



**From:** Ryan Hyde, Executive Director  
PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

**Date:** March 15, 2025

**Memo:** Order of Selection

**Effective Date:** April 1, 2025

Pursuant to the amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan that were approved by the U.S. Department of Education - Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on February 20, 2025, the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (PA OVR) will be implementing an Order of Selection (OOS) on April 1, 2025. The OOS was necessary for a variety of reasons, including a continued rise in referrals in both the student and adult programs, compounded by flat funding for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 24 national Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) budget. This resulted in the PA Vocational Rehabilitation program being flat funded, which cost PA \$12.8M in federal funds.

OVR will form a waitlist for customers who are determined to have disabilities that fall into the categories of Significant Disability (SD) or Non-Significant Disability (NSD) who do not already have an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) developed prior to April 1, 2025. All customers currently in these categories with an approved IPE may proceed and follow through with planned services. All customers who are currently in, or who are placed in the category of Most Significant Disability (MSD) on or after April 1, 2025, will receive services. Should PA OVR experience additional funding limitations, the closure of the MSD category may become necessary.

The utilization of the OOS is defined within the Rehabilitation Act, Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and is appropriate when a vocational rehabilitation agency is unable to serve all eligible individuals due to staffing and/or funding limitations and must prioritize individuals with the most significant disabilities to receive services with available resources. PA OVR will routinely evaluate funding levels and serve individuals from the waitlists when sufficient funding is available.

PA OVR held a one-month public comment period in October 2024 on the State Plan amendment to utilize the OOS. The PA Rehabilitation Council (PARC) voted to approve the amendment on November 13, 2024, and the PA State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (SBVR) voted to approve the amendment on December 19, 2024.

Additional questions about PA OVR or the OOS should be directed to [OVR Email for OOS Questions: ra-liovr-pol-rev-fb@pa.gov](mailto:ra-liovr-pol-rev-fb@pa.gov). Any customer with questions about how the OOS may impact your case, please contact your vocational rehabilitation counselor at your local OVR District Office.

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OVR's Mission: To assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence.

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program