

# Draft FFY 2020 Goals and Strategies

Revised 11/27/2019

**Goal 1: Students and youth will enter their adult lives capable of self -advocacy with sufficient experience to make choices about work and career, being appropriately supported and living as independently as possible.**

Strategy 1.1: Coordinate vocational rehabilitation services for clients who are attending post-secondary programs.

Strategy 1.2: Increase and strengthen transition services for eligible students who are exploring their employment future.

Strategy 1.3: Implement outreach and informed choice strategies to include strategies to enhance effective communication for youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Strategy 1.4: Conduct outreach activities for teachers, students with disabilities and their family members to provide information on vocational rehabilitation services.

Strategy 1.5: Increase and strengthen transition services for students who are Native Americans or other minorities with disabilities exploring employment future.

Strategy 1.6: Increase the availability of Pre-Employment Transition Services to school districts across the State.

Strategy 1.7: Increase the number of applicants and service delivery for transition services for students with disabilities prior to age 16.

**Goal 2: DRS will facilitate the development of a strong statewide community with partnerships with workforce systems, businesses, State Government, tribal systems, schools, service providers and service organizations.**

Strategy 2.1: Increase the service capacity and quality of services delivered through the service providers.

Strategy 2.2: To maintain and expand partnerships with the business community.

Strategy 2.3: To maintain and expand partnerships with organizations serving Native Americans and other minorities with disabilities.

Strategy 2.4: To maintain and expand working relationships with entities, agencies, and organizations to enhance the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to underserved rural areas.

Strategy 2.5: To maintain and expand the extended services for assuring successful employment for supported employment clients.

Strategy 2.6: State Government will be a model employer in increasing the employment of people with disabilities in State Government.

**Goal 3: DRS clients will have access to transportation services needed to obtain and maintain employment.**

Strategy 3.1: Increase knowledge of the available transportation systems and compatibility with the employment systems.

Strategy 3.2: Promote the participation with disability agencies, local communities and workforce partners to improve transportation services.

Strategy 3.3: Expand transportation options for Vocational Rehabilitation clients with a focus in rural areas and underserved populations.

**Goal 4: The VR Service delivery system will result in enhanced earnings, employee benefits, retention and career advancement for DRS clients.**

Strategy 4.1: Improve the employment retention of Vocational Rehabilitation clients.

Strategy 4.2: Increase the knowledge base and understanding of supports and services for people with mental illness by VR staff, providers and businesses.

Strategy 4.3: Increase awareness and referrals to Benefits Specialists services for VR clients.

Strategy 4.4: Increase the knowledge base and understanding of the Ticket to Work initiatives for Social Security beneficiaries, VR staff, providers and businesses.

Strategy 4.5: Increase work experience opportunities for adults with disabilities with a focus on individuals with mental illness, those living in rural areas and underserved populations.

Strategy 4.6: Continue in the development and increase utilization of vocational skills training for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota.

**Goal 5: DRS clients will have the skills, motivation and supports necessary to make an informed choice for successful daily living, employment, money management, personal and work relationships.**

Strategy 5.1: Provide training on strategies and tools for the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to assist VR clients to reach their employment goal.

Strategy 5.2: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors will utilize counseling strategies and tools for assessing critical strengths and barriers to enhance the client's personal life status and employment skills.

Strategy 5.3: Expand provider supports for life skills development.

Strategy 5.4: Increase awareness, supports and the utilization of self-employment as an employment outcome for VR clients.