



Vocational Rehabilitation

Let's Go to Work!

SFY 2025-26 Budget Hearing



Agency Attendees

Felicia W. Johnson, Commissioner

MS in Rehabilitation Technology, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC),
and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LAD)

Keri Dowd-Pugh

Director of Administration

Wesley Stokes

Facilities Management/Project Director

Sabrina Walker

Director of Grants and Funds Management

Yvonne Young

Acting Director of Disability Determination Services

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Agency Information

When employed, SCVRD consumers become taxpayers instead of tax consumers, reducing their reliance on government disability benefits and other aid programs.



22,686

Total Consumers Served

Rehabilitation is a continuous process that can last several years, leading SCVRD to serve many of the same consumers year after year.



3,954

Successful Employment Outcomes

In SFY2024, 2,150 businesses assisted 3,954 South Carolinians with disabilities in attaining competitive employment.



10,520

New Referrals

The number of South Carolinians with disabilities referred to SCVRD for services increased in SFY2024 by 7.0%, reaching 10,520 individuals.



\$3.72

Return on Investment

As our consumers enter the workforce, they repay \$3.72 for every dollar spent on their rehabilitation, resulting in a 26.7% return on investment.



77.9%

Working 30+ Hours Per Week

While 59.3% of consumers had no earnings when they received their SCVRD referral, 77.9% now work over 30 hours per week after completing their rehabilitation.

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Agency Information

The primary goal of SCVRD is to connect consumers with suitable job opportunities, ensuring success for both the business and the individual. Understanding the needs of the local workforce is crucial for developing and implementing SCVRD's training programs and outreach initiatives.



2,486

Consumers Served in VR Training Centers

Consumers acquire the skills necessary for success in the workplace, while business partners gain a resource for outsourcing their projects.



207

Businesses Outsourced Product Lines to VR Training Centers

The job training programs at SCVRD's training centers are tailored to meet the local economic needs.



97

Training Led to Successful Employment

Ninety-seven business partners in South Carolina hired consumers who gained their skills from SCVRD training centers.

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Agency Information

SCVRD helped thousands of young South Carolinians prepare for their working futures in 2024.



40.8%

Referrals in Transition
Age Range

Almost 41% of referrals to SCVRD were age 14-24 at the time of their application in SFY2024.



2,695

Work-Based Learning
Experiences

2,695 students across SC participated in at least one work-based learning experience.



6,162

Youth Received
Pre-Employment
Transition Services

In SFY2024, thousands of SC students received services to prepare them for employment.

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Agency Information

DDS Actual Numbers

Claim Level	Goal	Actual	Percentage Completed
Initial	38,628	37,733	97.7%
Reconsideration	5,277	6,874	131.5%
CDR	9,780	10,088	103.1%
Other (<i>hearings/assistance requests</i>)	3,769	3,779	100.3%
TOTAL	57,404	58,474	101.9%

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Capital Request

VR Evaluation Center/State Office Paving

\$150,000 (State Funding) + **\$450,000** (Federal Funding) = **\$600,000 Total Required**

- This project is included in Year 2 of the Capital Projects Improvement Plan (CPIP).
- The facility is over 46 years old.
- The asphalt has deteriorated beyond the point of basic maintenance and repair.
- Exterior lighting will be installed in the parking areas to enhance safety and security.
- The project will be funded with 25% from state funding (\$150,000) and 75% from federal funding (\$450,000), pending the necessary approvals.
- The Agency's federal grant will cover the maintenance and care of the pavement.
- The expected useful life of the project is between 20 and 25 years.



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Capital Request

ITTC / LEARN Center / Rehabilitation Engineering Building Paving

\$150,000 (State Funding) + **\$450,000** (Federal Funding) = **\$600,000 Total Required**

- This project is included in Year 2 of the Capital Projects Improvement Plan (CPIP).
- The facility is over 34 years old.
- The asphalt has deteriorated beyond the point of basic maintenance and repair.
- Exterior lighting will be added to the parking areas to enhance safety and security.
- The project will be funded with 25% from state funding (\$150,000) and 75% from federal funding (\$450,000), pending the necessary approvals.
- The Agency's federal grant will cover the maintenance and care of the pavement.
- The expected useful life of the project is 20 to 25 years.



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Capital Request

VR Dorm Building – Heat Pump Unit Replacement

\$73,750 (State Funding) + **\$221,250** (Federal Funding) = **\$295,000 Total Required**

- This project is included in Year 2 of the Capital Projects Improvement Plan (CPIP).
- It aims to replace 23 outdated water source heat pumps with new energy-efficient units.
- The current units are outdated and expensive to repair.
- The project will be funded with 25% from state funding (\$73,750) and 75% from federal funding (\$221,250), pending necessary approvals.
- The agency's federal grant will also cover the maintenance and care of the pavement.
- The expected useful life of the new heat pumps is 15 years.



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Budget Requests

Summary of Capital Requests

Paving 1	\$150,000
Paving 2	\$150,000
Heat Pump Replacement	\$ <u>73,750</u>
Total Amount Requested	\$373,750

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Questions?

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