

VR Programs for Transition-Age Youth

**A Project of the Rehabilitation, Research and
Training Center (RRTC) on VR Practices and Youth**

Purvi Sevak

Presented to CSAVR

March 2, 2016

MATHEMATICA
— CENTER FOR —
STUDYING DISABILITY POLICY

Goal of the Youth RRTC is to Help Improve Transition Outcomes

- **Funded by NIDILRR to study vocational rehabilitation (VR) practices for transition-age youth**
- **Partners include TransCen, Mathematica, University of Maryland, and the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI)**
- **Goal of this specific project is to identify innovative programs serving transition-age youth**
 - **Assembling a database of all programs that are specifically targeting transition-age youth**
- **Our next project will build data analytics capabilities for one or more agencies**

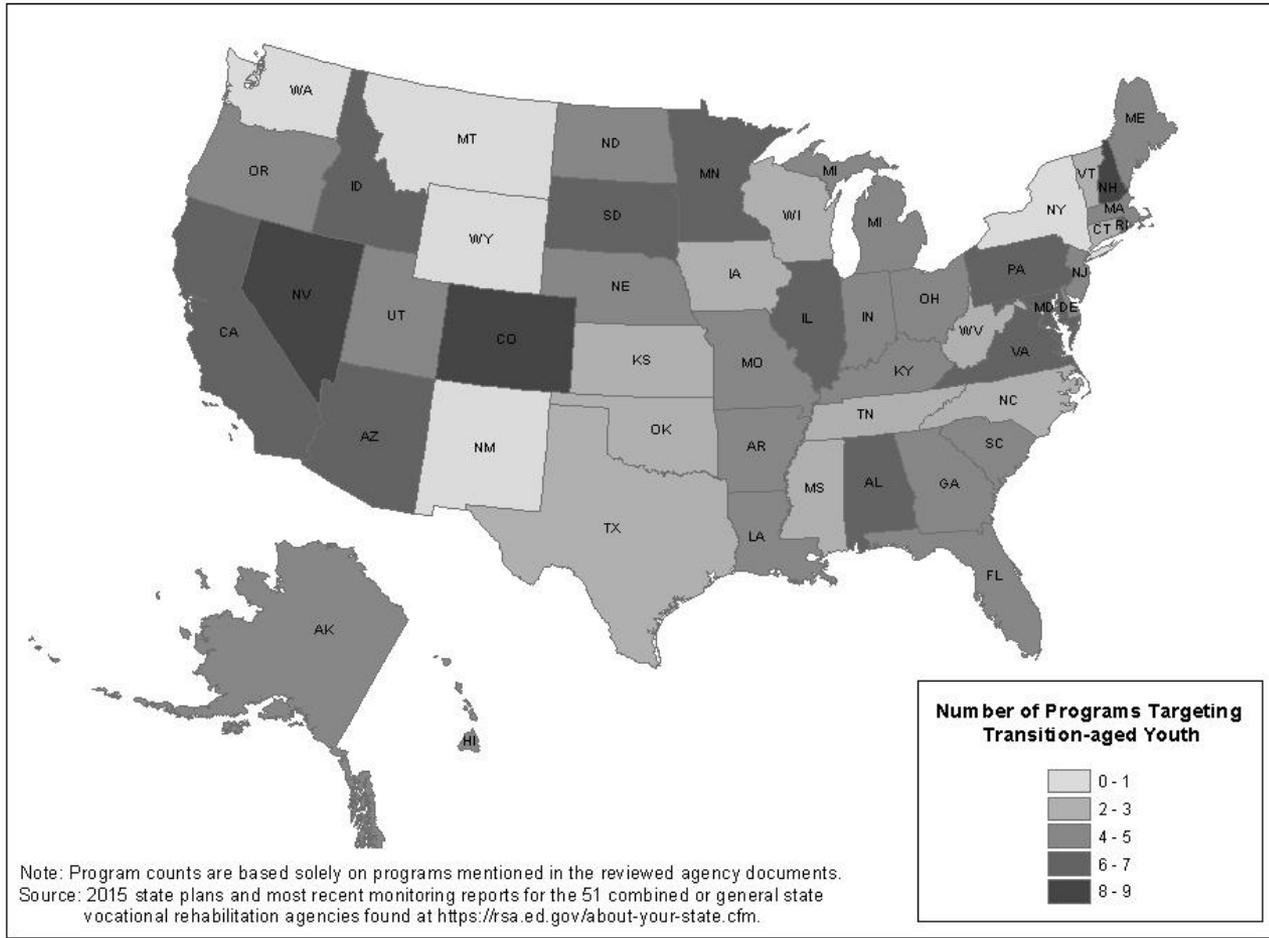
Methods and Sources

- **For the 51 general and combined VR agencies, we examined:**
 - State plans
 - Monitoring reports
 - Websites
- **For the 216 programs identified, we noted:**
 - Program goals
 - Components, such as workshops, internships, job training, life-skills training
 - Target populations
- **Caveat: database includes only those programs mentioned in state plans, monitoring reports, or websites**

Preview of Program Database

Agency and program name	Description	Target population	Component
<i>Alabama General</i>			
Jointly Funded Job Coaches	Provides services to students in final year of high school; provides information on job application process, including appropriate attire and punctuality; on-site job coaching	All youth	Job placement, job coaching
Project SEARCH	Places students finishing high school in a real work setting with a large employer; develops client work habits and skills	All youth	Internship
GATE (Gaining Access to Employment) program	Training program that fully immerses youth from sheltered work or day habitation into industry training	Youth with intellectual disabilities previously employed in sheltered workshops	Training
Transition Conference	Provides transition training and updates for counselors, transition staff, and education officials	VR staff	Staff training
Prison Transition Initiative	Serves youth with disabilities incarcerated in adult prisons	Incarcerated young adults	
College Prep Program 4.10	Serves youth with disabilities	All youth	

Number of Programs Ranged from Zero to Nine across Agencies



Employment is Goal of Majority of Programs

Program goal	Programs (percentage)	Agencies with at least one such program (percentage)
Employment	63.0	92.2
Postsecondary education	13.4	35.3
High school completion	5.6	19.6

Programs Have a Range of Components

Program component	Programs (percentage)	Agencies with at least one such program (percentage)
Job training	21.8	58.8
Life skills	17.1	47.1
Resume building and/or job coaching	16.7	47.1
Internships	17.1	47.1
Outreach and training for youth and families	16.7	49.0
Training for staff	13.9	37.3
Special assessment of client needs	12.0	37.3

Most Programs Have Broad Target Population

Target population is youth with:	Programs (percentage)	Agencies with at least one such program (percentage)
Unspecified	82.4	54.9
Severe disability	7.9	27.5
Autism	2.8	9.8
Blindness	2.3	9.8
History of incarceration	2.3	9.8
Psychiatric disability	1.9	7.8
Minority status	1.9	7.8

Next Steps: Sharing this Information

- **Database and issue brief will be distributed in Spring 2016**
 - Might be useful to technical assistance centers and agencies as they look to expand offerings to meet WIOA requirements
- **Research findings will be available at <http://vrpracticesandyouth.org/>**

Contact Information

Purvi Sevak
Center for Studying Disability Policy
Mathematica Policy Research
P.O. Box 2393
Princeton, NJ 08543
(609) 945-6596

psevak@mathematica-mpr.com

<http://www.DisabilityPolicyResearch.org>