DATA NOTE

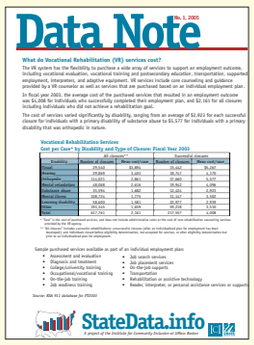
ISSUE # 100 • 2025

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATA NOTE

Staff who authored or co-authored the most Data Notes (DNs)

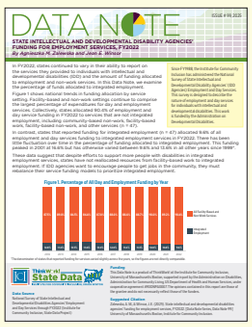
- #1 Jean Winsor (40)
- #2 Alberto Migliore (30)
- #3 John Butterworth (27)
- #4 Frank A. Smith (24)
- #5 Daria Domin (21)
- #6 John Shepard (20)
- #7 Agnes Zalewska (15)
- #8 Ryan Wedeking (8)

Total number of Data Note authors: 32


Data Note
No. 1, 2005
What do Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services cost?
The VR system has the flexibility to purchase a wide array of services to support an employment outcome, including vocational evaluation, vocational training and postsecondary education, transportation, supported employment, interpreters, and adaptive equipment. VR services include core counseling and guidance provided by a VR counselor as well as services that are purchased based on an individual employment plan.
In fiscal year 2003, the average cost of the purchased services that resulted in an employment outcome was $4,008 for individuals who successfully completed their employment plan, and $2,161 for all closures including individuals who did not achieve a rehabilitation goal.
The cost of services varied significantly by disability, ranging from an average of $2,603 for each successful closure for individuals with a primary disability of substance abuse to $5,177 for individuals with a primary disability that was orthopedic in nature.
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Cost per Case* by Disability and Type of Closure: Fiscal Year 2003
Disability	All Closures**		Successful Closures	
	Number of closures	Mean cost/case	Number of closures	Mean cost/case
Mental	29,545	$2,885	20,242	$3,247
Orthopedic	24,918	$3,866	17,157	$4,008
Sensory	13,831	$2,861	10,488	$3,177
Mental retardation	10,668	$2,618	8,962	$2,996
Substance abuse	8,594	$1,602	6,424	$2,603
Dual Sensory	109,731	$1,775	81,167	$2,160
Other disabilities	18,409	$1,885	14,214	$2,159
Unknown	30,424	$1,845	20,216	$2,538
Total	247,761	$2,161	177,957	$2,008
* "Cost" is the sum of purchased services, and does not include administrative costs or the cost of vocational evaluation, counseling services provided by the VR agency.
** Closures include successfully rehabilitated, unsuccessful closures (after an individualized plan for employment has been developed), and individuals closed before eligibility determination, not accepted for service, or after eligibility determination but before an individualized plan for employment was developed.
Sample purchased services available as part of an individual employment plan:
- Assessment and evaluation
- Diagnosis and treatment
- College/university training
- Occupational/vocational training
- On-the-job training
- Job readiness training
- Job search services
- Job placement services
- On-the-job supports
- Transportation
- Rehabilitation or assistive technology
- Reader, interpreter, or personal assistance services or supports
Source: RSA 911 database for FY2003
StateData.info
A project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston

DN #1, 2005

"What do Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Cost?"


DATA NOTE
ISSUE # 99, 2025
STATE INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AGENCIES' FUNDING FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, FY2022
By Agnieszka M. Zalewska and Jean S. Winsor
In FY2022, states continued to vary in their ability to report on the number of people receiving services from state intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and the amount of funding allocated to employment and non-work services. In this Data Note, we examine the percentage of funds allocated to integrated employment.
Figure 1 shows national trends in funding allocation by service type. Across the years, day and employment services remain the largest percentage of expenditures for day and employment services. Collectively, states allocated 90.8% of employment and day services funding to services that lead to or support integrated employment, including community-based non-work, facility-based work, facility-based non-work, and other services (n = 47).
In contrast, states that reported funding for integrated employment (n = 47) allocated 64% of all employment and day services funding to integrated employment services in FY2022. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of funding allocated to integrated employment services, from 38.8% in 2000 to 56.6% but has otherwise varied between 49.6% and 53.6% in all other years since 1988.
These data suggest that despite efforts to support more people with disabilities in integrated employment services, states have not reallocated resources from facility-based work to integrated employment. If IDD agencies want to encourage people to get jobs in the community, they must rebalance their service funding models to prioritize integrated employment.
Figure 1. Percentage of All Day and Employment Funding by Year
2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012
All Facility-Based and Non-Work Services
Integrated Employment
ThinkWork! State Data
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON
Data Source
National Survey of State Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Agencies' Employment Services and Day Services (Institute for Community Inclusion, State Data Project)
Suggested Citation
Zalewska, A. M., & Winsor, J.S. (2025). State intellectual and developmental disabilities agencies' funding for employment services, FY2022. Boston, MA: Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion.
Funding
This Data Note is a product of ThinkWork! at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston, supported in part by the Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under a cooperative agreement, 90DN0300/01. The opinions and conclusions in this report are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the funders.
Since FY1988, the Institute for Community Inclusion has administered the National Survey of State Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Agencies' (IDD Agencies) Employment and Day Services. This survey is designed to collect the most comprehensive information for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This work is funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

DN #99, 2025

"State IDD Agency Funding for Employment Services"

Number of DNs per data set

- American Community Survey (21)
- Rehabilitation Services Administration (37)
- Social Security Administration (18)
- State IDD Agency Survey (29)
- Other data sets (20)

Number of pages written: 243

Word cloud of the most frequently used terms. The size of the words is proportional to the frequency of appearance.

Countries that have accessed our DNs

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- France
- Germany
- India

- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- and more...

Thank you to ACL for funding the longitudinal data project of national significance!

ACL Administration for Community Living

Data Notes are a product of the Access to Integrated Employment (AIE) project. AIE is a Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance. The Administration on Community Living defines Projects of National Significance as projects that focus on the most pressing issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. Since 1988, AIE has described trends in employment and day services and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

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