



Vocational Rehabilitation Services Overview

MAWB Job Seeking Services Meeting

October 27, 2021

Chris McVey, VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives

*Empower youth and adults with disabilities
to achieve their goals
for competitive, integrated employment
and career development*

What is the VR Program?

The VR program provides specialized,

one-on-one employment services

for individuals with disabilities

such as

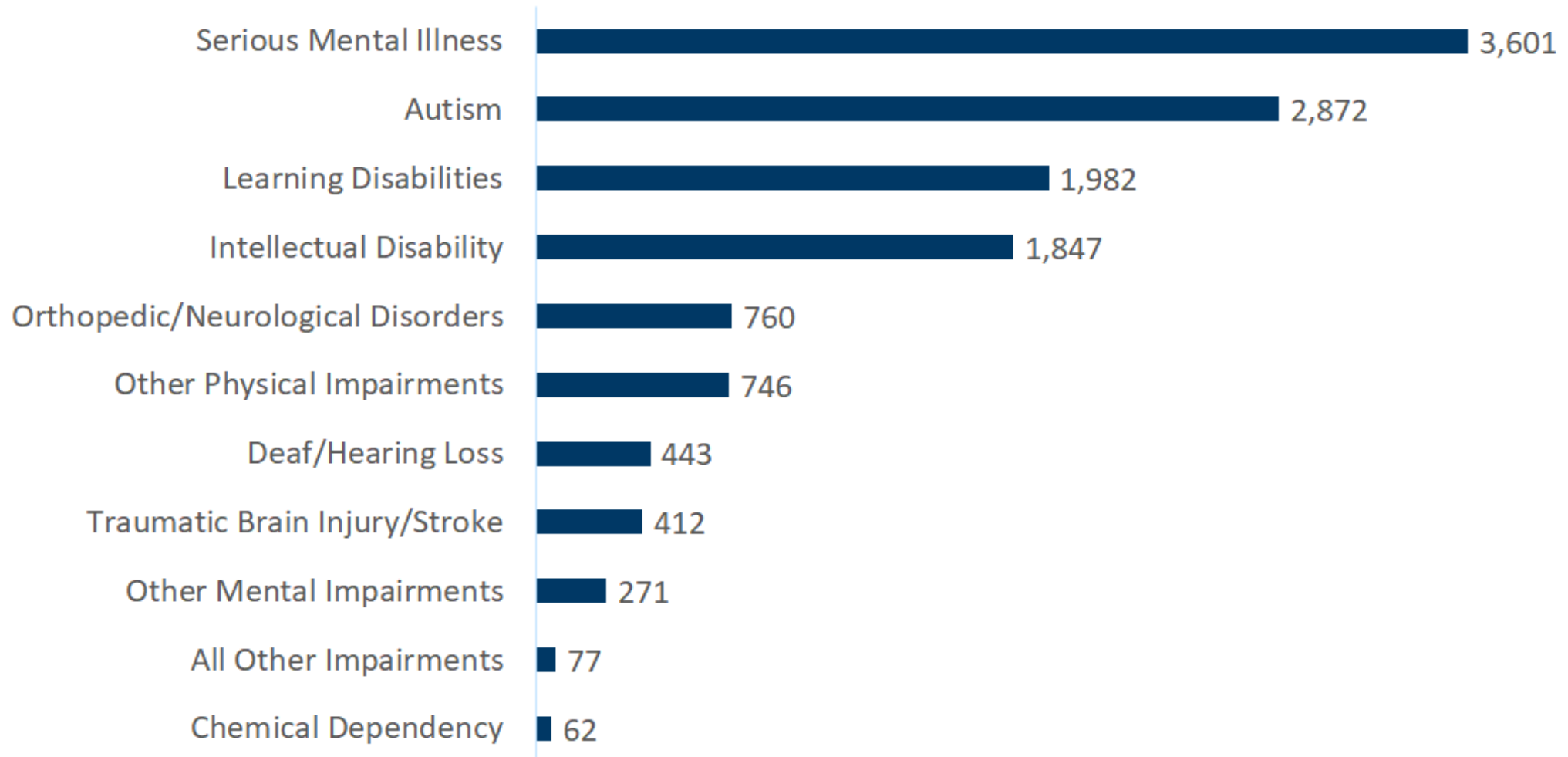
job counseling, job search assistance, and training.

How does the Vocational Rehabilitation program work?

- VRS serves Minnesotans with disabilities that cause serious functional limitations in life, specifically related to employment. Those functional limitations include, but are not limited to, mobility, communication, self-care, or work tolerance issues.
- Individuals most often come to Vocational Rehabilitation Services through a referral.
- Once an individual contacts us, they are placed with a Vocational Rehabilitation Program counselor (DEED-VRS staff), who works one-on-one with an individual to determine work goals and employment opportunities that will lead to a more fulfilling, independent life.
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program counselors (DEED-VRS staff) provide vocational counseling, job training, and job placement options that best meet the customer's needs.
- When necessary, counselors also facilitate wrap-around services to meet transportation, assistive technology, housing, and other needs.

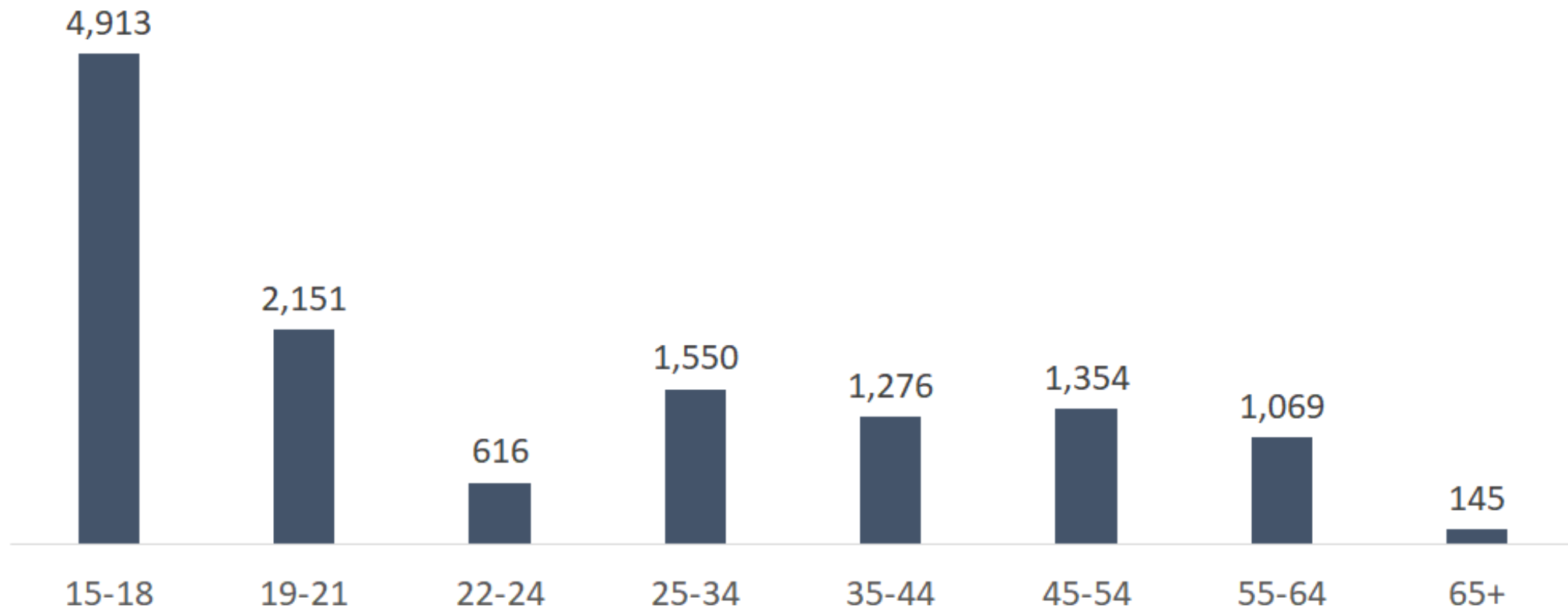
VR Program: Participants have Different Types of Disabilities

Participants have Different Types of Disabilities (PY20)



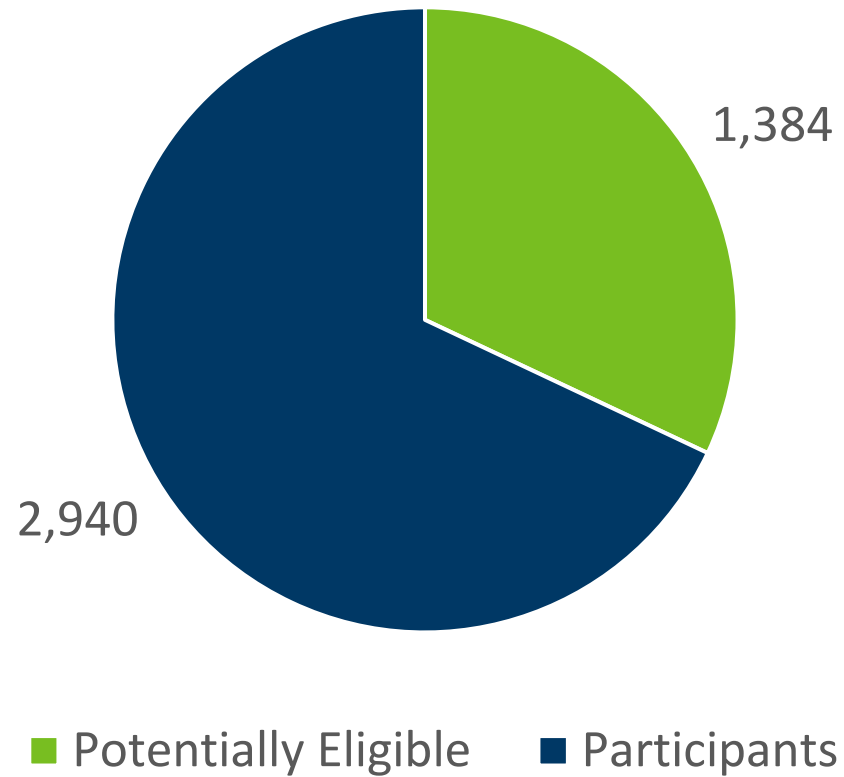
VR Program: Age of Participants

Age of Participants at Start of VRS Services (PY20)

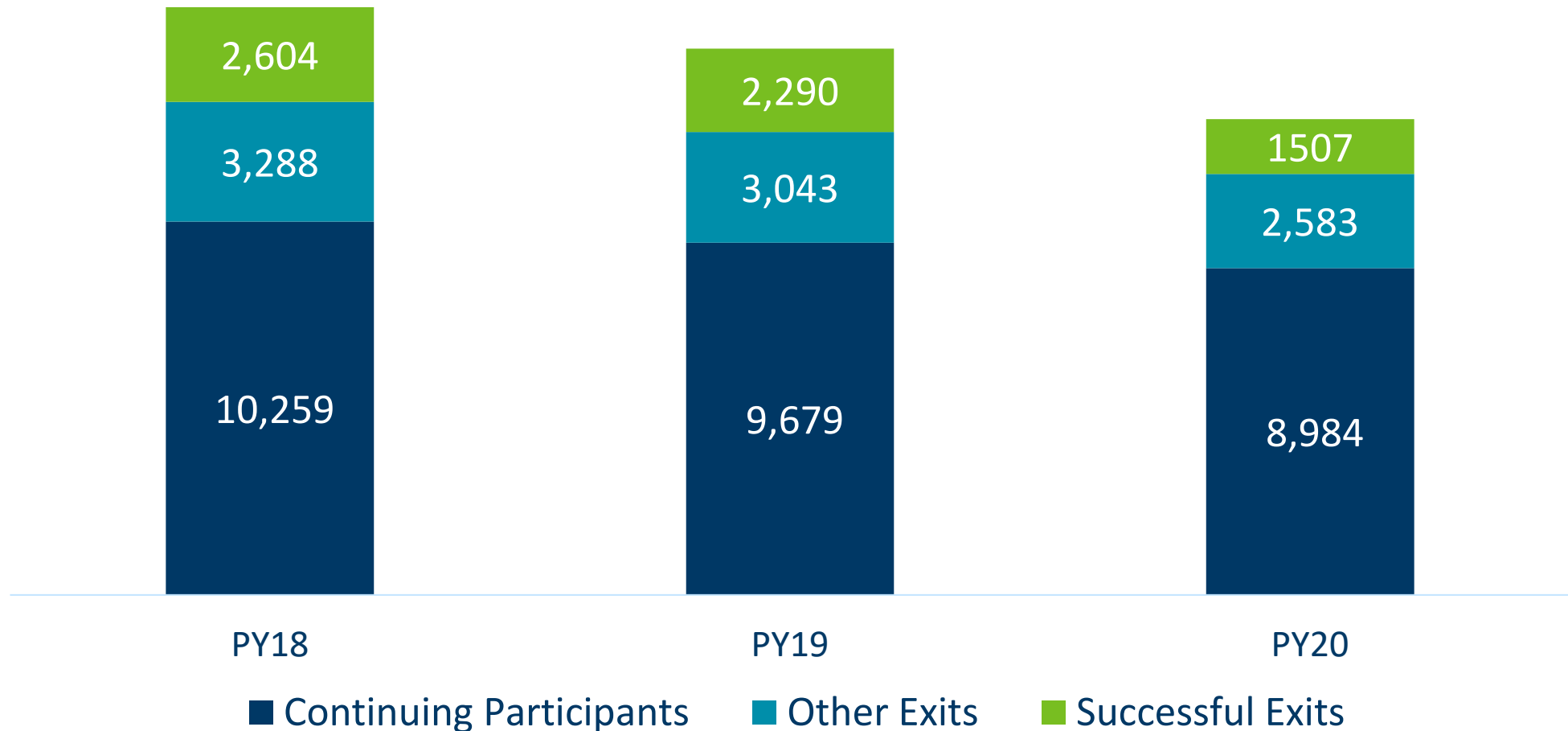


VR Program: High School Students Served

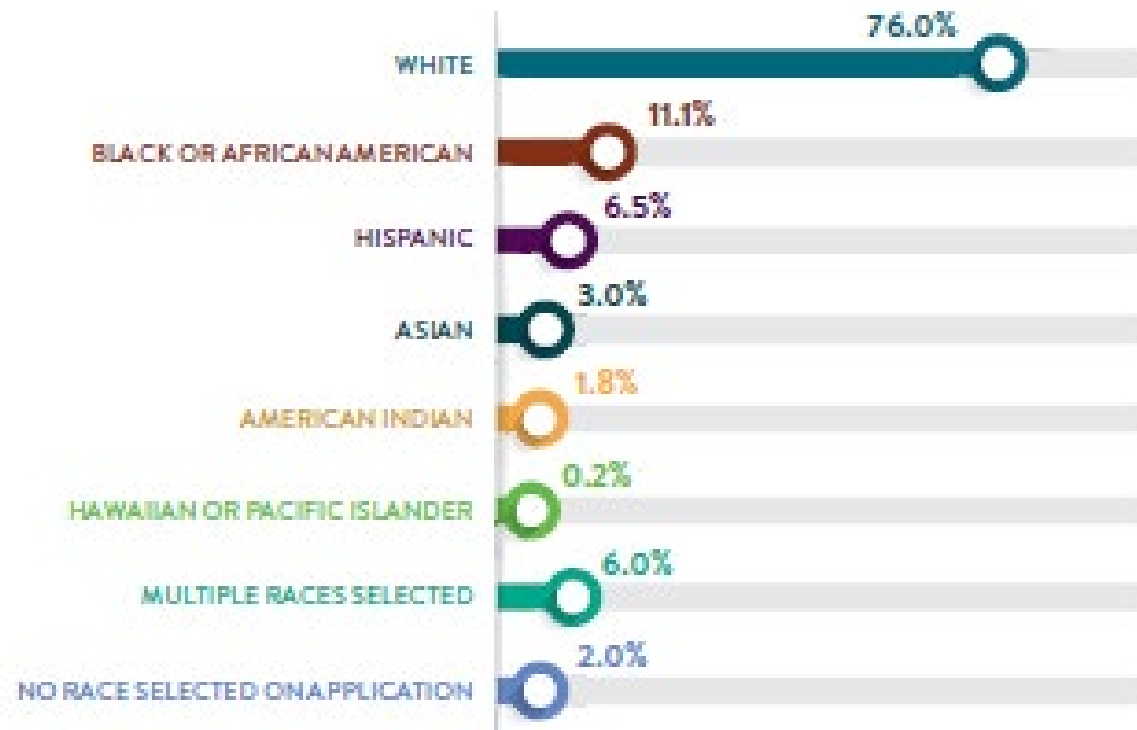
High School Students Served



VR Program: Number of Individuals Served

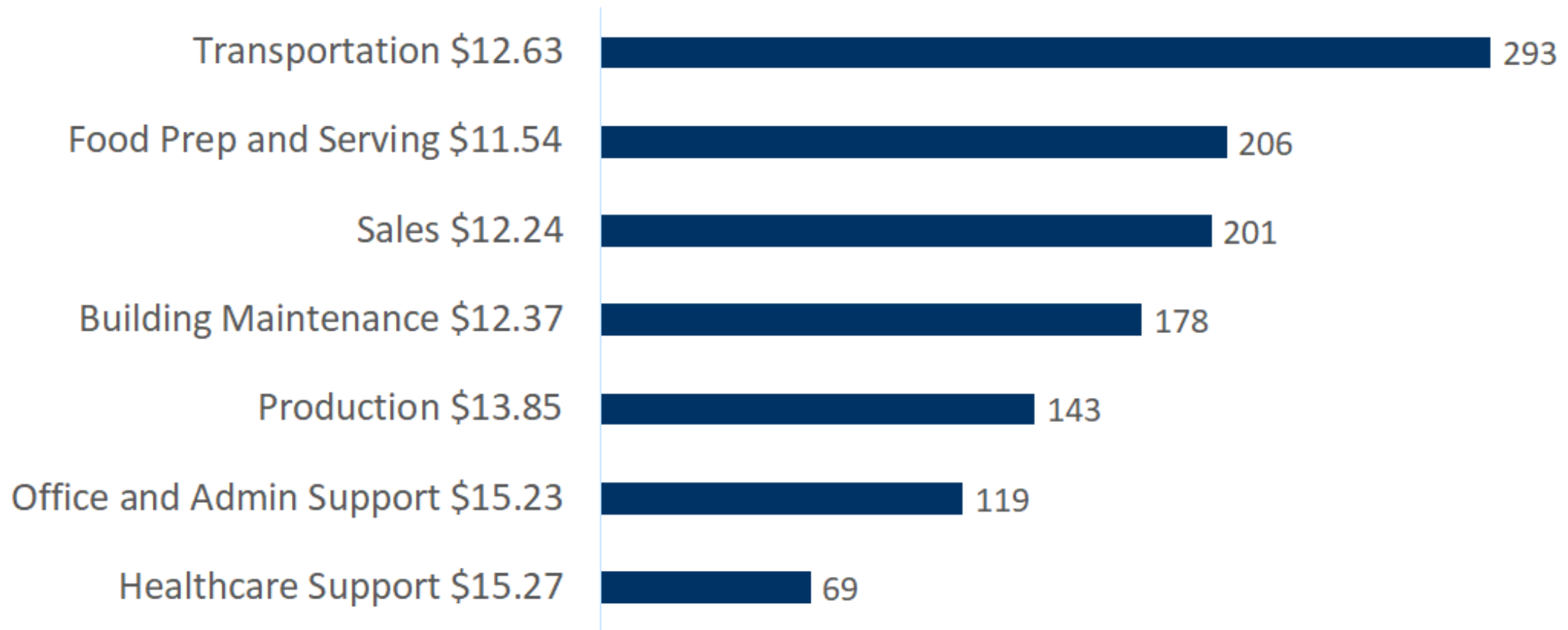


RACE & ETHNICITY



VR Program: Top Occupations of Participants

Top Occupations PY20



VRS Application Process.

Referral

- Self, family or friend, schools, health or mental health care provider, case manager, etc.

Intake process

- Assigned to counselor

Application

- Meet with VRS Counselor
- Complete a VRS Application
- Sign releases to obtain documentation to determine eligibility

VRS-Eligibility

- Individual has:
 - An impairment
 - Substantial impediment to competitive integrated employment
 - Example: Difficulty learning tasks without extra assistance, impairment causes social skills issues that lead to job problems, difficulty meeting production expectations, impairment makes it difficult to develop an appropriate goal without assistance, etc.
- Requires VR Services to prepare for, secure, retain, advance, or regain competitive integrated employment
- Will benefit from VR Services?
- Presumed eligible for VR Services due to eligibility for Social Security Benefits

Types of Disability Documentation

Types of Documentation

- Medical records
- High School IEP
- High School Evaluation Report
- Mental Health records
- Psychological evaluation reports

VRS-Priority for Services

- Mobility
- Self-Direction
- Self-Care
- Interpersonal Skills
- Communication
- Work Tolerance
- Work Skills

VRS Waiting List

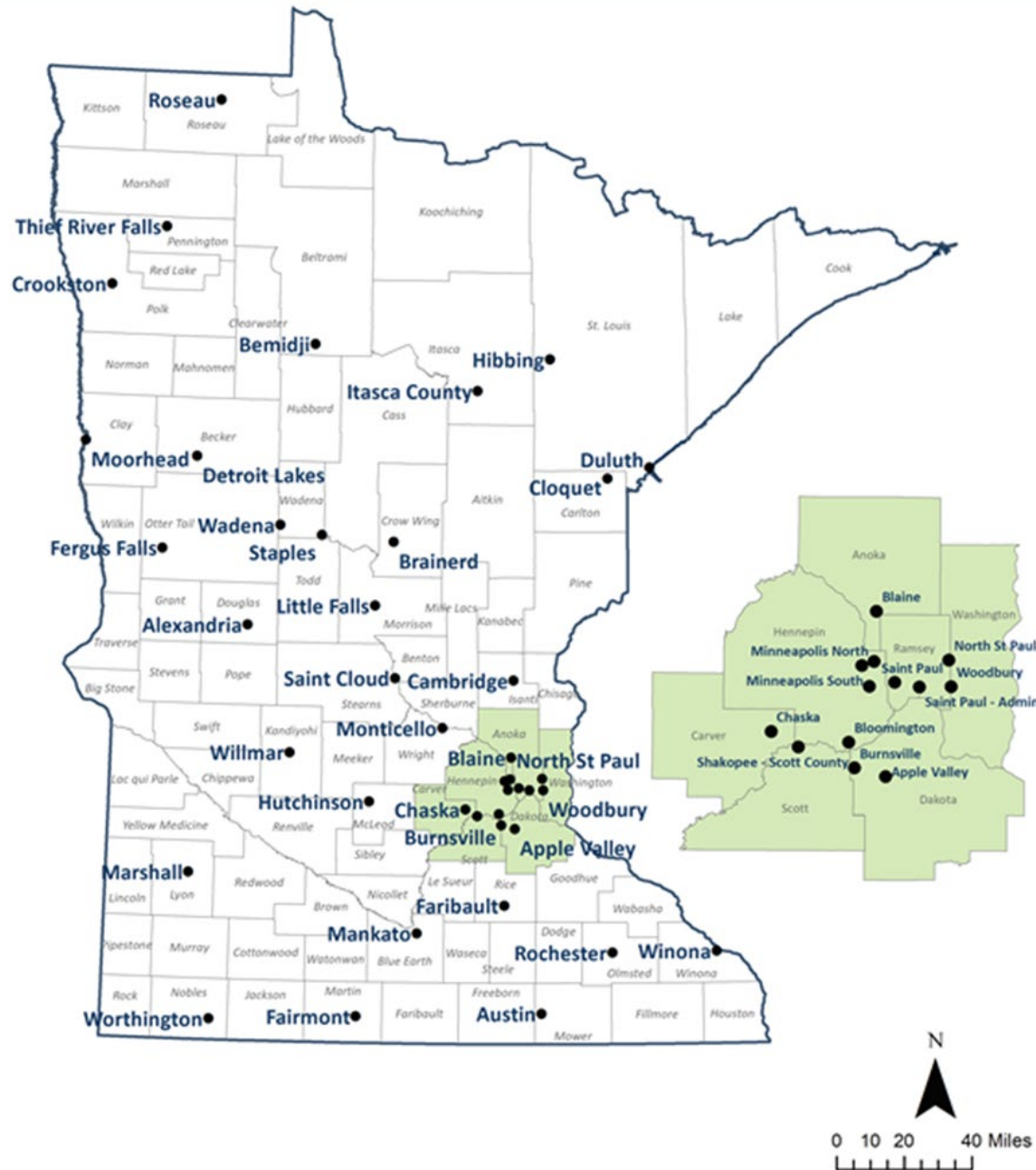
- We are happy to report that VRS **DOES NOT** have a waiting list at this time.
- This means that VRS is able to serve and support people with a diagnosed disability and at least one functional limitation.
- VRS Leadership monitors fiscal situation closely and at this time anticipate keeping categories open.

Examples of VRS Services

- Benefits Planning
- Job Exploration
- Job Placement
- On the Job Supports
- Post Secondary Education Counseling
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Skills Training for a specific industry or career

375 VRS Staff Statewide

- Administrative Team: 50 Staff
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program: 325 Staff
 - 24 teams in 43 field offices in 3 regions: Northern, Southern, and Metro
 - Roles: Voc Rehab Counselors, Voc Rehab Techs, Voc Rehab Rehabilitation Representatives, Voc Rehab Placement Coordinators, Voc-Rehab Pre-ETS Representatives, Voc Rehab Regional Area Managers, Voc Rehab Support Staff
- <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/find-vrs/>



VRS Priorities and Future Vision

- Increased choice for our participants
- Person-Centered Services
- Eliminate barriers to services
- Increase outreach and engagement to underserved populations
- Increase collaboration with agencies and partners (E1MN)
- Increase access and flexibility for parents and families
- Keep categories of services open

Questions?

Thank you!