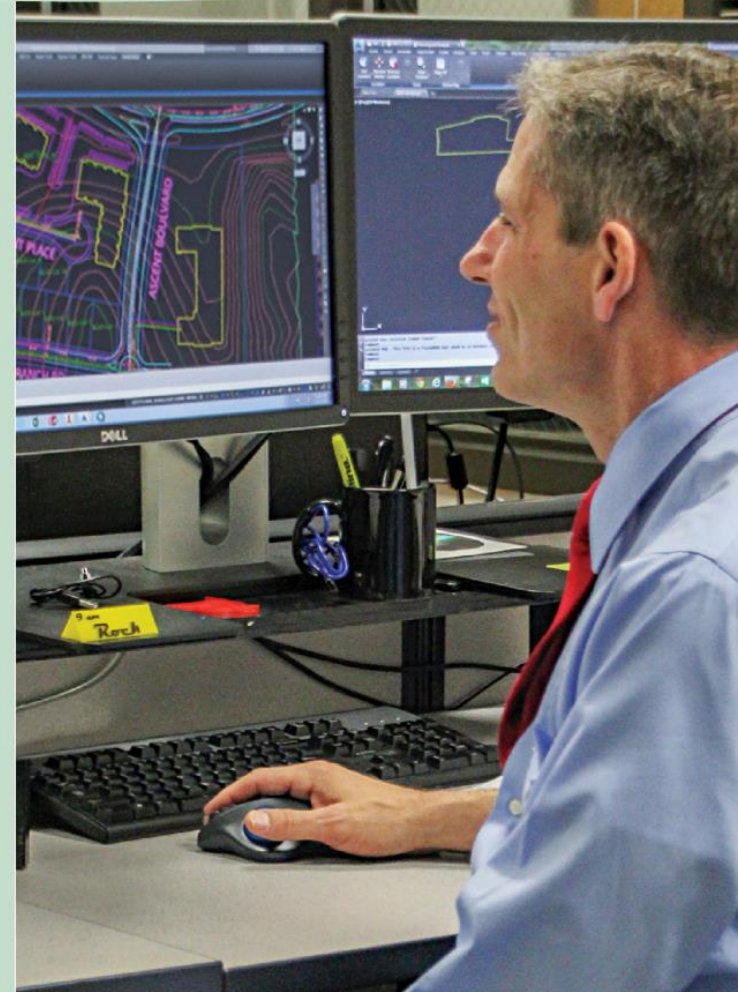


VR

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 2019:

Successful Employment Outcomes

- Cost benefit analysis shows that successfully employed consumers will pay back \$4.49 for every dollar spent on their services by becoming taxpayers, repaying the cost of services in 3.9 years.
- 4,930 consumers became employed in competitive, integrated settings.
- 67 percent of those individuals worked 35 or more hours per week after receiving services. (79 percent of all VR consumers reported no earnings when referred to VR.)



Business partnerships provided quality career opportunities. **Workman Cycles** in Conway, America's oldest bicycle maker, employed more than 10 VR consumers in assembly, welding and administrative positions.



Progress in WIOA Implementation

- Implementation of 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.
- The agency has undergone significant streamlining and position restructuring to align itself with WIOA requirements efficiently and effectively, including the mandate of 15 percent of federal funds being used for pre-employment transition services. Over the past two years, the number of active caseloads has been reduced from 285 to 251.



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.

Progress in WIOA Implementation

- In FY2019 just over 52 percent of VR consumers were employed during the 4th quarter after exit from the program.
- School-to-work transition services continued to be enhanced through expansion of Project SEARCH sites for students with intellectual developmental disabilities, from 10 to 14 sites.
- The number of students receiving pre-employment transition services (pre-ETS), as defined by WIOA, nearly doubled in 2019 to 10,560. (Pre-ETS services are a subset of all VR services provided to students.)

Customized Training:

The department began an exciting new partnership in West Columbia with **Schneider Electric**. Customized training results in direct hiring after VR consumers receive intensive training in skills specific to that employer's positions.



Non-Recurring Budget Request

Credential Attainment—Skill Boss

\$453,750

- Performance-based assessment tool for evaluating the skill levels and competencies of potential machine operators.
- For purchase of 25 units at a cost of \$18,150 per unit.
- Will expand this program to adult population at the department's job readiness training centers throughout the state.
- Curriculum provides simulated workplace experiences and knowledge of modern manufacturing production standards, complemented by soft skills training provided by staff.
- Skill Boss offers Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification in five critical areas of the manufacturing environment: Safety; Quality Practices and Measurement; Manufacturing Processes and Production; Maintenance Awareness; and Green Production.
- The department will work with the local manufacturing community to ensure demand-driven career learning program meets their workforce needs.

Non-Recurring Budget Request

Demand-Driven Training – HVAC and Welding

\$1,072,900

- Mobile workstations that provide hands-on applications related to welding and air conditioning/heat pump/environmental applications for adults and transition students with disabilities.
- 15 Amatrol RealWeld learning systems at \$50,880 each and 10 Amatrol HVAC learning systems at \$30,970 each.
- Provides simulated workplace experiences to be coordinated with VR's soft skills training to increase potential for industry recognized credentials.
- Will identify career interests and prepare consumers for additional training for HVAC maintenance/installation technicians and welding technicians, enhancing successful employment potential in these growth industries.
- Both industries have high demand and growth projection for technicians in South Carolina, and both pay an average of more than \$20 per hour.

Non-Recurring Budget Request

Virtual Career Exploration (VCE) Training Services

\$267,200

- Purchase of virtual reality/learning systems from Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing Technologies (SiMT).
- Would expand this program to the adult consumer population and be installed at 25 SCVRD Job Readiness Training Centers at a cost of \$10,700 per site.
- Uses immersive technology to place consumers “in the shoes” of professionals so they can experience what it’s like to drive a forklift, weld, operated manufacturing equipment, or work in the healthcare field.

Proviso Requests

No proviso requests.



Felicia W. Johnson, Commissioner
SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department