LaCAN
Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

Untapped Federal Funds Would Put Louisianans with Disabilities to Work

Facts First

- **For every state dollar the state commits to the VR Program, the federal government matches $3.69.**
- **Since 2009, over $100 million in federal funds have been lost to other states due to insufficient state dollars needed to draw down LRS' full federal allotment. In FY13 alone, Louisiana forfeited $19.6 million of federal VR funds to other states![1]**
- **The Governor's FY15 Executive Budget includes a reduction of $762,000 in state matching funds for the VR program. This will result in an additional federal reduction of $2.8 million.**

What Legislators Can Do:

Appropriate state funds to increase the federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) draw down for La. Rehabilitation Services (LRS). An increase of $762,000 would restore the VR program to its current funding level. An increase of $5.3 million would allow LRS to draw down 100% of the state's federal VR allotment.

Why Do This?

The LA Workforce Commission's (LWC) motto is **"We put people to work."** La. Rehabilitation Services is a division of the LWC and offers vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to Louisiana citizens with disabilities. Louisiana has **untapped talent** (unserved citizens with disabilities) who cannot participate in the spirit of the LWC motto because of **untapped funds.**

For every $1 the state invests in the VR program to support Louisianans with disabilities to work, **$9 is returned** to Louisiana in the form of increased taxes and reduced public assistance.[2]

Other states receive Louisiana's share of funds!

- In 2012 Arkansas drew down its entire federal VR grant ($38.9 million) and received an additional $9.9 million from those funds left unused by states like Louisiana.

[1] Louisiana Workforce Commission, Fiscal Section

[2] Cost Benefit Analysis of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Vocational Rehabilitation Program: Federal Fiscal Years 2001-2004, P.G. Wilson & L.C. DeMers, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - Human Development Center, January 2005.

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