



## **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Order of Selection (OOS) Talking Points**

- The Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), is facing an Order of Selection (OOS) for individuals it serves – a process also referred to as a waitlist. Due to insufficient funding, a waitlist would immediately affect approximately 2,000 individuals (consumers) and 1,000 consumers monthly across Wisconsin until sufficient funding is allocated.
- In state fiscal year 2025, DVR had \$111.1 million in expenditures, of which \$87.4 million was supported with federal funds and \$23.7 million was supported with state funds.
- Governor Evers proposed sufficient funds in his executive budget for the 2025-27 biennium to ensure services for all job seekers with disabilities who want to participate in vocational rehabilitation through DVR. The Joint Finance Committee chose a funding amount that was less than the governor's proposal.
- The final state budget appropriated \$21.3 million of state funds in the state fiscal year 2026. This is \$2.4 million less than was spent in the state fiscal year 2025 and is \$4.6 million short of the projected need for this year.
- There has been a 20% increase in the number of people served by DVR in the past four years, and DVR is experiencing its highest caseload in 10 years.
- In 2025, DVR served over 33,000 individuals and partnered with more than 3,200 employers to meet labor force needs.
- In federal fiscal year 2024, DVR consumers whose cases were successfully closed earned an estimated \$74.2 million through work, enriching the state's communities, economy, and workforce. This amount exceeded the total cost of all DVR consumer services – including staff wages – during the same period, at \$65.7 million.
- In federal fiscal year 2025, 328 DVR consumers successfully maintained employment and transitioned off federal benefits.