extremely important because they are able to provide resources to people who have all types of disabilities and are looking for employment. They help anyone who is disabled obtain jobs, such as those who were born with disabilities and those who have become disabled, like veterans who have been harmed while fighting for our country. If disabled individuals are able to find employment, then they will not have to rely on things like Social Security as much, and for this reason the SCDVR should remain functional and fully funded.	2/3/2025 8:42 PM
181	For about 100 years this agency has helped people with disabilities find employment and also help businesses hire talented people.	2/3/2025 8:16 PM
182	It is so essential to make sure disabled South Carolinians can live dignified lives, including as independent working people.	2/3/2025 7:42 PM
183	My son went through their program and they never assessed him for his needs. I had to get assessments done. They put him in a program that was obviously not a match. He was then told if he wanted to continue services he had to go to work at Carolina mop which was going to pay him \$7.25 an hour. He was going to but I sent him to retail he worked for couple of places and then went to Office Depot and he is still employed at office depot. Voc rehab did not help him at all.	2/3/2025 4:24 PM
184	Great resource for high school students. Wish there were more support for our students to help them after graduation.	2/3/2025 3:41 PM
185	So I was in the TBI class at the Columbia SC VR office. I was not able to finish it due to my medical issues. After talking with my case worker and asking for help I was delayed at every turn. I would ask for help and they would tell me they could do it but while I suffered waiting they were not doing anything on their end. It came down to most email not being answered and I complained to the SC Inspector General, which should be on file	2/3/2025 2:52 PM
186	The South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has a significant and ongoing impact on communities that include individuals with disabilities. They help these individuals prepare for success in life. However, they need more funding to extend their support to additional communities and individuals in need. I believe that providing this assistance is both effective and compassionate. It also has an economic impact, enabling individuals who face various challenges to acquire skills that promote their independence and allow them to have agency over their lives.	2/3/2025 1:57 PM
187	This department is crucial for the development and support of people with disabilities.	2/3/2025 12:04 PM