

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR GOVERNOR BRYANT AND MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE:

On behalf of the citizens with disabilities we serve, let me sincerely thank you for the support you have given the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). We are making great strides in serving Mississippians with disabilities and you are certainly a part of every success story that we have. We are continually working to improve our services to consumers and develop partnerships with other agencies, consumer groups, and businesses.

At MDRS, we provide a quality program of comprehensive rehabilitation services, independent living services, and disability determination services for people with disabilities that will result in social and economic independence, employment opportunities, improved quality of life, and integration into the community. The Office of Special Disability Programs continues to increase home and community based services to our consumers. The Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind have continued to meet or exceed all federal standards and indicators prescribed by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. The Office of Disability Determination Services continued to process a phenomenal number of cases with a 97% accuracy rate and one of the best processing times in the country.

At MDRS, we are always working to serve Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner, mindful of our consumers' needs and concerns. It's been another great year and we look forward to continuing our partnerships to achieve great successes with the Mississippians we serve.

Sincerely,

H.S. "Butch" McMillan

J. 2 "Butch" M. Millan

Executive Director

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Disability Determination Services

We determine the medical eligibility of individuals with disabilities to receive benefits from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) directed by federal guidelines from the Social Security Administration.

Special Disability Programs

We assist individuals with more severe disabilities by providing supports which allow them to continue to live or move toward living independently in the home or community. During 2013, the Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP) provided independent living services for 4,568 individuals with significant (severe) disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

We help over 21,000 Mississippians a year overcome limitations imposed by physical or mental disabilities in order for that person to secure or maintain employment. In 2013, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) assisted 21,544 Mississippians with disabilities in receiving services including, but not limited to: counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, vocational exploration, physical and mental restoration, job training, assistive technology, and job placement. Individuals served by VR have a wide array of disabilities including: hearing loss or deafness, amputations, mental and emotional disorders, epilepsy, developmental disease and disorders, traumatic brain injuries, orthopedic impairments, residuals from cancer, and speech impairments to name a few. The total number of successful employment outcomes for our VR consumers in 2013 was 4,569.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

We specialize in working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired to ensure opportunities for inclusion into the workforce, community, and home. Of the 4,569 successful employment outcomes by VR in 2013, 574 were achieved through Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (VRB). VRB provided consumers services such as counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, vocational exploration, orientation and mobility training, job training, and assistive technology. In 2013, the Addie McBryde Center provided personal adjustment services and training to 169 consumers.

AbilityWorks, Inc. - AbilityWorks is a network of 17 community rehabilitation programs providing vocational assessment, job training, and actual work experience for individuals with disabilities. This is possible through a wide array of contract and subcontract services provided to local business and industry. Some of the services and products AbilityWorks offers include collating and sorting, packaging and handling, assembly work, product reworking, product reclamation, grounds maintenance, housekeeping and quality reviews. *During FFY 2013, AbilityWorks served a total of 2,932 MDRS clients, resulting in 942 successful employment outcomes.* An AbilityWorks' community-based program, Linking Innovative Networks of Community Services (LINCS) establishes cooperative agreements with local businesses to provide the evaluation, job readiness or job training for our consumers.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Assistive Technology - We provide evaluations and assessments for MDRS consumers to help assure maximum access to technology available for individuals with disabilities.

Business Enterprise Program - The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides support for self-employment opportunities in the food service industry for Mississippians who are legally blind. These BEP entrepreneurs operate a variety of businesses including vending machine routes, snack bars and cafeterias on military bases. *In 2013, forty (40) individuals operated successful businesses as BEP vendors.*

Deaf Services - We help people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened find employment, attend education and training programs, and learn more about their community resources. Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCDs) possess required communication skills level on the Signed Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI), an American Sign Language assessment developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology. This skill, along with other specialized training, has been a vital factor in the successful rehabilitation of **912** persons with deafness or significant hearing loss. In addition, 5 staff interpreters are available to assist consumers and staff members and use American Sign Language to insure maximum accessibility throughout the rehabilitation process.

Independent Living Services for the Blind - We serve individuals who are legally blind and either over the age of 55 or have a significant secondary disability by providing a variety of independent living services. In 2013, ILB served over **2,800** consumers through indirect services such as health fairs, vision screening, peer groups, and outreach. ILB provided direct services to **760** consumers. Furthermore, in 2013, the Itinerant Teacher Program provided **74** services for VRB consumers.

Supported Employment - We assist individuals with the most significant disabilities who require intensive support services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment. Each MDRS district has a Supported Employment Team consisting of a specialized VR/SE counselor, and a Vocational Training Instructor who oversees the work of Job Trainers working on site with our consumers. *During 2012, 917 individuals received Supported Employment services, 74 resulting in successful employment.*

Transition Services - We work with eligible secondary school students with disabilities, their families, and school personnel to assure there is an integrated program of education and vocational training available to provide a seamless transition from school to work. *In 2013, the number of students receiving transition services was approximately 3,150. Successful employment outcomes resulted for 482 students.* Examples of transition services are vocational-technical training, vocational evaluation, work adjustment training, on the job training, job search skills, and work experience programs. These services may be available to students both on and off campus or at one of the 17 AbilityWorks as a part of their school day.

IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB IN 2013

PERSONS SERVED BY PRIMARY DISABILITY		
PRIMARY DISABILITY	Number Served	
Cognitive and Mental	7,849	
General Physical	6,907	
Hearing Loss, Communicative		
Legally Blind, Other Visual	1,842	
Orthopedic	1,293	
Deafness	314	
Blindness	95	
Respiratory	80	
Deafblind	22	
Application Status	176	
Total	21,544	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS REHABILITATED		
OCCUPATION	Number Served	
Employment in Integrated Setting		
Self-Employment (excluding BEP)		
Homemaker		
Vending Stand Operator		
Unpaid Family Worker		
Total	4,569	
EMPLOYMENT IN INTEGRATED SETTINGS		
	Number Employed	
Service Worker	′	
Sales		
Skilled Craft		
Secretarial/Office/Clerical		
Laborer		
Professional		
Operative		
Executive/Managerial		
Technical/Paraprofessional		
Production Occupations		
Community and Social Service		
Clerical and Administrative Support		
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical		
Healthcare Support		
Computer and Mathematical		
Education, Training, and Library		
Protective Service		
TOTAL		

IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB IN 2013

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PERSONS SERVED		
Gender	PERCENTAGE	
Male	47.80	
Female		
AGE AT APPLICATION	PERCENTAGE	
10 and under	0.02	
10 - 20		
20 - 30		
30 - 40		
40 - 50	18.82	
50 - 60		
60 - 70		
70 - 80	2.19	
80 - 90	0.29	
90 - 100	0.00	
Age not listed	0.02	
Average Age at Application		
Education Level at Application	PERCENTAGE	
No Formal Schooling	0.10	
Elementary Education (Grades 1-8)	3.33	
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Secondary Education, no high school diploma		
Secondary Education, no high school diploma	18.74	
	18.74	
High School Graduate or Equivalency Certificate	18.74 34.78 14.58	
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IN DEPTH LOOK AT DDS & OSDP IN 2013

OFFICE OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Claims Processed	98,946
Average Processing Time	91 days
Average Cost Per Case	
Accuracy Rate	

OFFICE OF SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Program	Number Served
Independent Living Waiver	
TBI/SCI Trust Fund	
TBI/SCI Waiver	861

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

ROI TO THE VR/VRB PARTICIPANT

- Average Total Cost per VR/VRB Participant: \$898 (State), \$3,319 (Federal)
- Average estimated lifetime increase in earnings, compared to control group: \$60,421
- Average estimated benefit to program participants (Mississippi income tax and reduction in public assistance):
 \$6,407
- ROI to VR/VRB Participant: \$6,407/\$898 = 7.1

ROI TO THE MISSISSIPPI TAXPAYER

- Total VR/VRB state appropriation, FY 2008-2009: \$11,765,035
- Total estimated increase in lifetime earnings, compared to control group: \$315,337,199
- Total estimated benefit (Mississippi income tax and reduction in public assistance): \$33,435,363
- ROI to Mississippi Taxpayer: \$33,435,363/\$11,765,035 = 2.8

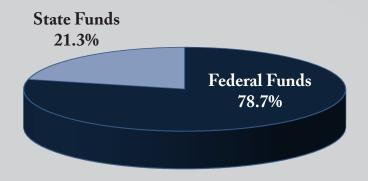
IMPACT ON EARNINGS

- VR/VRB participants receiving services are 3.4 times more likely to be employed, when compared to the service-eligible control group.
- VR/VRB participants receiving services earn on average an additional \$1,495 more in the first quarter after exit, when compared to the service-eligible control group

TITLE ONE SECTION 110 MATCH FUNDING

2013 Section 110 Grant	\$ 44,467,038
State Match	<u>\$ 12,034,916</u>

Total 2013 Funding \$ 56,501,954



PROOF OF PERFORMANCE

OFFICE OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

PROCESSING TIME

Year	National Average	Mississippi Average
2011	110 Days	97 Days
2012	102 Days	93 Days
2013	107 Days	91 Days

COST PER CASE

Year	National Average	Mississippi Average
2011	\$488	\$299
2012	\$435	\$279
2013	\$455	\$311

PRODUCTION PER WORK YEAR

Year	National Average	Mississippi Average
2011	290	340
2012	324	370
2013	322	368

^{*}The Mississippi DDS has maintained a net accuracy rate of 97% or higher for each of the 3 years above.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Year	Number of Clients Served	Annual Cost Savings to the Division of Medicaid
2011	3,346	\$168,355,878
2012	3,378	\$176,145,487
2013	3,487	\$206,635,981

^{*}Figures shown above are based on the Division of Medicaid cost reports for the Independent Living Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver.

