

2014
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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Annual Report

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) to provide appropriate and comprehensive services to Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner.

VISION STATEMENT

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services is committed to being recognized as the premier agency for Mississippians with disabilities by creating a culture of care with compassionate, valued, and knowledgeable staff. We will promote an environment where customers and staff work together to achieve our common goal of empowering and improving the lives of Mississippians with disabilities.



H.S. McMillan
Executive Director

DEAR GOVERNOR BRYANT

and members of the Mississippi Legislature:

Each year over 100,000 Mississippians with disabilities are served by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) through our many programs. These services result in social and economic independence, employment opportunities, improved quality of life, and integration into the community. Your support is greatly appreciated and essential in making a difference in the lives of the people we serve and you are certainly a part of every success that we have.

At MDRS, we provide a quality program of comprehensive rehabilitation services, independent living services, and disability determination services for people with disabilities. The Office of Special Disability Programs continues to increase home and community based services to our consumers allowing individuals with severe physical limitations to remain in the communities of their choice. The Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind have continued for the last eighteen years to meet or exceed all federal standards and indicators prescribed by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and are recognized as two of the best agencies in the country. The Office of Disability Determination Services continues to process a phenomenal number of cases with a 97% accuracy rate and one of the best processing times in the country.

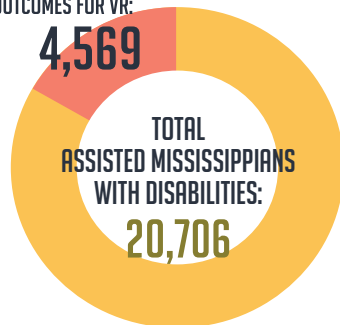
At MDRS, we are always working to serve Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner, mindful of our consumers' needs and concerns. It's been another great year and we look forward to continuing our partnerships to achieve great successes with the Mississippians we serve.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H.S. 'Butch' McMillan".

H.S. McMillan, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT
OUTCOMES FOR VR:



We help over 20,000 Mississippians a year overcome limitations imposed by physical or mental disabilities in order for that person to secure or maintain employment. In the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) assisted 20,706 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 FFY 2014 was 4,569.

4,569 SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

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. The MDRS Deaf Services Program continues to promote excellence by striving to assist new RCD's (Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf) to reach the required communications skills level on the Signed Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI), an American Sign Language assessment developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology. Adequate communication skills are a pre-requisite to meaningful counseling and guidance with people who are Deaf and use manual communication.

This skill, along with other specialized training, has been a vital factor in the successful rehabilitation of individuals with deafness or significant hearing loss. In FFY 2014, Deaf Services were provided to 3,403 Mississippians, resulting in 980 successful rehabilitations.

980 SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATIONS

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 FFY 2014, 925 individuals received Supported Employment services, 105 resulting in successful employment.

105 SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENTS

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 FFY 2014, the number of students receiving transition services was 3,040. Successful employment outcomes resulted for 432 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.

432 SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

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 FFY 2014, 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.

ADDIE MCBRYDE REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND

The Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind provides traditional intensive evaluation, training, and adjustment services on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. In FFY 2014, the Addie McBryde Center provided training to 178 consumers.

PROVIDED TRAINING TO 178 CONSUMERS

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 military base cafeterias. In FFY 2014, forty (40) individuals operated successful businesses as BEP vendors.

40 SUCCESSFUL BEP VENDORS

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 FFY 2014, ILB served over 4,000 consumers through indirect services such as health fairs, vision screening, peer groups, and outreach. ILB provided direct services to 793 consumers. Furthermore, in FFY 2014, the Itinerant Teacher Program provided 62 services for VRB consumers.

PROVIDED SERVICES TO 793 CONSUMERS

SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

We specialize in assisting individuals with the most severe physical disabilities remain active in their homes and communities. Services are provided based on need as determined by functional assessment and are provided through an individualized plan of care. The Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP) offers services that include, but are not limited to: case management, attendant care, durable medical equipment and specialized medical supplies, home and vehicle modifications, respite care, and transition services. During the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014, the Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP) provided independent living services for 4,710 individuals with significant (severe) disabilities.

4,710 INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES PROVIDED

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

We operate in a partnership with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine the medical eligibility of individuals to receive benefits from Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income as directed by federal guidelines from SSA. This office handles disability claims from all twenty three (23) SSA offices in Mississippi.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (AT) is defined as the application of technology to alleviate barriers that interfere with the lives of individuals with disabilities and is intended to help the individual maintain or enhance his or her ability to function personally, socially, and/or vocationally. MDRS Rehabilitation Engineers and Rehabilitation Technologists provide consultation on all AT referrals as well as perform initial evaluations and assessments, and set up AT equipment, provide follow-up evaluations, design and fabricate original items, and provide specifications and final inspections for AT services. The Assistive Technology Division staff evaluates MDRS clients for the most appropriate assistive technology, thus enabling them to return to work and/or live independently.

ABILITYWORKS

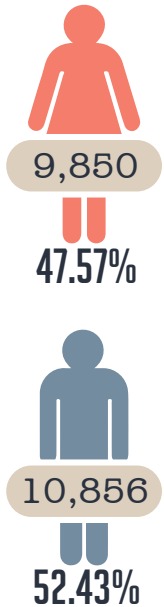
AbilityWorks is a network of 17 community rehabilitation programs providing vocational assessment, job training, and actual work experience for individuals with disabilities. This is possible through a wide array of contract and subcontract services provided to local business and industry. Some of the 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 2014, AbilityWorks served a total of 2,756 MDRS clients, resulting in 697 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.

697 SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

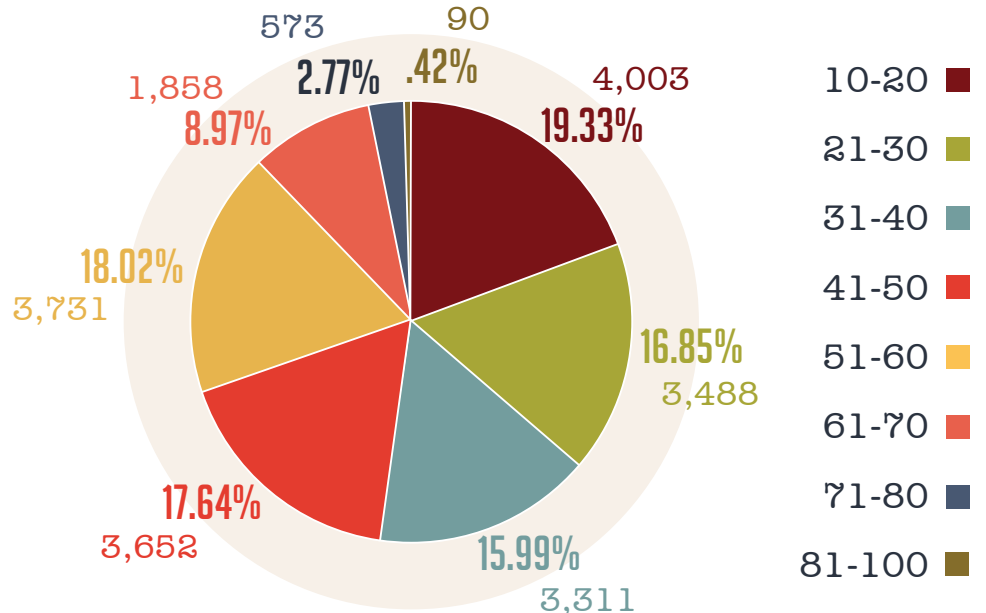
IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB

Demographics of Persons Served

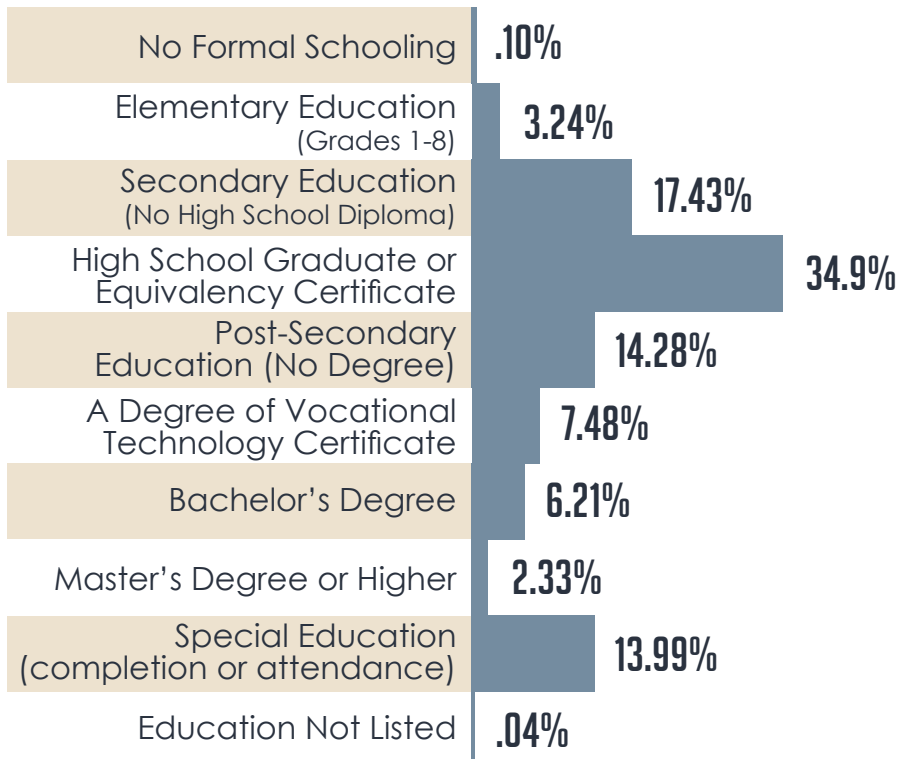
Gender



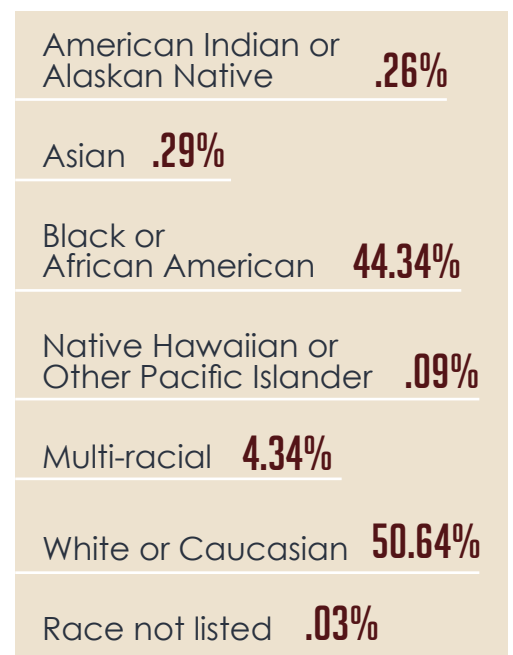
Age at Application



Education Level at Application



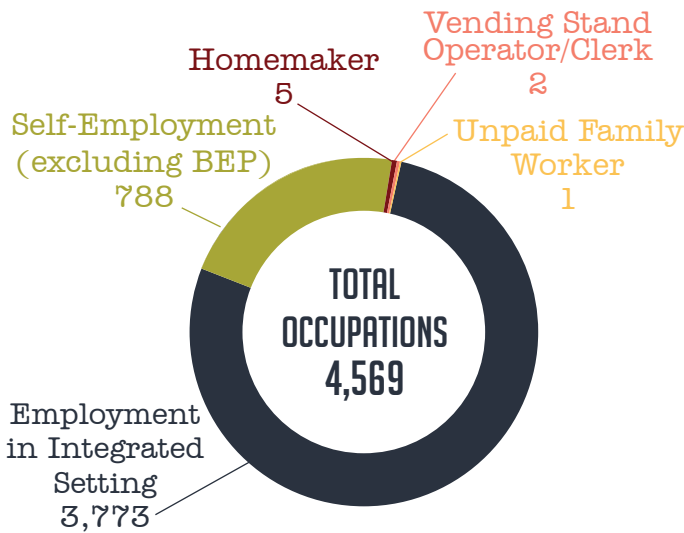
Race



IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB

Status of Persons Rehabilitated

Employment Status of Persons Rehabilitated

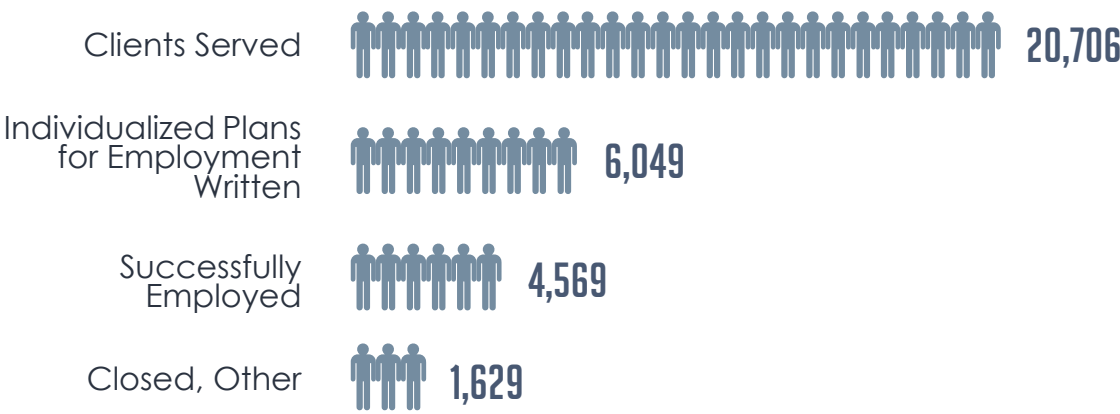


Employment in Integrated Settings

Service Worker	1,062
Sales	464
Skilled Craft	519
Secretarial/Office/Clerical	466
Laborer	391
Professional	347
Operative	234
Executive/Managerial	157
Technical/Paraprofessional	85
Production Occupations	1
Community & Social Service	8
Clerical & Administrative Support	8
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	7
Healthcare Support	7
Computer & Mathematical	7
Education, Training, & Library	5
Protective Service	4
Personal Care	1

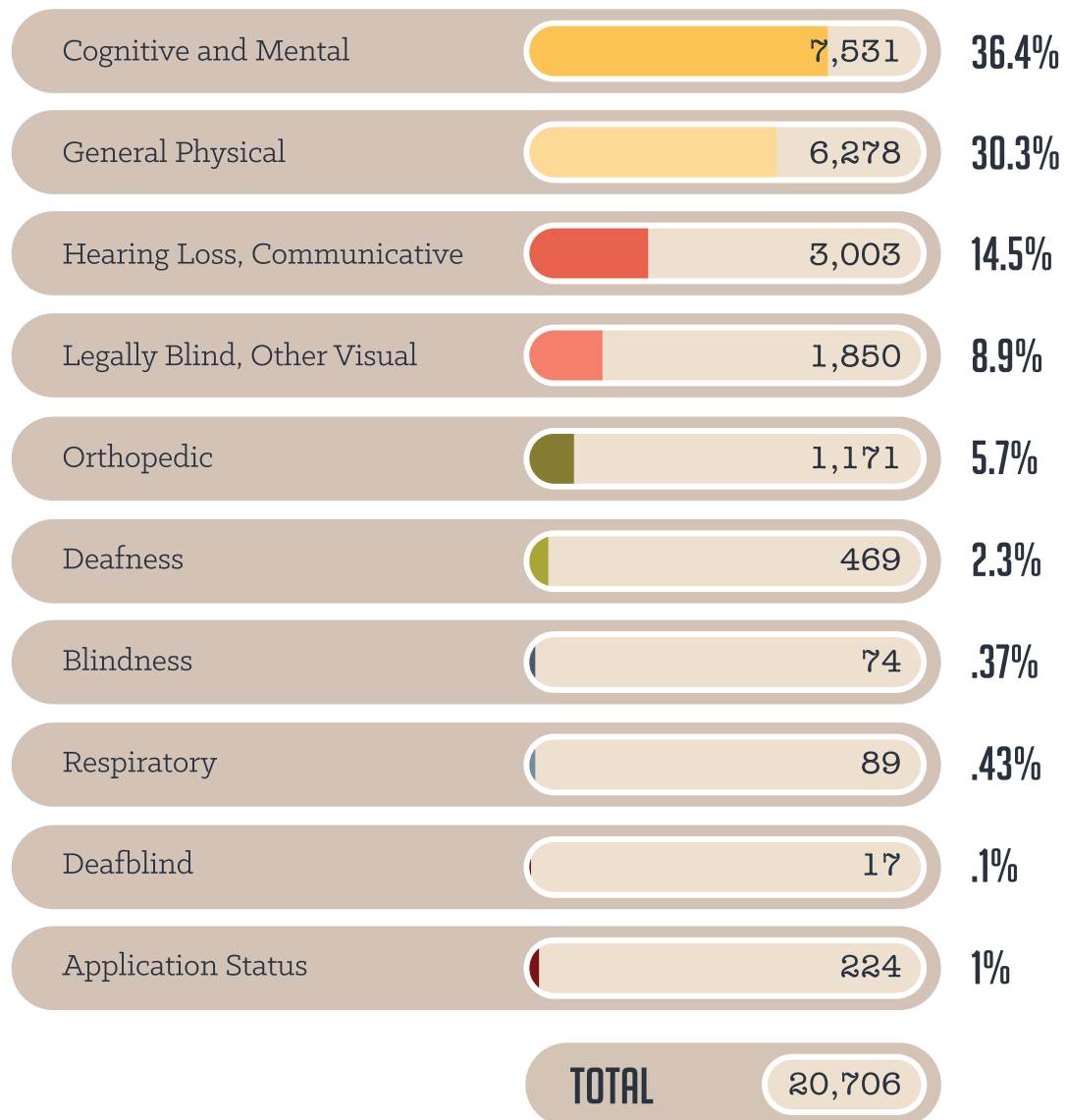
3,773

Clients Served and Closed for 2014



IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB

Persons served by Primary Disability



Program Funding: Title One Section 110 Match Funding

2014

Section 110 Grant

\$44,576,629 (78.7%)

State Match

\$12,064,577 (21.3%)

Total Funding

\$56,641,206 (100.0%)

IN DEPTH LOOK AT DDS & OSDP

Office of Disability Determination Services

Claims Processed	95,359
Average Processing Time	89 days
Average Cost per Case	\$316.00
Accuracy Rate	97%

Office of Special Disability Programs

	Number Served
Independent Living Waiver	2805
TBI/SCI Trust Fund	370
TBI/SCI Waiver	942

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
2014	104 Days	89 Days

Cost per case

Year	National Average	Mississippi Average
2011	\$488	\$299
2012	\$435	\$279
2013	\$455	\$311
2014	\$462	\$316

Production per Work Year

Year	National Average	Mississippi Average
2011	290	340
2012	324	370
2013	322	368
2014	310	357

**The Mississippi DDS has maintained a net accuracy rate of 97% or higher for each of the 4 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
2014	3,739	\$220,322,128

**Figures shown above are based on the Division of Medicaid cost reports for the Independent Living Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver. *OSDP numbers are reported from the State Fiscal Year.*

DISTRICTS & OFFICE LOCATIONS

District I

51 County Road 166
Oxford, MS 38655
OVR: (662) 234-3171
OVRB: (662) 234-6092
OSDP: (662) 234-5744

District II

2620 Traceland Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
OVR: (662) 842-1010
OSDP: (662) 840-9946
615-A Pegram Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
OVRB: (662) 844-5830

District III

201 Highway 7 South
Greenwood, MS 38930
OVR: (662) 453-6172
OVRB: (662) 455-1432
OSDP: (662) 453-2253

District IV

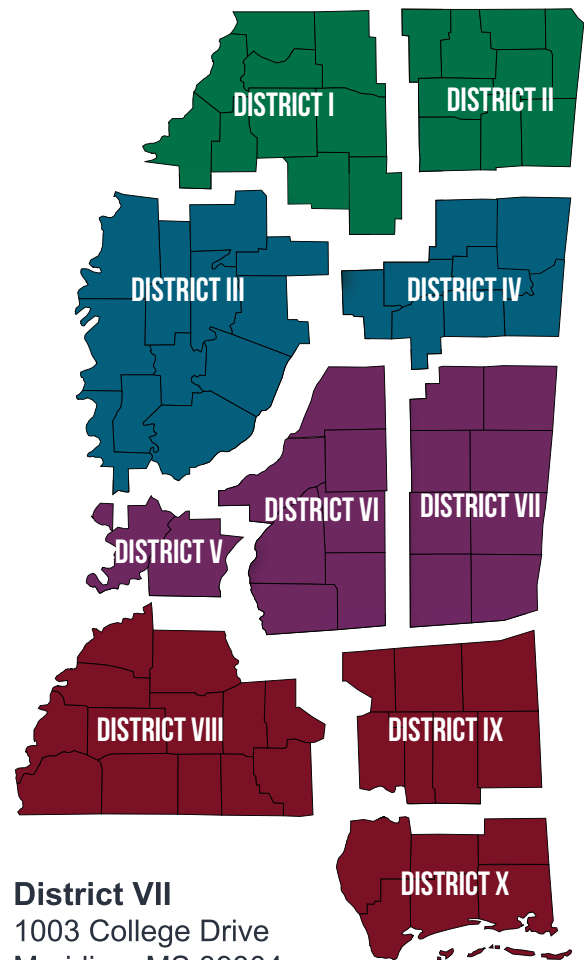
207 Industrial Park Road
Starkville, MS 39760
OVR: (662) 323-9594
OSDP: (662) 324-1881
48 Datco Industrial Drive
Columbus, MS 39704
OVRB: (662) 328-8807

District V

3895 Beasley Road
Jackson, MS 39213
OVR: (601) 898-7004
OSDP: (601) 898-7034
2550 Peachtree Street
Jackson, MS 39296
OVRB: (601) 987-7403

District VI

1032 Center Pointe Blvd., Suite A
Pearl, MS 39208
OVR: (601) 709-5601
OVRB: (601) 709-5625
OSDP: (601) 709-5657



District VII

1003 College Drive
Meridian, MS 39304
OVR: (601) 483-3881
OVRB: (601) 483-5391
OSDP: (601) 482-1594

District VIII

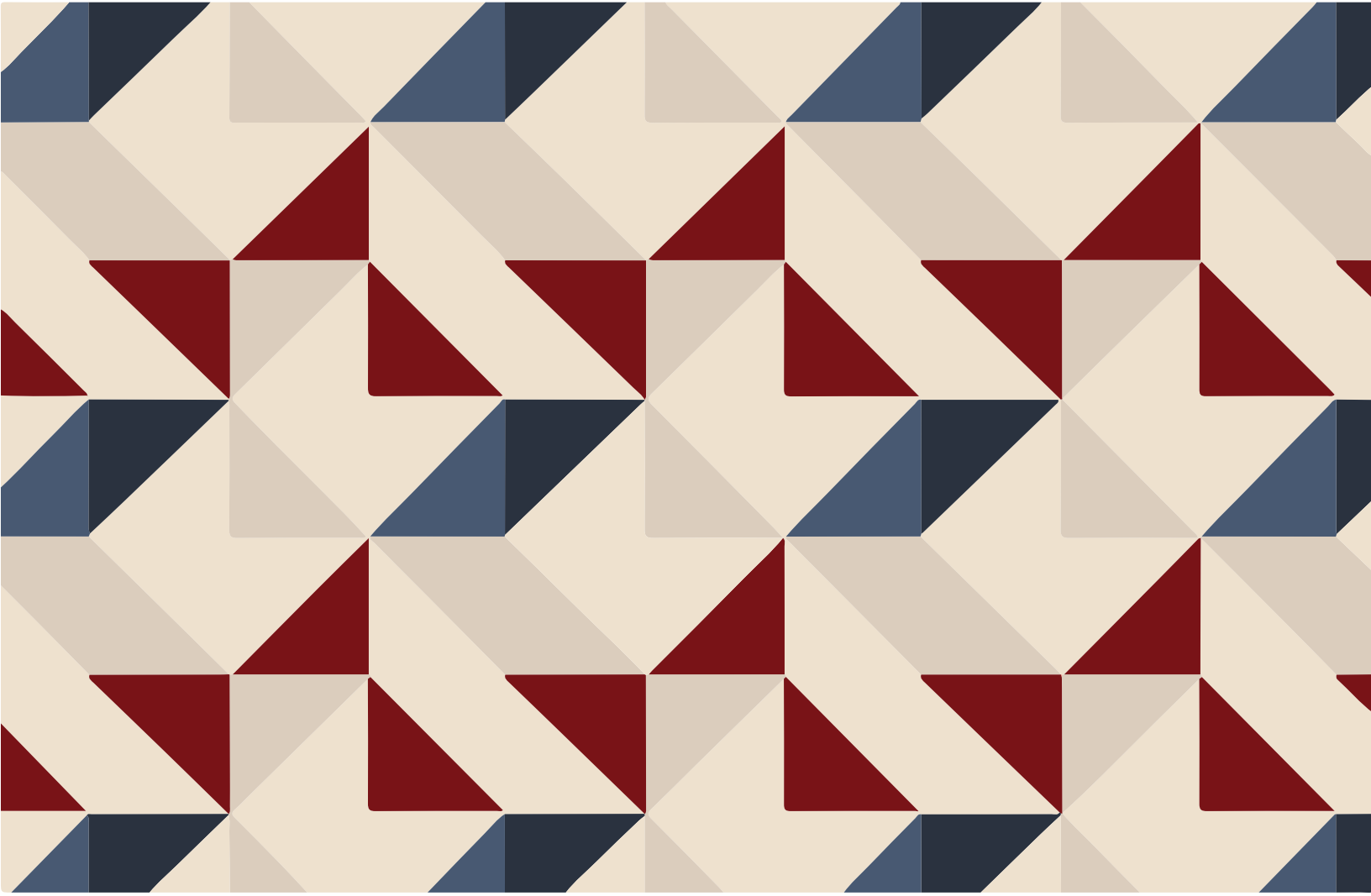
1400-A Harrison Drive
McComb, MS 39649
OVR: (601) 249-2498
OVRB: (601) 684-3392
OSDP: (601) 249-4646

District IX

17 J M Tatum Industrial Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
OVR: (601) 545-5619
OVRB: (601) 545-5613
18 J M Tatum Industrial Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
OSDP: (601) 545-5644

District X

13486 Fastway Lane
Gulfport, MS 39503
OVR: (228) 575-3789
OVRB: (228) 575-3788
OSDP: (228) 575-3785



Your perspective is extremely valuable,
and we greatly appreciate any and all feedback!

Please send any comments or questions to:

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Attn: Natalie Mahaffey
Post Office Box 1698
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1698

1.800.443.1000
www.mdrs.ms.gov

