

# FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

**Division of Services for the Blind  
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
2019–2021 Fiscal Biennium**

**Joint House and Senate Appropriations  
Committees on Health and Human Services**

**March 26, 2019**

# Agenda

- Three Divisions, Two Budgets
- Budget for Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services –Select Programs
- Budget for Divisions of Services for the Blind & Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Select Program
- Division of Services for the Blind - Select Programs
- Clients Served and Unmet Needs
- Questions



# Structure

- Three distinct divisions serving people with disabilities, each specializing in meeting needs of different disability groups.
- Two budgets:
  - Budget Code 14480 – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
  - Budget Code 14450 – Shared by Divisions of Services for the Blind and The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Shared administrative services create efficiencies:
  - Human Resources,
  - Purchasing & Contracts,
  - Budget & Fiscal Services,
  - Policy, Planning, and Evaluation.



# Staffing Levels by Division

## FTE by Division

Division	FTE
Deaf & Hard of Hearing	76.00
Services for the Blind	257.51
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	986.25*

\* Includes 16 positions that provide administrative support to all three divisions.

**NOTE: 70% of FTEs provide direct services to consumers.**

Source: NC DHHS



# Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS): Base Budget

	<b>Actual 2017-18</b>	<b>Certified 2018-19</b>	<b>Authorized 2018-19</b>	<b>Incr/Decr 2019-20</b>	<b>Total 2019-20</b>	<b>Incr/Decr 2020-21</b>	<b>Total 2020-21</b>
14480-DHHS - Vocational Rehabilitation Services							
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$54,667,630	\$63,977,883	\$64,201,211	\$0	\$64,201,211	\$0	\$64,201,211
PURCHASED SERVICES	\$10,004,020	\$9,919,736	\$10,440,451	(\$4,404)	\$10,436,047	\$29,119	\$10,469,570
SUPPLIES	\$765,945	\$817,297	\$865,731	\$0	\$865,731	\$0	\$865,731
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	\$1,434,615	\$453,085	\$418,814	\$0	\$418,814	\$0	\$418,814
RESERVES	\$0	\$982,648	\$1,437,858	(\$35,323)	\$1,402,535	(\$35,323)	\$1,402,535
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$1,369,645	\$37,019	\$37,019	\$0	\$37,019	\$0	\$37,019
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$132,567,993</b>	<b>\$148,397,445</b>	<b>\$150,634,328</b>	<b>(\$139,727)</b>	<b>\$150,494,601</b>	<b>(\$106,204)</b>	<b>\$150,528,124</b>
<b>Receipts</b>							
GRANTS	\$2,790,167	\$2,916,699	\$2,916,699	\$0	\$2,916,699	\$0	\$2,916,699
SALES, SERVICE, & RENTALS	\$448,062	\$435,678	\$469,359	\$0	\$469,359	\$0	\$469,359
MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,836,998	\$4,298,276	\$5,002,566	\$0	\$5,002,566	\$0	\$5,002,566
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$33,301	\$0	\$138,676	\$0	\$138,676	\$0	\$138,676
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL TRANSACTIONS (Federal Funds)	\$88,339,058	\$101,339,391	\$102,699,627	(\$5,517)	\$102,694,110	\$19,344	\$102,718,971
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$95,447,586</b>	<b>\$108,990,044</b>	<b>\$111,226,927</b>	<b>(\$5,517)</b>	<b>\$111,221,410</b>	<b>\$19,344</b>	<b>\$111,246,271</b>
<b>Net Appropriation</b>	<b>\$37,120,406</b>	<b>\$39,407,401</b>	<b>\$39,407,401</b>	<b>(\$134,210)</b>	<b>\$39,273,191</b>	<b>(\$125,548)</b>	<b>\$39,281,853</b>
<b>FTE</b>							
<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Actual 2017-18</b>	<b>Certified 2018-19</b>	<b>Authorized 2018-19</b>	<b>Incr/Decr 2019-20</b>	<b>Total 2019-20</b>	<b>Incr/Decr 2020-21</b>	<b>Total 2020-21</b>
SPA-REG SALARIES-UNDESIG	986.250	985.250	986.250	0.000	986.250	0.000	986.250
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>986.250</b>	<b>985.250</b>	<b>986.250</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>986.250</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>986.250</b>



# DVRS Base Budget

## Explanation of Changes

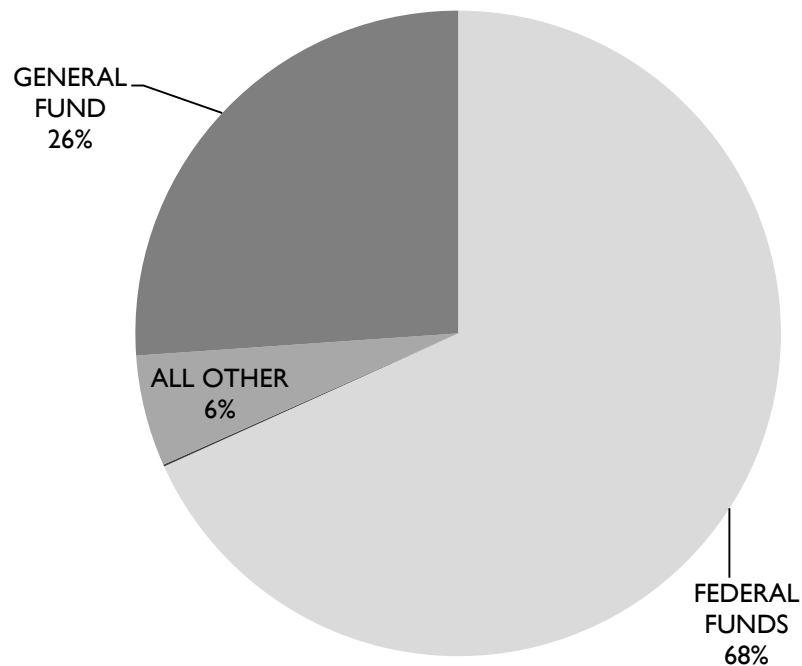
	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
<b>NR Items Removed</b>		
State Retirement Contributions-One-time retiree cost-of-living adjustment	(\$35,323)	(\$35,323)
Direct Appropriations	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)
<b>Total for NR Items</b>	<b>(\$135,323)</b>	<b>(\$135,323)</b>
<b>Existing lease rate adjustments</b>	\$1,113	\$9,775
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$134,210)</b>	<b>(\$125,548)</b>



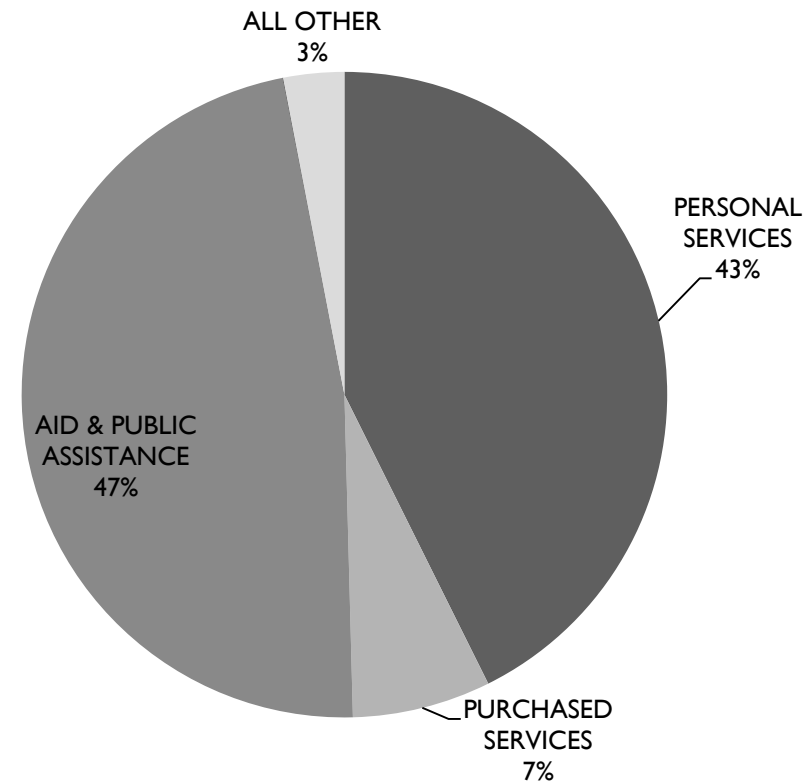
# DVRS Base Budget

## Expenditures and Funding Sources

### Funding Sources



### Expenditures





# DVRS

Assist individuals with physical, mental, or cognitive disabilities to live successfully in the community through employment services, independent living services, and assistive technology.

Programs include:

- Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Program,
- Independent Living, Community Integration & Support Services,
- NC Assistive Technology Program (NCATP).



# DVRS: Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Program

- Dual customers – Individuals with disabilities & Employers:
  - Rehab Counselors & Specialists provide support to eligible consumers who need services to retain, obtain, maintain or advance in integrated competitive employment.
  - North Carolina employers benefit from no-cost VR consultations and support with placement & retention services for hiring a VR referral.

Source: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Services: Outcomes FY 2017-18

- 35,292 individuals with disabilities received services under an individualized plan for employment.
- 5,122 individuals with disabilities achieved employment goal in a competitive integrated setting.
  - 1,767 or 34.5% of these were transition-age youth 14-21.

Source: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# DVRS: Independent Living, Community Integration & Supports Program

- Core Services:
  - Independent Living Skills Training & Guidance/Counseling.
  - In-home support services (Consumer-directed Personal Assistance Services).
  - Home Modifications (Partner with NC Housing Finance Agency).
  - Vehicle Modifications.
  - Transition Services for transitioning from institutional setting.
- 1,302 individuals with a disability were able to transition to or maintain independence within their community (FY 2017-18).

Source: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# NC Assistive Technology Program (NCATP)

## ■ Core Services:

- Demonstrations of Assistive Technology (AT) devices and computer software.
- Short-term loans of AT devices, allowing user to try out the devices prior to purchase.
- Information on AT resources and referral to other programs or agencies as needed.
- Activities to increase awareness of AT and NCATP services.
- Information about possible funding sources for AT.
- Coordination of Assistive Technology Re-use (Keeping AT devices in circulation).



# NCATP: Services Activity & Outcomes

## Program Outcomes FFY 2018

- Assistive Technology Device Loans : 1,492
- Device Demonstrations – people served: 4,662
- Assistive Technology Training – people served: 1,322

Source: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Vocational Rehabilitation Program

## Workforce Incentive Program

- Helps Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability recipients understand how working impacts eligibility for Medicare, Medicaid, and other benefits.
- The *Social Security Act* authorizes Social Security Administration to pay State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies for the costs of services they provide to beneficiaries with disabilities.
- FY 2018-19 YTD (through February 2019) NC received \$2,130,041 in Federal Recoupments.
- 2,019 clients served in FY 2017-18.

Source: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Budget Division of Services for the Blind & Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing





# Recommended Base Budget DSB & DSDHH

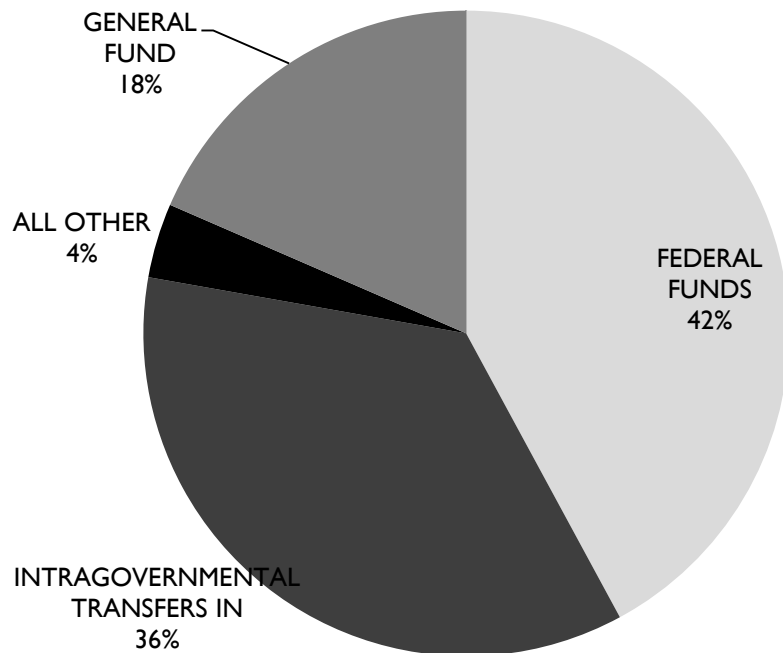
## I4450-DHHS - Services for the Blind/Deaf/Hard of Hearing

	Actual	Certified	Authorized	Incr/Decr	Total	Incr/Decr	Total
	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21
<b>Requirements</b>							
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$19,811,306	\$23,360,184	\$23,624,520	\$0	\$23,624,520	\$0	\$23,624,520
PURCHASED SERVICES	\$5,808,610	\$8,406,584	\$8,182,524	\$14,526	\$8,197,050	\$31,794	\$8,214,318
SUPPLIES	\$251,819	\$358,636	\$360,920	\$0	\$360,920	\$0	\$360,920
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	\$283,058	\$229,153	\$374,698	\$0	\$374,698	\$0	\$374,698
OTHER EXPENSES & ADJUSTMENTS	\$627,533	\$554,313	\$734,867	\$0	\$734,867	\$0	\$734,867
AID & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	\$9,624,427	\$12,776,556	\$12,636,133	\$0	\$12,636,133	\$0	\$12,636,133
RESERVES	\$0	\$283,381	\$362,107	(\$8,420)	\$353,687	(\$8,420)	\$353,687
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$376,392	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL REQUIERMENTS</b>	<b>\$36,783,145</b>	<b>\$45,968,807</b>	<b>\$46,275,769</b>	<b>\$6,106</b>	<b>\$46,281,875</b>	<b>\$23,374</b>	<b>\$46,299,143</b>
<b>Receipts</b>							
GRANTS	\$782,962	\$1,142,457	\$1,004,388	\$0	\$1,004,388	\$0	\$1,004,388
SALES, SERVICE, & RENTALS							
FEES, LICENSES, & FINES	\$0	\$61,237	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
MISCELLANEOUS	\$678,109	\$386,852	\$722,289	\$0	\$722,289	\$0	\$722,289
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$12,269,517	\$16,352,114	\$16,502,807	\$14,566	\$16,517,373	\$27,908	\$16,530,715
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL TRANSACTIONS (Federal Funds)	\$14,966,234	\$19,464,184	\$19,484,322	(\$40)	\$19,484,282	\$3,330	\$19,487,652
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$28,696,823</b>	<b>\$37,406,844</b>	<b>\$37,713,806</b>	<b>\$14,526</b>	<b>\$37,728,332</b>	<b>\$31,238</b>	<b>\$37,745,044</b>
<b>NET APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>\$8,086,323</b>	<b>\$8,561,963</b>	<b>\$8,561,963</b>	<b>(\$8,420)</b>	<b>\$8,553,543</b>	<b>(\$7,864)</b>	<b>\$8,554,099</b>
<b>FTE</b>							
Account	Actual	Certified	Authorized	Incr/Decr	Total	Incr/Decr	Total
Code	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21
531153 EPA-TEACH SALARIES-UNDESG	15.000	15.000	15.000	0.000	15.000	0.000	15.000
531212 SPA-REG SALARIES-RECPT	87.000	99.000	87.000	0.000	87.000	0.000	87.000
531213 SPA-REG SALARIES-UNDESIG	232.510	218.090	232.510	0.000	232.510	0.000	232.510
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>334.510</b>	<b>332.090</b>	<b>334.510</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>334.510</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>334.510</b>

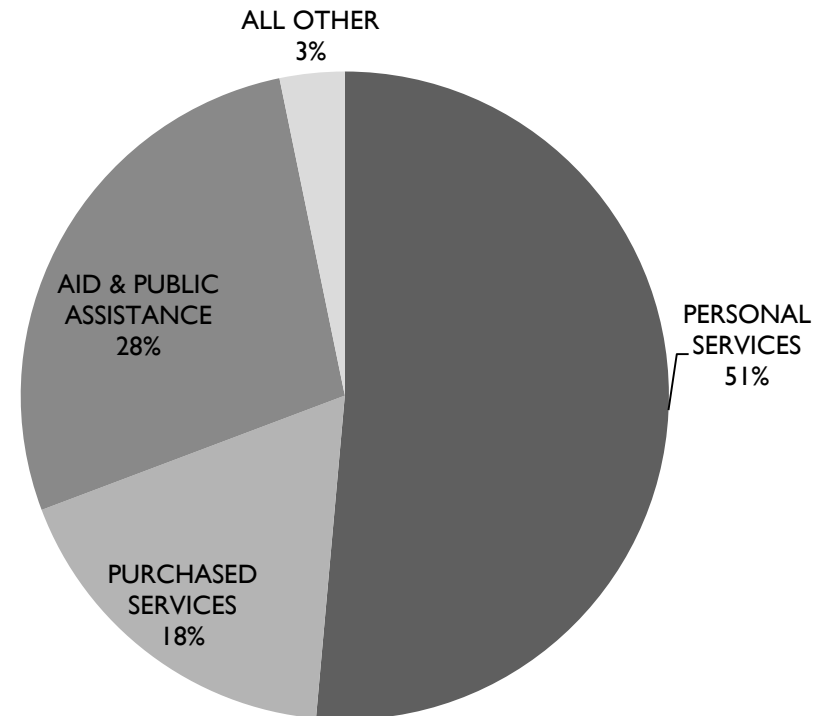


# DSB & DSDHH Base Budget Expenditures and Funding Sources

## Funding Sources



## Expenditures



# Funding by Division FY 2019-20

## Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### Total Base Budget

Requirements	\$15,954,870
Receipts	\$15,954,870
Appropriation	--

### Funding Source:

- Receipts from wireline and wireless phone charges.
- No state appropriation.

## Services for the Blind

### Total Base Budget

Requirements	\$30,327,005
Receipts	\$21,773,462
Appropriation	\$ 8,553,543

### Funding Sources:

- Federal funds.
- Other miscellaneous receipts.
- State appropriation.



# DSB & DSDHH Base Budget

## Explanation of Changes

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
<b>NR Items Removed</b>		
State Retirement Contributions-One-time retiree cost-of-living adjustment	(\$8,420)	(\$8,420)
<b>Total for NR Items</b>	<b>(\$8,420)</b>	<b>(\$8,420)</b>
<b>Existing lease rate adjustments</b>		
DSB Lease Increase		\$556
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$8,420)</b>	<b>(\$7,864)</b>



# Division of Services for the Blind



# Services for the Blind (DSB)

## ■ Primary Services Include:

- Vocational Assessments
- Guidance & Counseling
- Information & Referral
- Assistive Technology Assessments & Instruction
- Job Development & Placement
- DSB Career and Training Center
- Low Vision Services
- Career Training & Exploration
- Business Enterprise Program
- Eye Medications, Treatments & Surgeries
- Orientation & Mobility Training
- Comprehensive In-home Independent Living instruction
- Deaf-blind Services



# DSB: FY 2017-18 Services Activity & Outcomes

- Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Services:
  - 2,770 individuals blind, low vision or deaf-blind received services.
  - 492 youth blind, low vision or deaf-blind received services.
- Independent Living Programs (ILR, ILS, ILOB):
  - 5,635 individuals blind, low vision or deaf-blind received services allowing them to continue to live independently.
- Medical Eye Care Program:
  - 865 individuals received vision-saving medical treatments.

Source: Division of Services For the Blind



# Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing





# Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)

Works to ensure that all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind North Carolinians have the ability to communicate their needs and to receive information easily and effectively in all aspects of their lives, especially their health and well-being.

- Primary services:
  - Direct assistance with communication.
  - Distribution of assistive equipment.
  - Sign Language Interpreters, Captionists and Relay operators
  - Telecommunications Access.
  - Emergency Preparedness & Public Safety.
  - Technical assistance with communication access to businesses and organizations, both public and private.
  - Community outreach and education on hearing loss (Regional Centers).



# Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing-Clients Served

- More than 1.2 million people in North Carolina (15.6%), over the age of 18, have hearing loss and, as a result, are potentially eligible for services offered by DSDHH\*

DSDHH Service Area	Number Served Each State Fiscal Year					Five Year Average
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Client Services (total # clients receiving services)	5,111	5,560	5,907	5,751	5,298	5,525
Services to Agencies and Organizations (# agencies and organizations served)	952	733	689	710	569	731
Outreach and Education (# events on RC calendar of events)	9,449	2,350	2,824	3,997	5,778	4,880
Equipment Distribution Services (EDS) (# approved applications for telecommunications equipment – Income eligibility limits apply)	3,576	4,229	4,570	4,172	4,385	4,186

\*DSDHH methodology of the most recent (2017), Certified North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) population estimates and the average of the four (4) most recent, annual National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) percentages of persons with hearing loss, we get the following; Table provided by DSDHH  
March, 14, 2017



# Clients Served and Unmet Needs



# DSVR & DSB – Clients with Individualized Service Plans

Division	Program	State Fiscal Year					Five Year Average
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
DVRS	Vocational Rehabilitation Program (DVR-VR)	48,169	43,911	43,559	39,139	35,292	42,014
	Independent Living Program (DVR-IL)	3,953	3,119	3,058	3,010	2,935	3,215
DSB	Vocational Rehabilitation Program (DSB-VR)	3,395	3,100	2,980	2,849	2,574	2,979
	Independent Living Rehab (DSB-ILR)	398	373	445	390	400	401
	Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB)	736	688	798	711	782	743
	Independent Living Social Workers (ILS)	5,297	4,051	4,802	4,926	4,843	4,783
	Medical Eye Care (MEC)	707	817	914	872	967	855

(All clients with cases that had active service plans or received medical vouchers at least once during the year and were served during the year. Each case is counted only once per program, per year).

Source: Division of Services For the Blind; Division of Services for the Deaf and Heard of Hearing; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# DHHS Reported Unmet Needs & Waitlists

- **DSDHH:**
  - DSDHH reports there is an unmet need for qualified ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters for persons who are deaf and use ASL, particularly those qualified to work in health care settings.
  - 2018 to 2030 projected rate of growth for hearing loss pop. 33% compared to 21% projected growth of general population.
- **DVRS:**
  - Statewide waitlist for consumer-directed Personal Assistance Services.
  - NC Assistive Technology Program.
  - In certain localities delays exist for certain services due to a limited number of specialists in certain areas of practice or service provision.
- **DSB:** Delays can exist for certain services due to a limited number of specialists in certain areas of practice.

Source: Division of Services For the Blind; Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Vocational Rehabilitation Basic Support Grant

- Federal grant provides VR services for individuals with disabilities ...“so that they may prepare for and engage in competitive integrated employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency.”
- Funds programs in both Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Services for the Blind.
- Nonfederal match requirement of 21.3%.
- North Carolina is eligible for increased federal allocation due to growing population.

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/rsabvrs/index.html>



# Questions?

**Jessica T. Meed, Fiscal Analyst**  
**Fiscal Research Division**  
**Room 619, LOB**  
**919-733-4910**  
**[www.ncleg.net/fiscalresearch/](http://www.ncleg.net/fiscalresearch/)**

