



GLOBAL SECTION B SUBCOMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITIONS DIVISION

Inflation Impacts:

The primary impacts of inflation include the following:

- Cost increases in market value items purchased as part of Individualized Plans for Employment for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) participants, including college tuition, transportation expenses, and work supplies.
- Changes in lease agreements in field offices and Helena with additional cost escalators.
- Cost increases in longstanding contracts. For example, technology contracts maintenance and operations increases for existing systems.

DPHHS 2025 Annual Plan:

Describe goals, objectives, and performance measures and how your division is captured in the department's annual plan.

DETD is included in Strategic Outcome #2.

Key Measure:

Increase measurable skill growth for foster youth engaging in vocational rehabilitation services for 25% of all participants.

On July 1, 2023, there were 33 Foster Care Youth receiving VR services, on June 30, 2024, there were 69 Foster Care Youth receiving VR services.

Continued efforts to submit referrals for foster youth aged 14 to 18 are being used to identify foster youth eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

Additional Updates and Performance Information

DETD has as a requirement under Rehabilitation Services Administration to manage and update the following reports which all contain information relating to the division's efforts to support the DPHHS 2025 Annual Plan.

[2023 Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment](#)

[2024 Vocational Rehabilitation portion of the State Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Plan](#)

[2020-2025 Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services Strategic Plan](#)



Efficiencies and Cost Savings:

Disability Determination Services adopted IMAGEN, an AI technology that converts clinical text from disability applicants' health records into valuable data. Since early 2023, 100% of Montana DDS examiners have used IMAGEN, resulting in more efficient analysis, and more timely disability determinations.

VR has transitioned to a paperless system which leads to cost savings and efficiencies by reducing material costs, lowering storage costs, increasing productivity, and enhancing security.

Provide numerator, denominator, and measurement period for any results presented.

VR served 5,525 participants over the biennium; 654 participants successfully met their employment goal.

VR served 1,367 Social Security Beneficiaries in SFY24, 157 of these beneficiaries achieved substantial gainful activity empowering them to be independent from public benefits.

Describe any direct or indirect interactions your division has with justice-involved individuals.

DETD has direct interactions with youth and adults who are justice-involved. The division served 743 ex-offenders over the biennium to support them in pursuing their employment goals. An ex-offender is defined as an individual who either (a) has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process for committing an offense or delinquent act, or (b) requires assistance in overcoming barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.

DETD collaborates with Juvenile Probation to support youth with disabilities who are justice-involved.

DETD collaborates with drug courts across the state to support those individuals enter or remain in the workforce.

DETD collaborates with Montana's pre-release centers to support those individuals who are justice-involved and have disabilities prepare for and enter the world of work.

DETD provides training to Montana Law Enforcement Academy trainees to ensure understanding of the new 9-1-1 call centers and understanding how Montana Relay works to best respond to callers in emergency situations.