

Mission

To provide services to eligible individuals with physical and/or mental impairments that will enable an individual to achieve an employment goal and/or enhance their independence.

The Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation administers two major employment programs. The public Vocational Rehabilitation program is a federal/state partnership committed to helping eligible individuals with disabilities find meaningful careers. Vocational Rehabilitation may assist with services so that an individual with a disability may obtain, maintain, or regain employment.

Florida's Injured Worker program works with Vocational Rehabilitation to provide rehabilitation and reemployment services to an individual injured on a job that is covered by Workers' Compensation.

Vocational Rehabilitation and the Injured Worker program have 1,007 employees statewide that provide services to individuals and employers around the state.

2007-08 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

12,458

Individuals with disabilities obtained employment

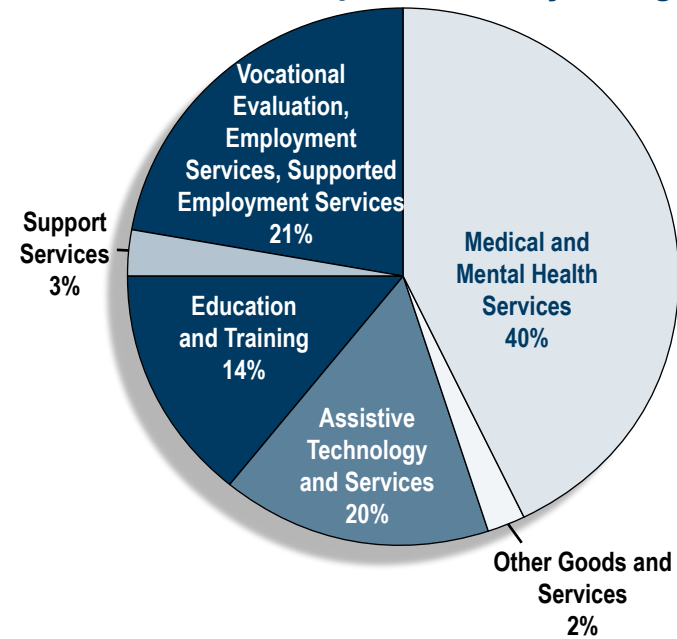
Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program

VR is a federal partner with 78.3% of the funds coming from federal sources and 21.7% of the funds coming from General Revenue.

Facts at a Glance

Persons with disabilities who entered gainful employment	12,458
Average hours worked per week.....	38.5
Average hourly earnings	\$12.32
Projected average annual earnings	\$22,059
Total projected earnings in the first year	\$274,811,022
Average monthly caseload	40,983
Average monthly caseload per counselor.....	112

Distribution of VR Purchased Client Services Expenditures by Category



Injured Worker Program

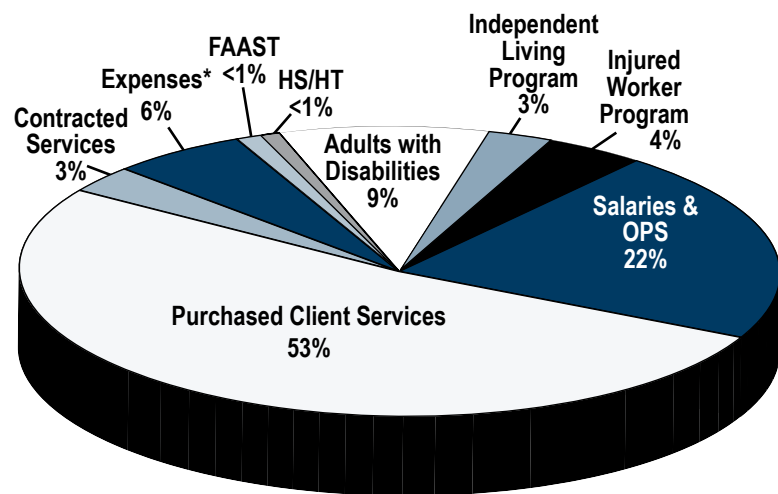
The Bureau of Rehabilitation and Reemployment Services within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides services to assist individuals injured on the job in returning to suitable employment. In 2007-08, 1,538 injured workers returned to jobs. The injured worker program provides appropriate and necessary reemployment services to assist injured employees in their return to gainful work.

This is a state program and is funded from the Workers' Compensation Administrative Trust Fund.

Facts at a Glance

Number of injured workers reemployed...	1,538
Number of injured workers provided reemployment services	2,766
Projected average annual earnings	\$25,211

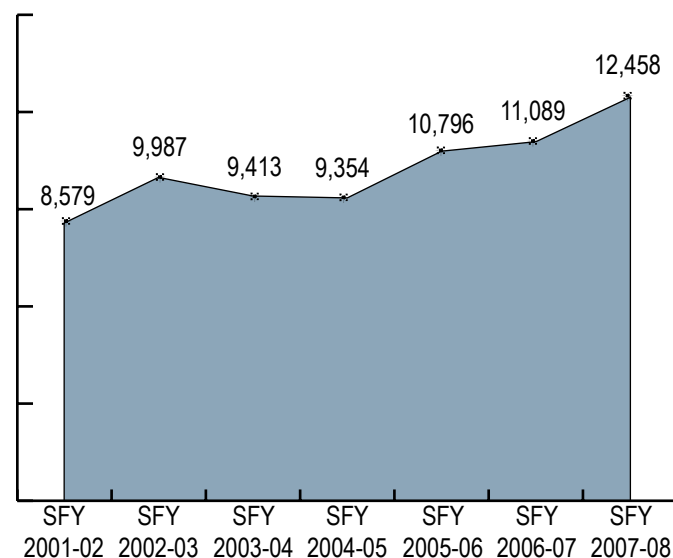
2007-08 VR Expenditures



*For purposes of this chart, the term Expenses includes Operating Capital Outlay, Risk Management, Human Resources, and Data Processing expenditures.

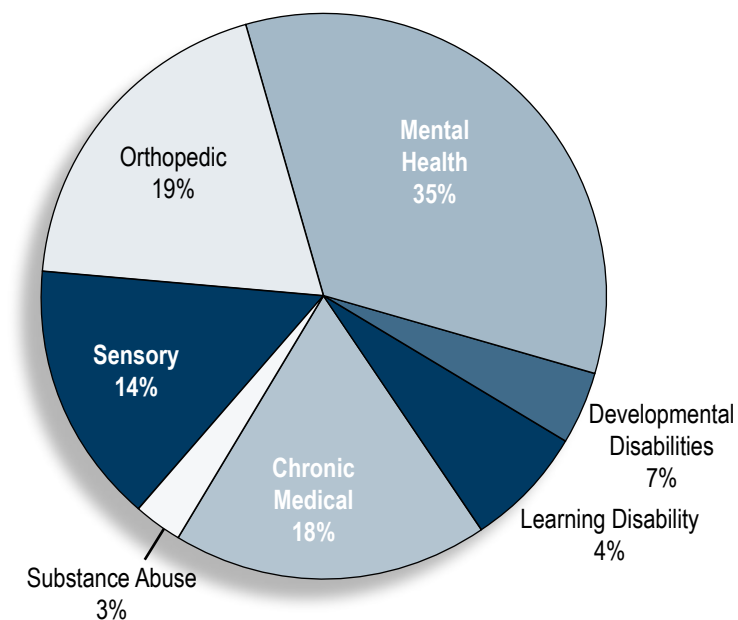
FAAST: Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology
HS/HT: High School/High Tech

VR Customers Gainfully Employed* or Rehabilitated

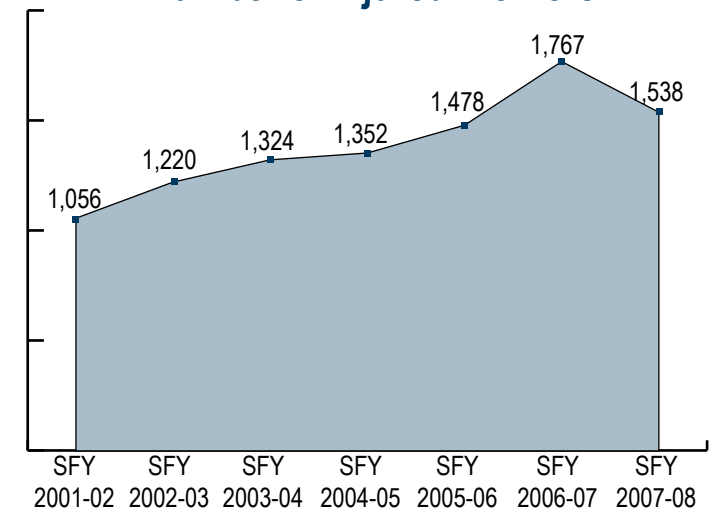


*Gainful employment occurs when a customer is placed in employment that is not in a sheltered workshop and has job stability for at least 90 days.

VR Customers Gainfully Employed* by Disability Category



Number of Injured Workers



For more information, contact:
Florida Department of Education
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
2002-A Old Saint Augustine Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301-4862
850-245-3399 (Voice / TDD)
866-515-3692 (Voice / TDD)
850-245-3316 (Fax)
www.RehabWorks.org
www.FLJobConnections.com

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

Our Success Stories

VR Customer Works for Others with Disabilities

When you see Keith Haynes walk across the warehouse, you may notice a slight limp in his step. What you may not notice is his prosthetic leg. That's because with the help of Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation program, Keith is able to walk with more confidence sporting a new prosthetic leg that he made himself.

Keith lost his left leg above the knee in a train accident nearly 20 years ago, but that doesn't stop him from driving a manual transmission truck, riding a bike or mowing his lawn. "I have a riding mower, and I'm always out there either mowing my yard

"There aren't enough words I can say about VR. They give you the push and the confidence you need. You never know what you can do if you put your mind to it."
-Keith Haynes
VR Customer

or helping someone else mow their yard," says Keith. Keith, who worked in landscaping for about 14 years before the accident, was unable to continue in that field afterwards. In 1992, he found a job with Coastal Limbs & Braces making prosthetic limbs for individuals.

"Keith learns quickly and he's doing a fine job," says Joe Perretta, Keith's supervisor at Coastal. "Because he has his own prosthesis, I sometimes use Keith as an example to show people what he can do. People see him and say 'I can do that, I can get to that level.'"



New Veterinarian with Hearing Disability Makes a Difference

When you talk to Laurel Elliott, you would never guess that as an infant, she suffered profound hearing loss after a high fever. Laurel's smile and joyful demeanor are easily observed, but what you may not notice is a small device behind her ear which allows her to hear an animal's heartbeat when she attaches her stethoscope to it. This device is the only accommodation Laurel needed to start her new career. With help from Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Laurel Elliott is now Dr. Laurel Elliott – a new veterinarian at the Banfield Pet Hospital in Panama City.



Her boss and owner of three Banfield Pet Hospitals, Dr. Tom Carlisle, is thrilled with her work. "She is really coming forward as a leader for the staff and in addressing client concerns. She's really stepped up to the plate and that's the part that is so impressive for me because she is a new grad and is just doing so well. She's ready to take on the difficult cases."

"I've certainly benefited from VR and I hope that other people will be able to benefit from it as well."
-Laurel Elliott
VR Customer

Employee's Determination Help Him Get Back to Work

When Marco Coccozza fell off his truck and broke his shoulder in two places, he was afraid he wouldn't be able to continue working as a delivery service courier. In order to maintain this line of work, he was required to lift 70 pounds. With the damage to his shoulder, it was questionable if he was going to be able to lift that much weight again.

During his rehabilitation period, Marco spotted a brochure for the Bureau of Rehabilitation and Reemployment Services (BRRS) in his doctor's office. He realized that if he was unable to return to his current job, he would need help with finding a new job and acquiring new skills to match.

Marco teamed up with BRRS counselor Leo Seewaldt and underwent a series of medical tests and X-rays to determine his course of treatment. This allowed BRRS to determine if there was any possibility of Marco returning to his job.

Through counseling sessions, Marco developed a work plan and with Leo's support, Marco stayed on track with his rehabilitation and attended an employability skills workshop. The good news is that after only eight and a half months, Marco was able to return to his previous job. This was especially important because it allowed Marco to retire with a pension. Leo is proud of Marco for being, "a focused, self-disciplined worker who was intent on returning to his original employer."

"My goal was to get back to work and Leo was very helpful in assisting me to keep up with the rehabilitation and the whole rehabilitation process," says Marco. With Leo's counseling, long hours of rehabilitation and sheer determination, Marco returned to work with the same company, with the same hours and pay as before the injury.



2007-08
Vocational
Rehabilitation
Performance
Highlights