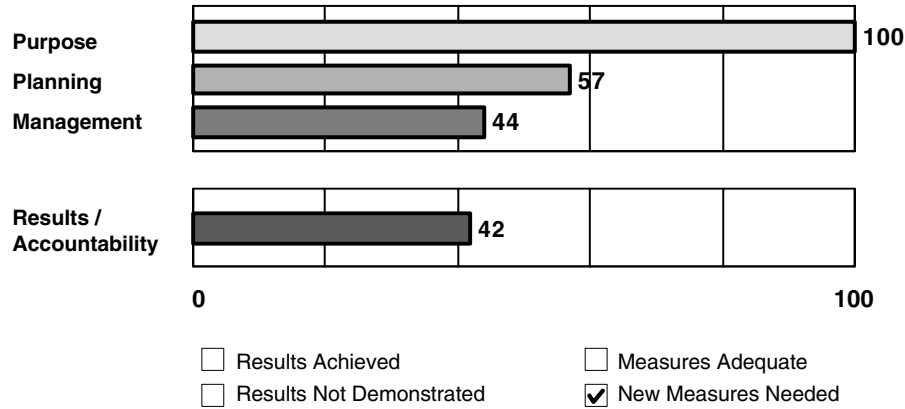


**Program:** Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Bureau:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

Long-term and Annual Measure: Percent of participants placed in employment (Targets beyond 2004 under development)	2000	62.7%	62.5%
	2001	63%	60.7%
	2003	63.2%	
	2004	63.2%	
Long-term and Annual Measure: Of individuals placed in employment, the percent who obtain employment in an integrated setting at or above the minimum wage (Targets beyond 2004 under development)	2000	82.5%	86.0%
	2001	86.2%	87.6%
	2003	86.6%	
	2004	86.8%	
Long-term and Annual Measure: Among individuals exiting the program in competitive employment, the median ratio of their average hourly wage to the state's average hourly wage for all employed individuals (Targets beyond 2004 under development)	2000	0.57	0.57
	2001	0.57	0.56
	2003	0.58	
	2004	0.59	

**Rating:** Adequate

**Program Type:** Block / Formula Grants

**Program Summary:**

The purpose of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants is to help individuals with disabilities obtain employment. The program gives priority to individuals with the most significant disabilities. Program services are tailored to the specific needs of the individual, and include education, vocational training, counseling, rehabilitation technology, and supported employment. State VR agencies are required one-stop partners under the Workforce Investment Act, and Employment Networks under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

The PART assessment found:

1. The program's purpose is clear. While the federal government supports many other job training programs, most of them are not tailored to meet the specific needs of individuals with disabilities as this one is.
2. Annual data and longitudinal evaluations show the VR State Grants program is, in general, successful in meeting its program goals. However, there remains wide variation in performance across states.
3. The program has adopted a new, common measures reporting framework so that it can be compared to other Federal programs serving similar objectives. However, the program must establish specific performance targets and collect the necessary data to support the measures.
4. The Department of Education could do a much better job managing this program by using existing data, making these data available to the public in a timely manner, and improving collaboration with other federal programs. These problems persist even though the administrative costs associated with this program are high compared to other formula grant programs.

To address these findings, the Department will:

1. In the upcoming reauthorization, work with the Congress to align federal funding with performance, and hold all states accountable for their performance. In this reauthorization, the Administration will revisit whether funding for this program should be reclassified as discretionary.
2. Establish specific performance targets in the outyears and collect the necessary data to support new common measures. Also, consider whether any additional measures are appropriate for this program.
3. Take significant steps to improve program management using existing outcome data and make these data available to the public in a more timely manner.

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
2,456	2,590	2,641