

# Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Stephanie Beckhorn, Deputy Director  
Employment & Training



# Employment & Training



## Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP)

Believes in capacity of people who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment and independence, providing training and other services that empower people to achieve their individual goals.



## Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)

Provides specialized employment and education-related services and training to assist individuals with disabilities in becoming employed, advancing in, or retaining employment.



## Workforce Development (WD)

Supports demand driven workforce system, assists structurally unemployed with financial independence, advocates for integration of workforce development into the K-12 school system, and supports alignment of workforce development with economic development efforts.

## Operations

Serves as the administrative and operational support function for internal and external LEO-E&T needs in the areas of Communications & Outreach, Employee Experience and Enterprise Information Management.

# Who is Michigan Rehabilitation Services?

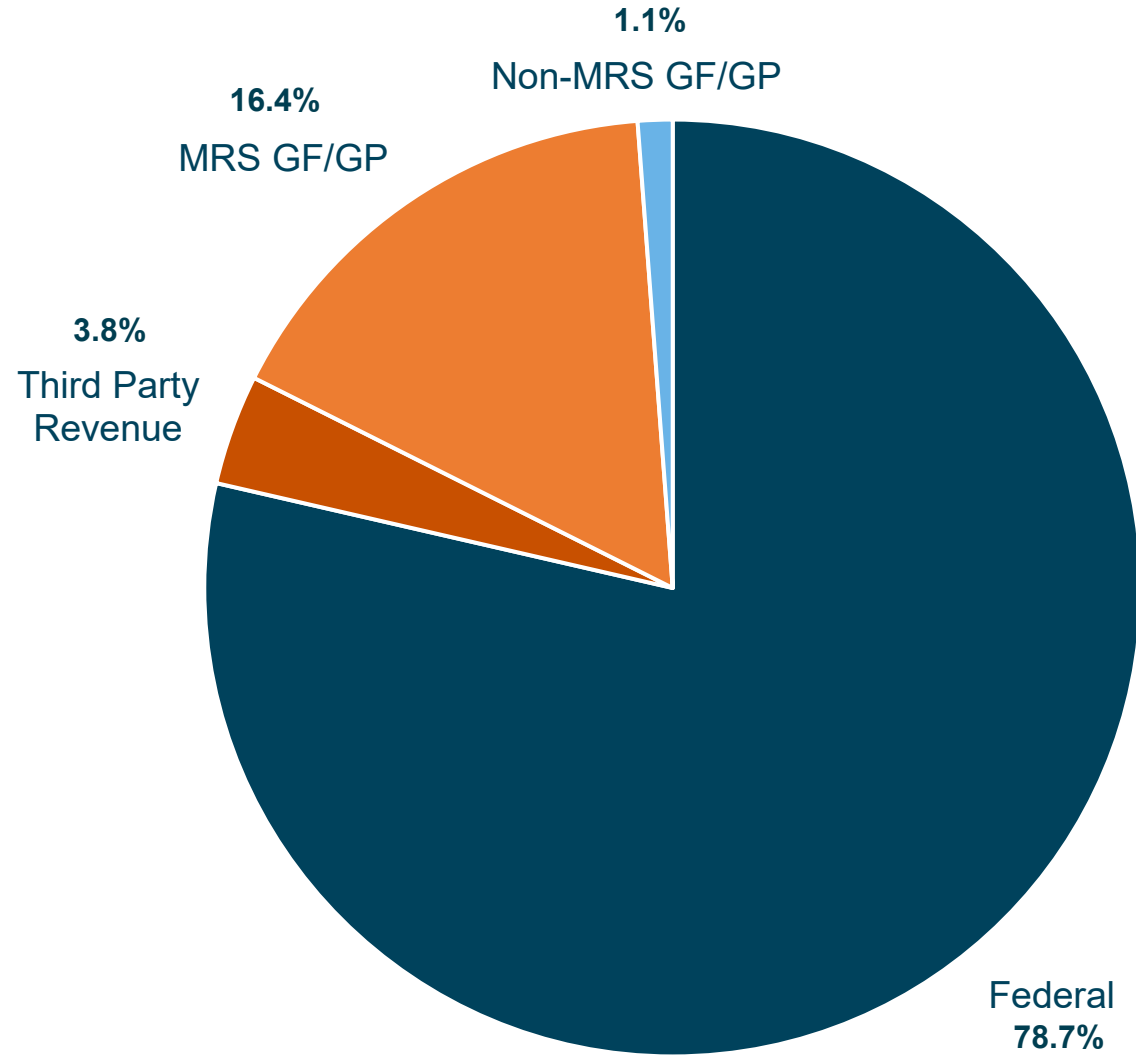
- Operates under authority of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
  - Vocational Rehabilitation is Title IV under WIOA
- Federal oversight agency is within U.S. Department of Education
- Michigan Career & Technical Institute



**MRS** PROMOTING  
ABILITIES  
Michigan Rehabilitation Services

# **Michigan Rehabilitation Services' Budget Information**

# Michigan Rehabilitation Services' FY25 Budget by Funding Source



# Who MRS Supports



**Adults**



**Students**



**Businesses**



## Services to Individuals

- **Assessment** for eligibility, career exploration and planning for employment
- **Vocational rehabilitation** guidance and counseling
- **Disability management** through counseling, therapies, treatments or assistive devices
- **Training** to enhance skills using instruction and work experiences in offices, worksites or through educational partnerships
- **Job search assistance** to help find competitive employment and support once on the job
- **Benefits counseling** to explain how working will affect federal and state benefits





# Services to Students

## First Level: Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

MRS coordinates with students to **explore** careers by:

- Offering services to explore employment & training opportunities
- Providing supports to students beginning at age 14 and through graduation

What are the **services**?

Pre-ETS helps students explore career paths once they leave high school through:

- Job exploration
- Work experiences
- Training & college exploration
- Work-readiness training
- Self-advocacy training

## Second Level: Individualized Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

MRS coordinates with students to **plan** for careers by:

- Offering services to eligible students on preparing to enter the workforce, exploring career options, & transitioning into employment
- Providing supports to students before graduation, anyone enrolled in 18-26 transition programming, or anyone after graduation

What are the **services**?

May include any of the five Pre-ETS services, plus:

- Supports / services leading to post-secondary, job training or apprenticeship
- Connecting with Michigan Career & Technical Institute
- Finding / keeping a job

**Students who can be referred:** Those ages 14-26 with IEPs, 504 plans or other medical / mental health documentation.





## Services to Employers

- **Educate** on benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities
- **Provide guidance** on reasonable accommodations and assistive technology
- **Dispel myths** regarding capabilities of individuals with disabilities
- **Serves as talent pipeline** and reduces their recruitment costs and time to hire

# MRS Program Outcomes

- In 2024, MRS:
  - Served **32,959** individuals
  - Got **6,683** individuals trained
  - Helped **1,558** individuals earn industry-recognized credentials
  - Helped **6,369** individuals get employed
  - Worked with **6,784** businesses
- Michigan is **#1 in the nation** for helping VR customers get employed
- Michigan's VR customers have the **highest median earnings** in the country

# Pre- Employment Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

- Funds will support meeting federal match requirements
- **Services:** Concentrated academic remediation, specialized tutoring, enrollment in career and technical training or college, connect to in-demand job pathways
- **Outcomes:**
  - Serve 25% more individuals with disabilities
  - 10%+ increase in percentage of customers achieving credential attainment & full-time employment
- **Success:** Riley gets a full-time job and enhances his independence

# Invest in Michigan Rehabilitation Services

FY26 Governor's Executive  
Recommendation: \$2M GF (\$9.2M)

- Funds will support meeting federal match requirements
- **Services:** Expand vocational rehabilitation services that will increase employment for individuals with disabilities and broaden pipeline of skilled talent needed by employers
- **Outcomes:**
  - Increased customer satisfaction
  - Increased customer earned income
  - Decreased dependency on public assistance
- **Success:** DeWys Manufacturing sees value in hiring IWDs



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY**

## **EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING**

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