



## Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Update Order of Selection Timeline

In addition to the enclosed SFY23 annual HEA-1488 update on the Vocational Rehabilitation Order of Selection, the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services would like to share an update regarding the pending timeline for ending the Order of Selection. A VR order of selection is implemented when the VR program does not have sufficient capacity (fiscal or staffing) to provide the full array of VR services to all eligible individuals. VR is required to serve those eligible individuals with the most significant disabilities before serving other eligible individuals, which results in a wait list for services. The order of selection wait list was initiated August 1, 2017.

Significant improvements in internal VR staff capacity have been achieved over the last several years, as highlighted in the enclosed update. Indiana VR has one of the highest VR Counselor retention rates in the country (4.6% vacancy rate in 2022 compared to 14% national vacancy rate across all VR programs). Notable progress has been realized in reducing the number of eligible individuals on the VR wait list. As a result, DDRS/BRS anticipates the end to the order of selection by the end of calendar year 2024.

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*The order of selection is targeted to end by end of calendar year 2024*

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Since August 2017, eligible individuals assigned to priority category 1, or those eligible individuals with the most significant disabilities, have been served without delay. The remaining two service priority categories have been 'closed,' meaning that individuals who are eligible for VR and assigned to priority category 2 or 3 have been placed on a wait list. During the last three years, individuals on the priority category 2 wait list have been served, in phases, in order of application date. The wait list for priority category 2 will end in July 2023. Beginning October 2023, eligible individuals on the priority category 3 wait list will be served, in phases, in order of application date. By the end of calendar year 2024, the order of selection will end, and VR eligible individuals can be served without a waiting period.

### STEPS TO END VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ORDER OF SELECTION

