

VRS + CP Forum

April 1, 2025

DEED-VRS Budget Updates

- VRS continues to forecast and plan through the end of FFY25 (September 2025) and beyond into FFY2030.
- Our goal is to maintain a balanced budget while planning for long-term sustainability.

DEED-VRS Budget Updates continued

Governor's Revised Budget:

- The Governor's recently revised budget includes an additional \$5 million added to the State Match base for VRS.
- Important Notes: We will not know the final state budget results until May or June 2025.

DEED-VRS Service Delivery

- Effective Monday, April 7, 2025, Order of Selection will begin, and a VRS waitlist will be implemented for Categories 2-4.
- Priority Category 1 will remain open at this time.
- We encourage all **potential or new applicants** to continue with our virtual or regular intake process and complete an application as appropriate. The waitlist will be managed by **application** date within the priority category being opened.

Changes to Existing Services

- There will be no changes to services available for current VRS participants.
- Our commitment to maintaining the support for those already receiving services remains a priority.

VRS Category Closures – E1MN funding guidelines

Per the [CBSM guidance Determining VRS/SSB and IDEA availability under Employment Development Services – Find Phase](#) (out of school):

VRS provides similar services. The case manager can only authorize employment development services – find phase if they determine VRS services are unavailable to the person based on one of the following reasons:

- *VRS ineligible/not priority status: VRS determines the person is ineligible, or they do not meet an open priority of service category with VRS. If the person does not meet an open priority of service category, they will be placed on a waitlist maintained by VRS.*

VRS Category Closures - E1MN Funding Guidelines

If the case manager authorizes employment development services – find phase for one of the reasons listed above, they must:

1. Indicate one of the following reasons in the service notes section of the waiver service authorization:

- *Ineligible/not priority of service*
- *Service exhausted*
- *Service transition*

2. Retain one of the following items in the person's file:

- *A copy of the VRS Ineligibility or VRS Closed Priority Category letter the person received*

Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

- Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is a specific program that utilizes a Mental Health Agency and an IPS Community Partner to provide services to individuals with severe and persistent mental health diagnoses.
- IPS referrals typically fall within Priority Category #1 with three or more areas of functional limitation.
- Referrals from VRS will continue to be made to our IPS Community Partners as long as the individual falls within an open Priority Category.

- We understand these changes have significant implications, and we remain committed to keeping all stakeholders informed throughout this process.
- Your support and collaboration are essential to ensure VRS continues to serve individuals with disabilities effectively and efficiently during these challenging times.

Extended Employment Collaboration

- Extended Employment (EE) providers provide long-term supports to individuals who fall within Priority Category #1.
- The Extended Employment program is a great resource for individuals coming to VRS for help finding new employment who are currently working.
- Collaboration can occur between providers without coordination from VRS.

Current vs. new process

- Email vs. WF1 access

Timelines

- Northern Minnesota - done
- Southern Minnesota – in process
- Everything Is Flexible

Moving forward

- Metro coming soon
- New partners

Questions



Use this Microsoft Form for questions:
<https://forms.office.com/g/aZD1HGT0Yn>

Thank you!