

(a) State Rehabilitation Council. All VR agencies, except for those that have an independent consumer-controlled commission, must have a State Rehabilitation Council (Council or SRC) that meets the criteria in section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act. The designated State agency or designated State unit, as applicable, has (select A or B):

No (A) is an independent State commission.

Yes (B) has established a State Rehabilitation Council.

In accordance with Assurance 3(b), please provide information on the current composition of the Council by representative type, including the term number of the representative, as applicable, and any vacancies, as well as the beginning dates of each representative's term.

Council Representative	Current Term Number/ Vacant	Beginning Date of Term Mo./Yr.
Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)	1 st Term	12/2024
Parent Training and Information Center	1 st Term	01/2024
Client Assistance Program	1 st Term	04/2025
Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor (Ex Officio if Employed by the VR Agency)	2 nd Term	01/2024
Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider	1 st Term	01/2024
Business, Industry, and Labor	1 st Term	07/2025
Business, Industry, and Labor	1 st Term	01/2024
Business, Industry, and Labor	1 st Term	07/2023
Business, Industry, and Labor	2 nd Term	01/2024
Disability Advocacy Groups	2 nd Term	07/2024
Current or Former Applicants for, or Recipients of, VR services	1 st Term	01/2024
Section 121 Project Directors in the State (as applicable)	NA	NA
State Educational Agency Responsible for Students with Disabilities Eligible to Receive Services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	1 st Term	07/2023
State Workforce Development Board	2 nd Term	01/2024
VR Agency Director (Ex Officio)	NA	NA

If the SRC is not meeting the composition requirements in section 105(b) of the Rehabilitation Act and/or is not meeting quarterly as required in section 105(f) of the Rehabilitation Act, provide the steps that the VR agency is taking to ensure it meets those requirements.

The SRC is meeting the requirements of Section 105(b).

In South Dakota, the State Rehabilitation Council is known as the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). The BVR fulfills the requirements of Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act. It includes 15 members—individuals with disabilities, advocates, business leaders, and VR professionals—with a majority being individuals with disabilities

not employed by the state VR agency. Meetings are held quarterly, are publicly announced and accessible, and include time for public comment in accordance with open meetings laws.

In accordance with the requirements in section 101(a)(21)(A)(ii)(III) of the Rehabilitation Act, include a summary of the Council's input (including how it was obtained) into the State Plan and any State Plan revisions, including recommendations from the Council's annual reports, the review and analysis of consumer satisfaction and other Council reports.

The Board provides advice to and works in partnership with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS or Division). The Board plays a significant role in ensuring that the vocational rehabilitation program operates effectively and remains responsive to the needs of those served. The Board works in partnership with the Division in developing policies, planning activities, evaluating program effectiveness, and carrying out other functions related to the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services. The primary focus is to ensure individuals with disabilities receive appropriate, timely, and effective vocational rehabilitation services which result in successful employment outcomes.

Each year, the Board and Division solicit nominations from individuals with disabilities and organizations representing individuals with disabilities statewide. Nominations, including those seeking reappointment, are submitted to the Governor for review and appointment.

The Board submitted an annual report to the Governor and RSA regarding the status of the VR program and made it available to the public.

Board Input:

- ✓ Provided recommendations on the selection of the Governor's Awards recipients.
- ✓ Reviewed and analyzed the Client Satisfaction Survey results.
- ✓ Approved financial support for the Governor's Awards Ceremony, NDEAM events, and an educational event to highlight the importance of the ADA and the history of the disability movement.
- ✓ Reviewed and approved changes to the Board's bylaws.
- ✓ Endorsed the Division's Outreach Campaign strategies and final deliverables.
- ✓ Endorsed strategies to increase awareness and access to VR services statewide.
- ✓ Endorsed services, activities, and continued investment to engage youth with disabilities which assist the VR program in meeting its requirement to allocate 15% of federal funds to the provision of PRE ETS (Project SEARCH, Summer Youth Programs).
- ✓ Provided a copy of the annual report with the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council in order for it to be shared on their website (<https://www.ncsrc.us/annual-reports>).
- ✓ Reviewed VR performance indicators and case file review findings and supported efforts to explore areas to improve consistency and clarity in service delivery.
- ✓ Engaged in early stages of implementation of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment and will continue to collaborate with the Division to analyze findings and integrate them into the State Plan's goals and strategies.

All the above recommendations by the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Services were accepted.

The Board provides ongoing input and feedback to the Division, fostering meaningful dialogue even when formal actions or motions are not recorded in meeting minutes. During the reporting period, the Board received updates and provided input on a range of programs and services. These included: case services, performance measures, the outreach campaign, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), staff training, employer outreach, subminimum wage (Section 511), case file reviews, Project SEARCH, the Ticket to Work Program, post-secondary outcomes (Indicator 14), provider certification testing, the new payroll system for student workers, and business specialist activities. The Board also participated in state plan development, reviewed collaborative efforts such as the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education, and supported initiatives like the Youth Leadership Forum.

The Board and Division also hosted orientation for new members, conducted officer elections, reviewed the agreement to provide staff support to the BVR, and hosted an NDEAM debriefing involving the local community planners, VR staff, BVR, SILC and B/SBVI members.

Provide the VR agency's response to the Council's input and recommendations, including an explanation for the rejection of any input and recommendations.

[text box: List each recommendation/input followed by the VR agency response]

No recommendations were rejected.