

Fun Facts You May Not Know about Other E1MN Partners!

Waivers, case managers and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Disability Services Division (DSD)

1. The Disability Services Division at DHS is responsible for HCBS disability waiver policy and oversees the 87 counties and 3 tribal nations (called “lead agencies”) that administer Home and Community-Based waivers.
2. Lead agencies are responsible to make sure case managers get the training and information they need. DHS offers information, training, and support.
3. There are 58,254 people on disability waivers in Minnesota. (FY 2020)
4. People on waivers can choose to “self-direct” their own services, which means they can design the services and supports to fit their needs, and hire the people they want. 9,272 people on disability waivers have chosen self-directed services. (First Quarter, 2021)
5. Currently there are four disability Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers:
 - The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver
 - The Brain Injury (BI) Waiver
 - The Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) Waiver
 - The Community Alternative Care (CAC) Waiver
6. We’re working on Waiver Reimagine, which will simplify the waivers so they align more with the person’s needs, instead of with their diagnosis. Stay tuned...
7. Many people get employment services through a waiver. For our three employment services, the numbers break out like this:

Service Name	# Service Recipients
Employment Development Services	1,982
Employment Exploration Services	396
Employment Support	8465

8. A MnCHOICES assessment helps identify the person’s needs and get the right services in place. Anyone with a disability can ask for a MnCHOICES assessment.

9. Waiver case managers work with the person to create a person centered plan that promotes choice and control, and ensures the services and supports the person receives will help them live their best life.
10. There are roughly 2400 waiver case managers in Minnesota. Some waiver case managers are employed directly by Lead Agencies. Some work for agencies that are contracted by the Lead Agency to provide waiver case management. In both cases, the Lead Agency is responsible to monitor case management services.
11. Waiver case managers coordinate services and supports to help people with all aspects of their life, including housing, employment, life skills, community involvement, activities of daily living, education, and more!
12. HCBS Waiver Case Managers meet with people at least twice a year – more if a person needs or requests to meet.

State Services for the Blind (MN Department of Employment and Economic Development)

Mission: To facilitate the achievement of vocational and personal independence by Minnesotans who are blind, visually impaired or DeafBlind.

1. SSB's Workforce Development Unit (WDU) is the *other* vocational rehabilitation program in Minnesota, serving all those who are blind, visually impaired, or DeafBlind who are pursuing competitive integrated employment.
2. SSB does more than vocational rehabilitation! We also have an independent living program (Senior Services Unit) and an entire Communication Center providing braille, audio transcription, and a 24/7 radio reading service.
3. SSB has incredibly complex funding across the agency: federal dollars, state dollars, program income from the Social Security Administration, gifts and donations, and monies received from the Minnesota Department of Education and Department of Commerce.
4. If you have ever bought a bag of chips from a vending machine located in a state building, the odds are great that you supported our Business Enterprises Program! BEP is a federally-backed entrepreneurship program for individuals who are blind to operate vending machines and facilities on state and federal property.
5. SSB's main hub is on 2200 University Avenue in St. Paul.
6. SSB has 18 WDU and Senior Services staff located in 10 CareerForce Locations.
7. WDU has 17 rehabilitation counselors throughout the state, three of whom serve students with disabilities exclusively.

8. WDU has eight vocational rehabilitation technicians providing case management and fiscal support.
9. WDU has five employment specialists that work with both individuals and businesses, one of whom specializes in self-employment and another who is dedicated to establishing work-based learning experiences for students.
10. WDU has five assistive technologists who provide technology evaluation, implementation, and training.
11. The people who get jobs through WDU work an average of 30/hours per week, making an average of \$20.48/hour.
12. Our most accessed service is adjustment to blindness training, which teaches people skills in blindness (like how to read Braille). Per statute, all SSB rehabilitation counselors must attend six weeks of this training under sleep shades.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (MN Department of Employment and Economic Development)

Mission: Empower Minnesotans with disabilities to achieve their goals for employment, independent living, and community integration.

1. VRS has a Transition counselor assigned to every high school in Minnesota.
2. There are 50 Vocational Rehabilitation offices in the state of Minnesota.
3. The U.S. Department of Education funds 74.9 % of the Minnesota VRS program.
4. The State of Minnesota funds 24.1% of the Minnesota VRS program.
5. 57.6% of the individuals we served in FY 2019-2020 were between the ages of 15-24.
6. Determination of eligibility for VRS can take a couple days, or up to 60 days.
7. VRS has an income-based Consumer Participation Fee that determines how much the job-seeker and VRS pay toward a service.
8. The average number of hours worked by a job-seeker, after finding a job, is 25.6 hours.
9. A person's job goals are based on their interests, abilities, skills, and conditions of employment.

10. Offices are managed by Regional Area Managers (RAMS).
11. VRS supports on-the-job training, internships, and apprenticeships as options for moving into the workforce.
12. VRS has a small business specialist who can assist people to explore that as an option.