



Vocational Rehabilitation

Let's go to work

House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

*Mission: To prepare and assist South Carolinians with disabilities
to achieve and maintain competitive employment.*

Key Customer Segments

- Eligible persons with any of more than 135 different physically and mentally disabling conditions. The consumer's expectation is to receive appropriate, individualized services that will result in a successful employment outcome and opportunity for self-sufficiency.



Key Customer Segments

- Business and Industry. This includes employers who look to SCVRD to provide well-qualified, reliable employees, as well as companies that provide valuable job-readiness training opportunities for consumers by outsourcing tasks to the agency's work training centers. These relationships are vital for alignment with trending labor market information and in providing demand-driven vocational rehabilitation services.
- Schools, state and local agencies and private, non-profit organizations, who refer individuals they serve to SCVRD for employment assistance.



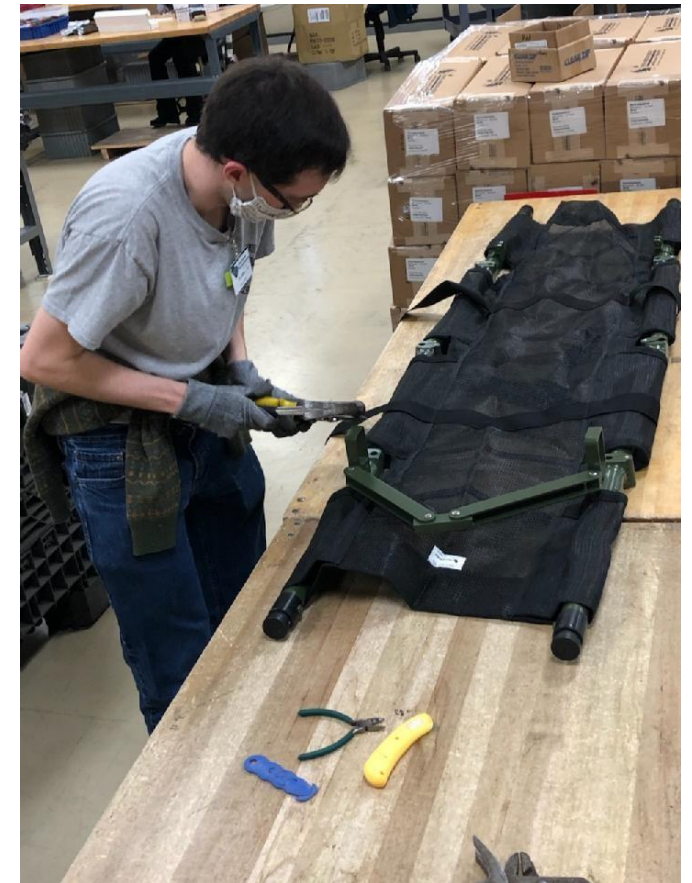
SCVRD in SFY 2020

Mitigating Costs

- To reduce costs, the agency delayed vacancy postings for non-critical positions, reduced part-time positions, limited personnel reclassifications, and imposed significant reductions in travel.
- Some staff trainings and nearly all supervisory/workgroup meetings were converted to virtual platforms.
- Where applicable, in-person services to consumers were converted to virtual platforms.

Impacting the fight against COVID-19

Consumers at **Allegro Industries** and **North American Rescue (NAR)** packaged components for respirators and nebulizers, and assembled Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and other kits for the military and first responders.



"Please accept my deep gratitude for your efforts on behalf of SCVRD to provide minimum disruption of labor resource supply as monumental challenges caused by the current Coronavirus pandemic would have shut our Assembly Operations down.

Your great cooperation and support to jointly develop contingency plans ahead of the mandated shutdown(s) that your organization incurred very much positioned NAR and TQM to minimize lost person hours worked and enable scheduled sales order commitments to be fulfilled.

The NAR/ SCVRD relationship has grown to an amazing partnership these last 15+ years, may it continue as in the past and become only stronger in the future!"

*Jim Carino, VP of Operations
North American Rescue (NAR)*

"I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and your organization for continuing to assist the Postal Service in its crucial mission to ensure delivery of the mail no matter the situation. While we are navigating unprecedented waters together as a nation, it's suppliers like you who allow us to keep our promise to America and keep the mail moving."

*Jeff Lewis, Spare Parts Contract Officer
United States Post Office*

Successful Employment Outcomes

- Cost benefit analysis shows that successfully employed consumers will pay back \$4.47 for every dollar spent on services received by becoming taxpayers, repaying the cost of services in 4.5 years.
- 4,007 consumers became employed in competitive, integrated settings.
 - 79 percent of those consumers worked 30 or more hours per week after receiving services. (99 percent of all VR consumers reported no earnings when referred to VR.)

Progress in WIOA Implementation

- Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) measures moved forward. The measures capture consumer employment rates six months and one year after exit, median earnings six months after exit, credential and skills gains, and effectiveness in serving employers.
- In FY 2020, 56.5 percent of VR consumers were employed during the 2nd quarter after exit from the program and 55.04 percent were employed during the 4th quarter after exit from the program.



Demand-Driven Training with partners such as **Greenfield Industries** in Seneca (top photo) and **Bridgestone** in Aiken area provide VR consumers with skills specific to the needs of those employers and others in their communities. Due to a **100% Quality Rating** and **100% Delivery Rating**, VR has achieved **“Approved Supplier”** status with Greenfield Industries.

Progress in WIOA Implementation *(continued)*

- The agency continues streamlining and restructuring positions to efficiently and effectively align itself with WIOA requirements, including the mandate to use 15 percent of federal funds for providing pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) to students.
- The number of students receiving Pre-ETS, as defined by WIOA, nearly doubled in 2019 to 10,560, and in 2020 increased 40 percent more to 14,820. (Pre-ETS services are a subset of all VR services provided to students.)
- VR has successfully met all quarterly reporting deadlines of its parent agency, the US Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration, for the required 393 data elements per case.



VR staff served on the Steering Committee for Be Pro Be Proud SC. The mobile unit is scheduled to be at VR facilities in the Lowcountry, Midlands, and Upstate in April.

