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2-1-2005

# Data Note: What Do Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Cost?

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### Recommended Citation

Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston, "Data Note: What Do Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Cost?" (2005). *Data Note Series, Institute for Community Inclusion*. Paper 46.  
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# Data Note No. 1, 2005

## What do Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services cost?

The VR system has the flexibility to purchase a wide array of services to support an employment outcome, including vocational evaluation, vocational training and postsecondary education, transportation, supported employment, interpreters, and adaptive equipment. VR services include core counseling and guidance provided by a VR counselor as well as services that are purchased based on an individual employment plan.

In fiscal year 2003, the average cost of the purchased services that resulted in an employment outcome was \$4,008 for individuals who successfully completed their employment plan, and \$2,161 for all closures including individuals who did not achieve a rehabilitation goal.

The cost of services varied significantly by disability, ranging from an average of \$2,923 for each successful closure for individuals with a primary disability of substance abuse to \$5,577 for individuals with a primary disability that was orthopedic in nature.

### Vocational Rehabilitation Services

#### Cost per Case\* by Disability and Type of Closure: Fiscal Year 2003

Disability	All closures**		Successful closures	
	Number of closures	Mean cost/case	Number of closures	Mean cost/case
Visual	29,540	\$3,894	15,442	\$5,267
Hearing	29,869	3,403	18,747	4,170
Orthopedic	114,021	2,861	37,660	5,577
Mental retardation	48,068	2,616	19,942	4,096
Substance abuse	35,594	1,682	12,424	2,923
Mental illness	108,724	1,775	31,147	3,502
Learning disability	58,600	1,581	22,977	2,939
Other	193,345	1,659	59,218	3,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>617,761</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>217,557</b>	<b>4,008</b>

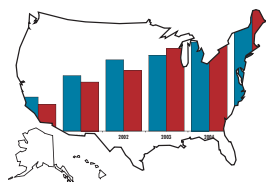
\* "Cost" is the cost of purchased services, and does not include administrative costs or the cost of core rehabilitation counseling services provided by the VR agency.

\*\* "All closures" includes successful rehabilitations; unsuccessful closures (after an individualized plan for employment has been developed); and individuals closed before eligibility determination, not accepted for services, or after eligibility determination but prior to an individualized plan for employment.

Sample purchased services available as part of an individual employment plan:

- Assessment and evaluation
- Diagnosis and treatment
- College/university training
- Occupational/vocational training
- On-the-job training
- Job readiness training
- Job search services
- Job placement services
- On-the-job supports
- Transportation
- Rehabilitation or assistive technology
- Reader, interpreter, or personal assistance services or supports

Source: RSA 911 database for FY2003



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A project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston

