



Vocational Rehabilitation Services VRS Community Partner + VRS Staff Forum

November 30, 2020

Welcome!

- Welcome to the VRS Community Partners + VRS Staff Forum!
- Please mute your microphone if you are not speaking.
- Please use the chat function to enter questions for the Q&A discussion.
- The session will be recorded and posted to the VRS website.
- If you have technical issues, please contact Ann.Macheledt@state.mn.us.

Agenda

- **Housekeeping:** Ann Macheledt, VRS Staff Development Specialist
- **Welcome:** Dee Torgerson, VRS Director
- **P/T Contract Updates:** Kim Babine, Director of Community Partnerships
 - **P/T Contract Amendment Updates**
 - **Transportation Reimbursement Updates**
- **Changes to Performance Based Agreements:** Evie Wold, VRS Placement Specialist
- **Questions and Answers:** Moderated by Ann Macheledt, VRS Staff Development Specialist
- **Conclusion:** Dee Torgerson, VRS Director

Welcome

Welcome

Dee Torgerson - VRS Director



P/T Contract Updates



P/T Contract Updates

Kim Babine - Director of Community Partnerships

Transportation Reimbursement Policy Changes

- The Transportation Reimbursement Policy is published on the DEED external website at: <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/partners/policies/>
- The Transportation Reimbursement Policy was originally published on July 2, 2020 and was revised November 23, 2020.

Policy Addition: Consumer Financial Participation

- For travel costs when a provider is transporting an individual for the purposes of their employment plans:
 - CFP DOES apply to these costs, unless the contracted service is for assessment or Pre-ETS.
 - Transportation Services must be on the individual's employment plan.
- For travel expenses when a provider is traveling to or from the individual – and the individual is NOT in the vehicle:
 - CFP DOES NOT apply in this circumstance.
 - These travel expenses do NOT need to be on the individual's employment plan.

Policy Clarification: Service Types/Titles for General Services

- When authorizing for Travel Expenses when a provider is traveling to or from the individual – and the individual is NOT in the vehicle, VR staff should use service type “Travel Expenses to Provider” and service title “Travel Expenses to Provider - Travel To/From Person.”
- When authorizing for Transportation Services when a provider is transporting an individual for the purposes of assessment or their employment plan, VR staff should use service type “Transportation Services” and service title “Transportation to Vendor.”

Policy Clarification: Assessing the need for transportation reimbursement

- Adding transportation to an individual's employment plan or authorizing for a provider to use that transportation time is always at the discretion of VRS staff.
- VRS staff will evaluate decisions about travel reimbursement involving transport of the individual using VR Transportation Policy chapter 5B. That policy can be found on DEED's external website at <https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/ddp/PolicyDetail.aspx?pol=58>
- VRS staff make that decision in conversation with the individual and the provider.
- VRS staff is empowered to determine that no transportation time is needed and therefore not authorize for it.
- VRS staff will be evaluating each individual situation before adding it to the authorization.

Policy Revision: Starting Location

- Starting Location
 - The starting location for an authorization for transportation should be the service provider staff's primary work location.
 - If the staff's primary work location is not the provider site, then the provider staff may provide an alternate primary work location such as the staff's residence to serve as the starting location but only when this is the most direct, efficient and shortest route.
 - If a provider staff chooses the staff's residence as the starting location, the provider must provide the address. If an address is not provided, the zip code of the staff's residence must be provided to VRS at a minimum.

Changes to Performance Based Agreements

Evie Wold - VRS Placement Specialist



Discussion: Question and Answers

Please ask questions using the chat feature in Zoom.



Thank you



mn.gov/deed/vrs

VR Program Funding Statement

- The VR program receives 74.05 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For federal fiscal year 2019, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$41,796,129. The remaining 25.5 percent of the costs (\$14,300,000) were funded by Minnesota state appropriations.