



Senate Bill 2012

Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Bekkedahl, Chairman

Vocational Rehabilitation | January 17, 2023



Health & Human Services

HHS Goal: Help ND become the healthiest state in the nation

We'll focus on three actions to accomplish this:

Invest in the
FOUNDATIONS
of well-being



Economic
Health



Behavioral
Health



Physical
Health

Ensure everyone has the
opportunity to realize
their **POTENTIAL**



Strong, Stable
Families



Services Closer
to Home



Early Childhood
Experiences

Efficiency
Through
Redesign

High-
Performing
Team

Give everyone the
OPPORTUNITY to
decide to:



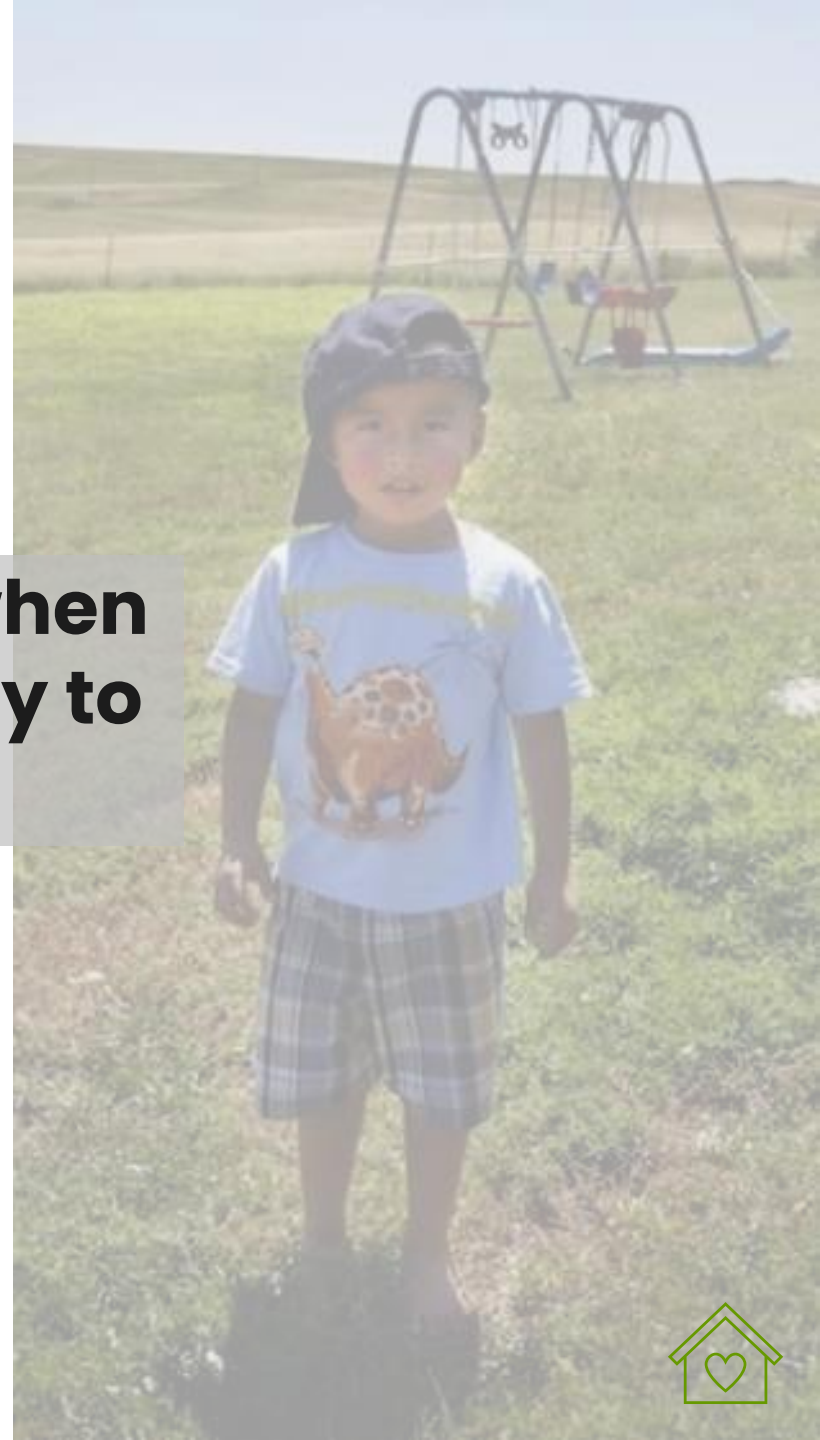
Be Healthy



Be Active



Find & Prevent
Disease Early



Communities are stronger when everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential



DHHS serves people with Disabilities



Intellectual Disability

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Autism Spectrum
Down Syndrome



Physical or Sensory Disability

Mobility Impairment
Vision Impairment
Hearing Impairment



Behavioral Health Disability

Anxiety Disorders
Depression
Addiction



Cognitive or Neurological Disability

Learning Disability
Acquired Brain Injury
Multiple Sclerosis



Vocational Rehabilitation Section Program Purpose

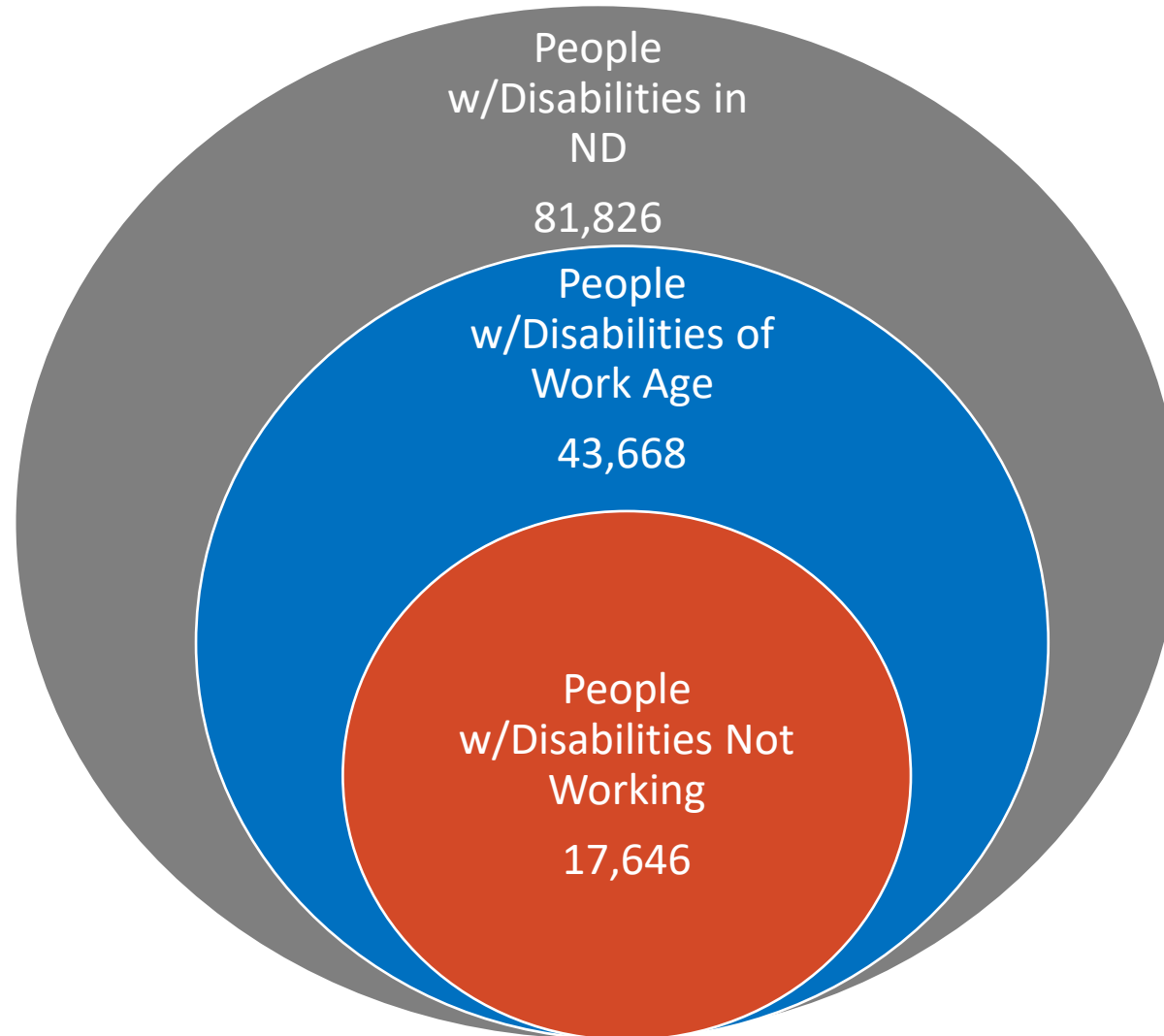
Assists North Dakotans with disabilities to enter or re-enter the workforce through individualized services

- Assess skills and abilities
- Identify a vocational goal
- Develop an individualized plan to achieve employment
- Provide services that result in competitive integrated employment



Vocational Rehabilitation

– An Essential Part of the Workforce Solution



Vocational Rehabilitation Section Eligibility

- Physical or mental disability
- Barrier to seeking, maintaining, or advancing in employment due to disability
- Individual requires and will benefit from VR services



Vocational Rehabilitation Section Services

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Pre-employment Transition Services to Students with Disabilities
- Vocational Training
- Assistive Technology
- Hearing and Vision Services
- ADA Consultation to Businesses
- Placement Site Recruitment
- Job Placement



Connecting in School: Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ets)

Assists students with disabilities in making the transition from high school to post secondary education programs and/or competitive integrated employment
(age 21 or younger and 9th grade or above)

2021-2022

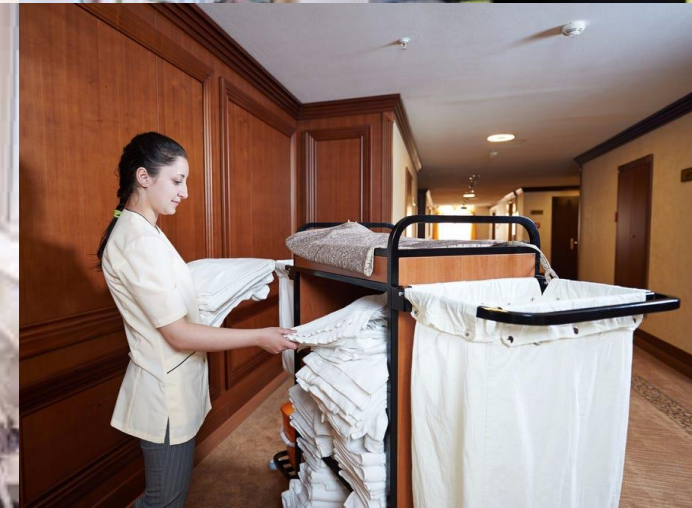
Served students in
71 ND schools



Connecting with Employers: Services to Businesses

Any ND employer is eligible for VR services (non-profit or for-profit business or government agency)

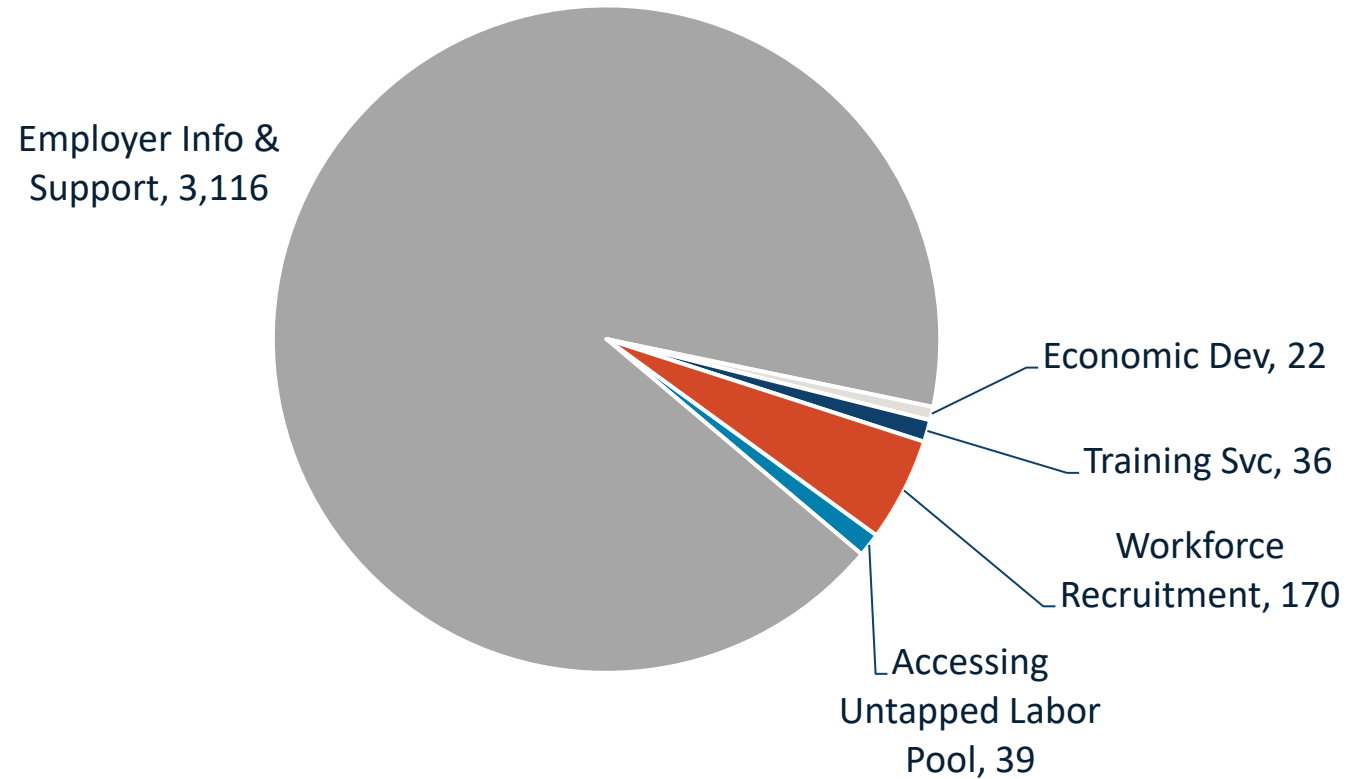
- Assist employers in connecting to an untapped labor pool of people with disabilities
- Retaining existing, well-trained and productive workers who may have developed or have a worsening disability
- Providing education on disability awareness, tax incentives and the Americans with Disabilities Act



Connecting with Employers: Services to Businesses

In FFY 2022, VR staff provided 3,383 services to 1,850 different businesses

- ✓ Oil and Gas
- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Hospitality
- ✓ Administrative & Support
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Retail



Connecting at Home: Older Individuals who are Blind or Vision Impaired

Assessment of need for home modifications and equipment

- Assistive Technology Devices and Training – magnifiers, lighting, etc.
- Communication Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Home or environmental modifications/equipment
- Counseling, Advocacy, Training, and Support

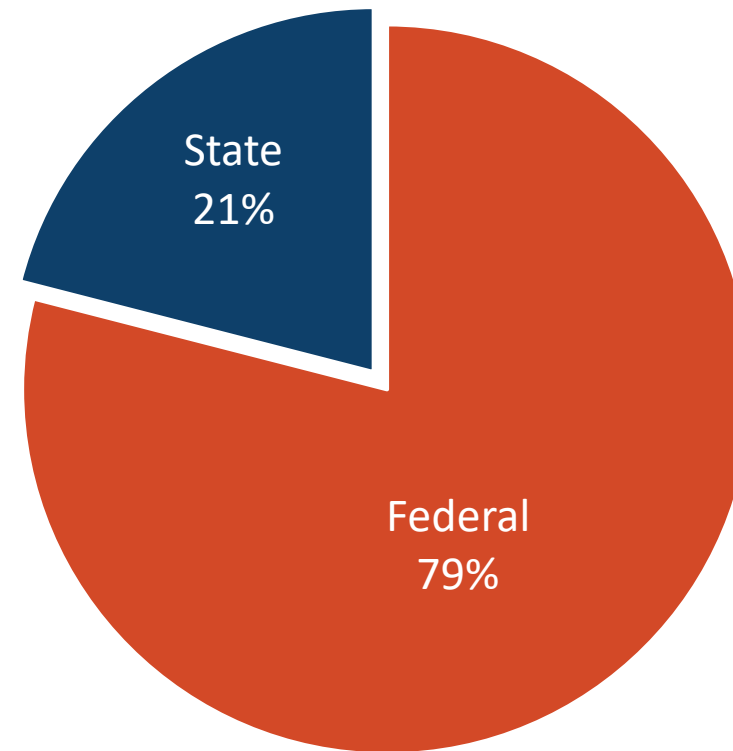


Vocational Rehabilitation Section

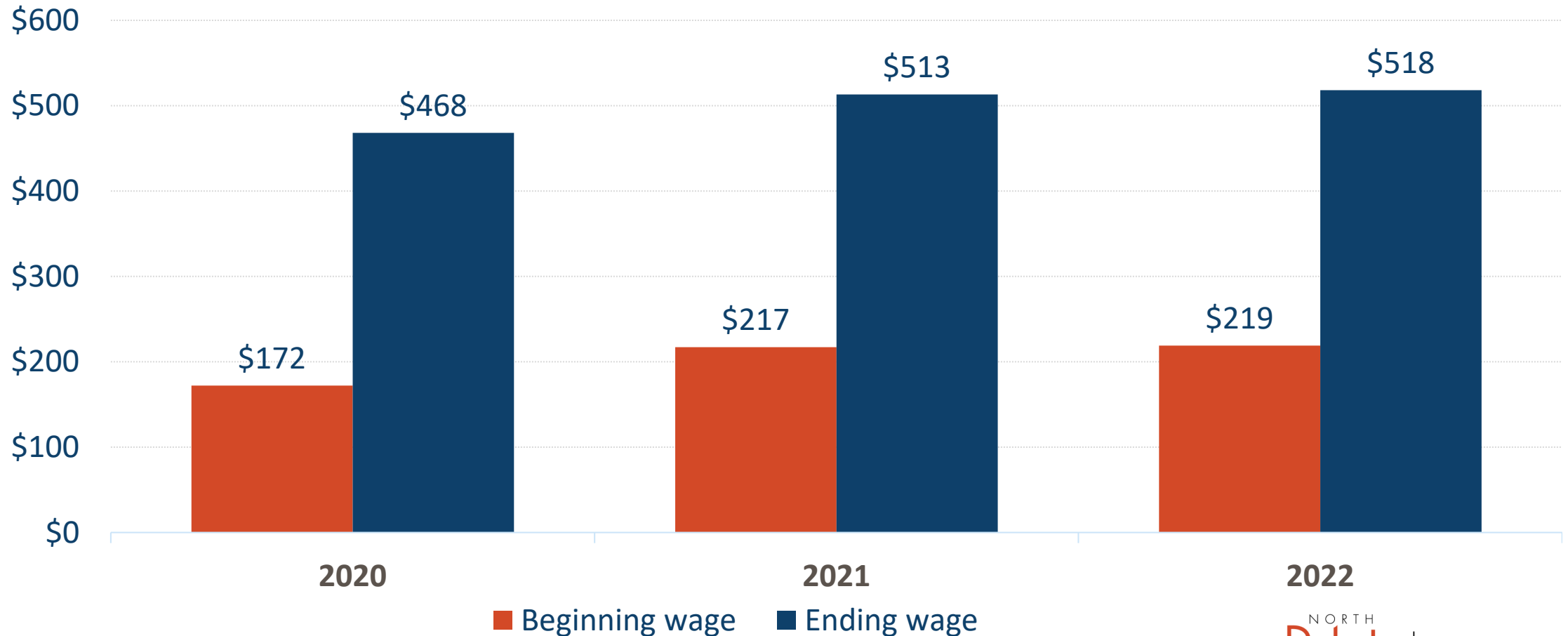
Return on Investment

For every **one dollar spent**
on Vocational Rehab services
Clients **earnings increase by**
\$10.43/hour

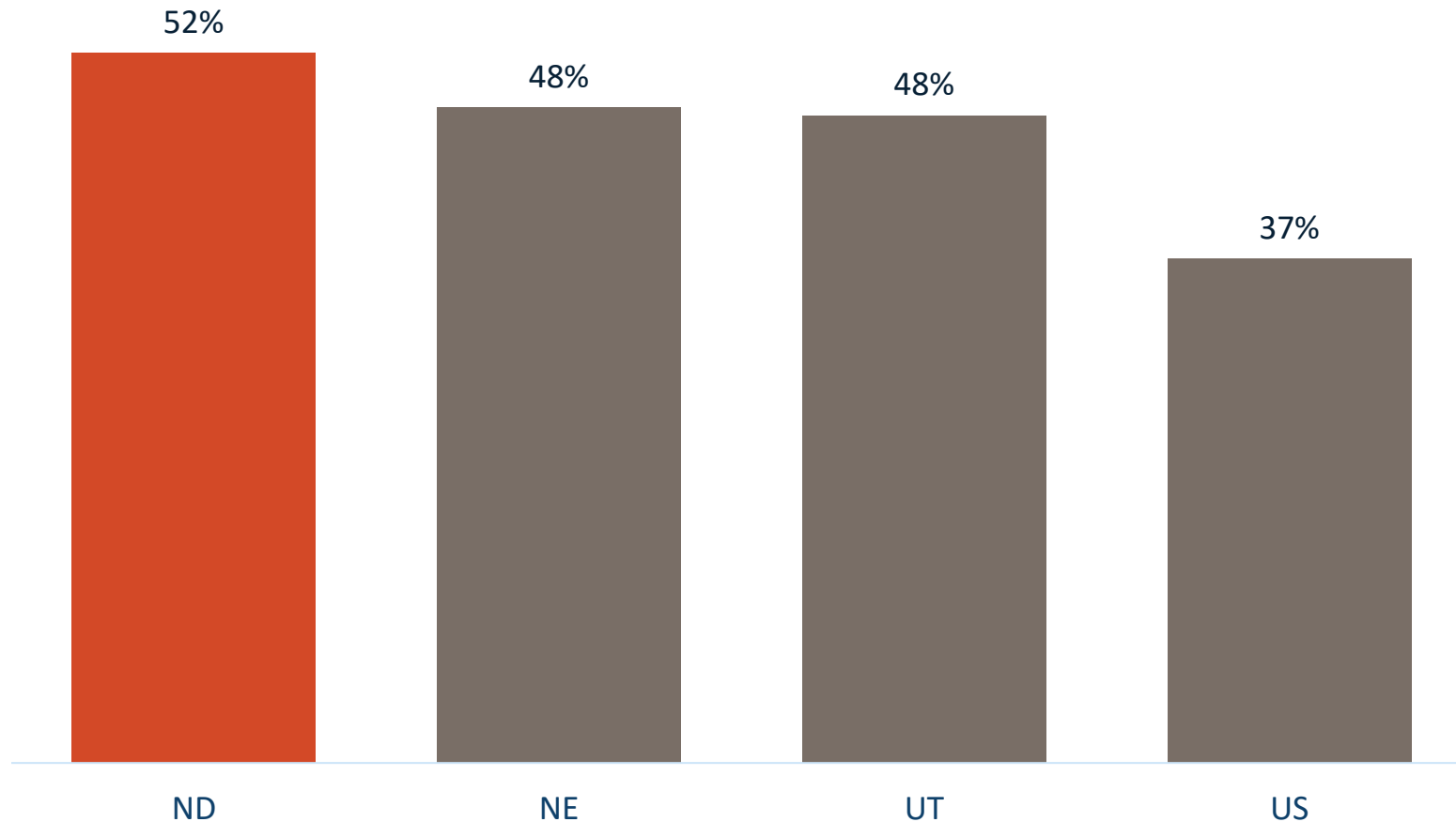
For every **one dollar spent**
on Vocational Rehab services
Clients **pay \$2.09 in taxes**



In FY22 the weekly wage of VR clients increased an average of 136% after receiving VR services

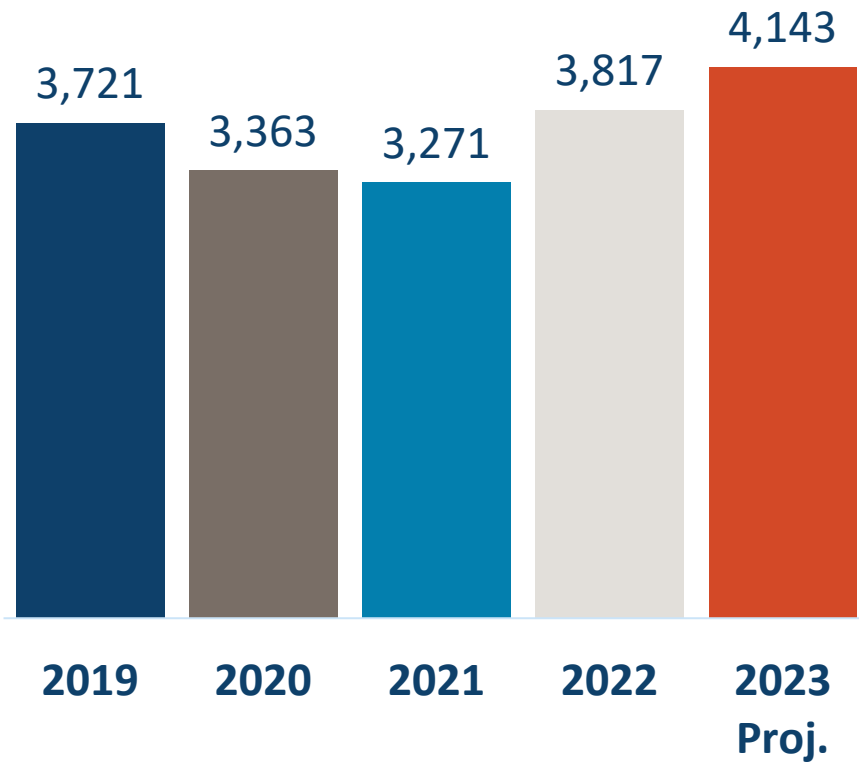


ND is 1st in the U.S. by % of People with disabilities who are employed

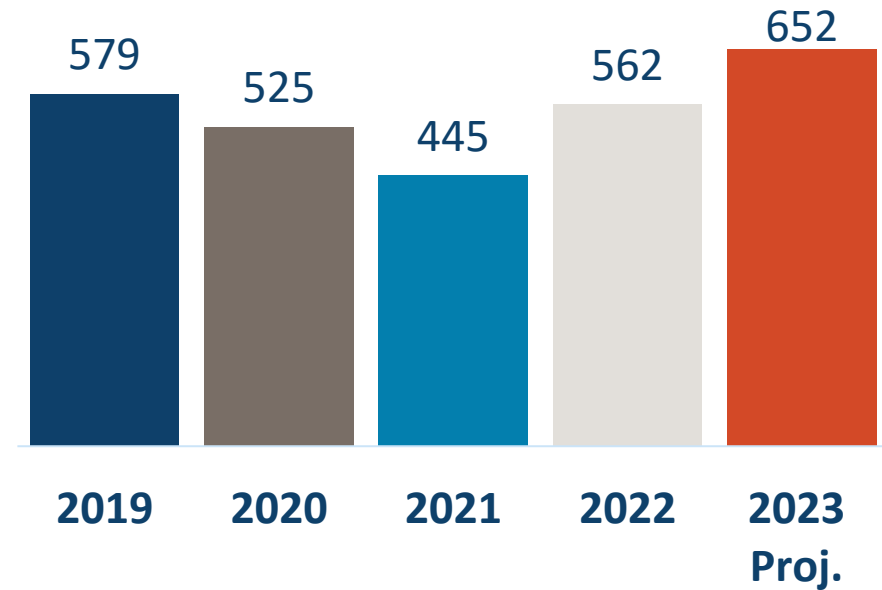


Successful Placements increased by 26% from 2021-2022

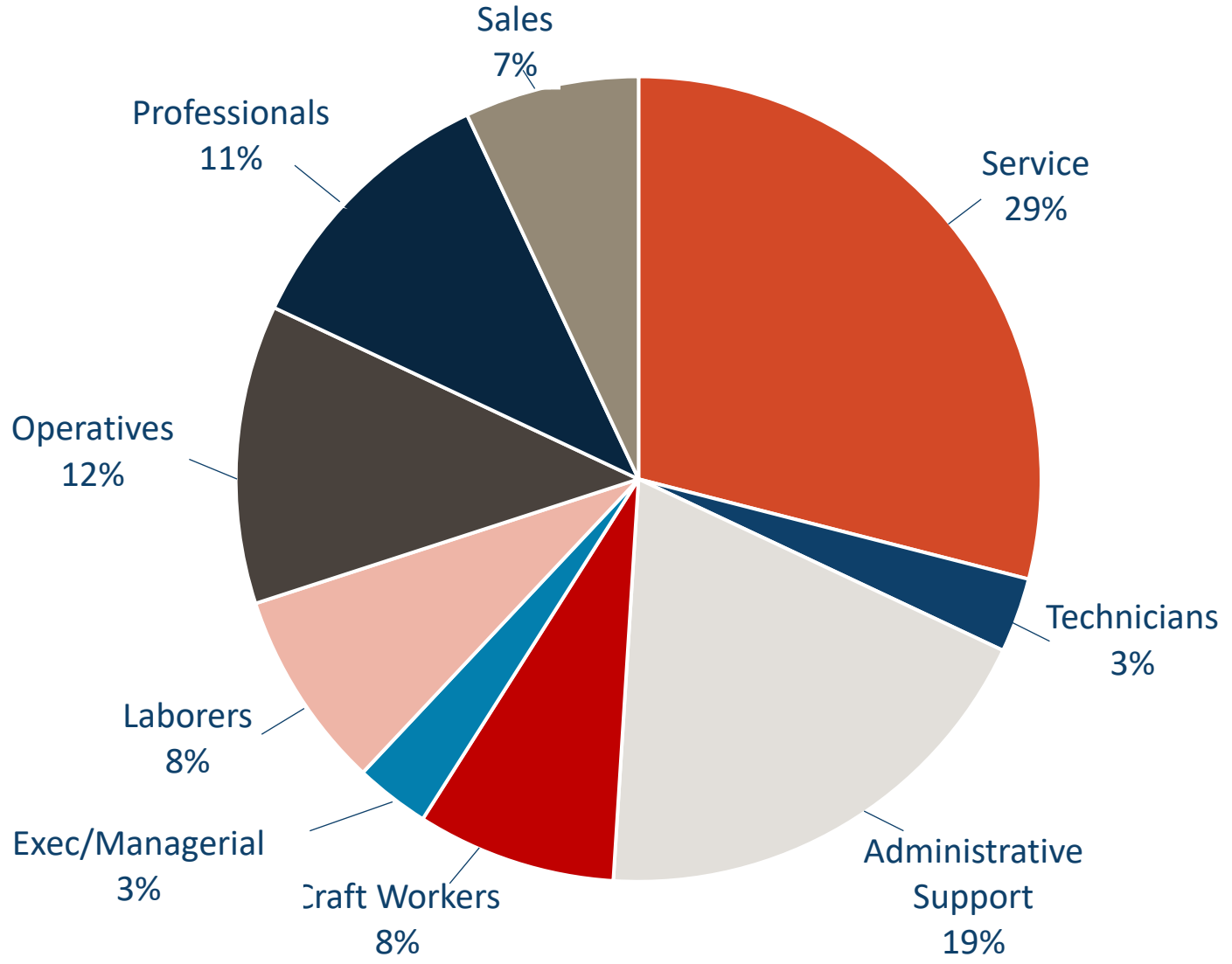
VR Clients Enrolled/In Process



VR Clients Successfully Placed



VR Client Job Types – FFY 2021



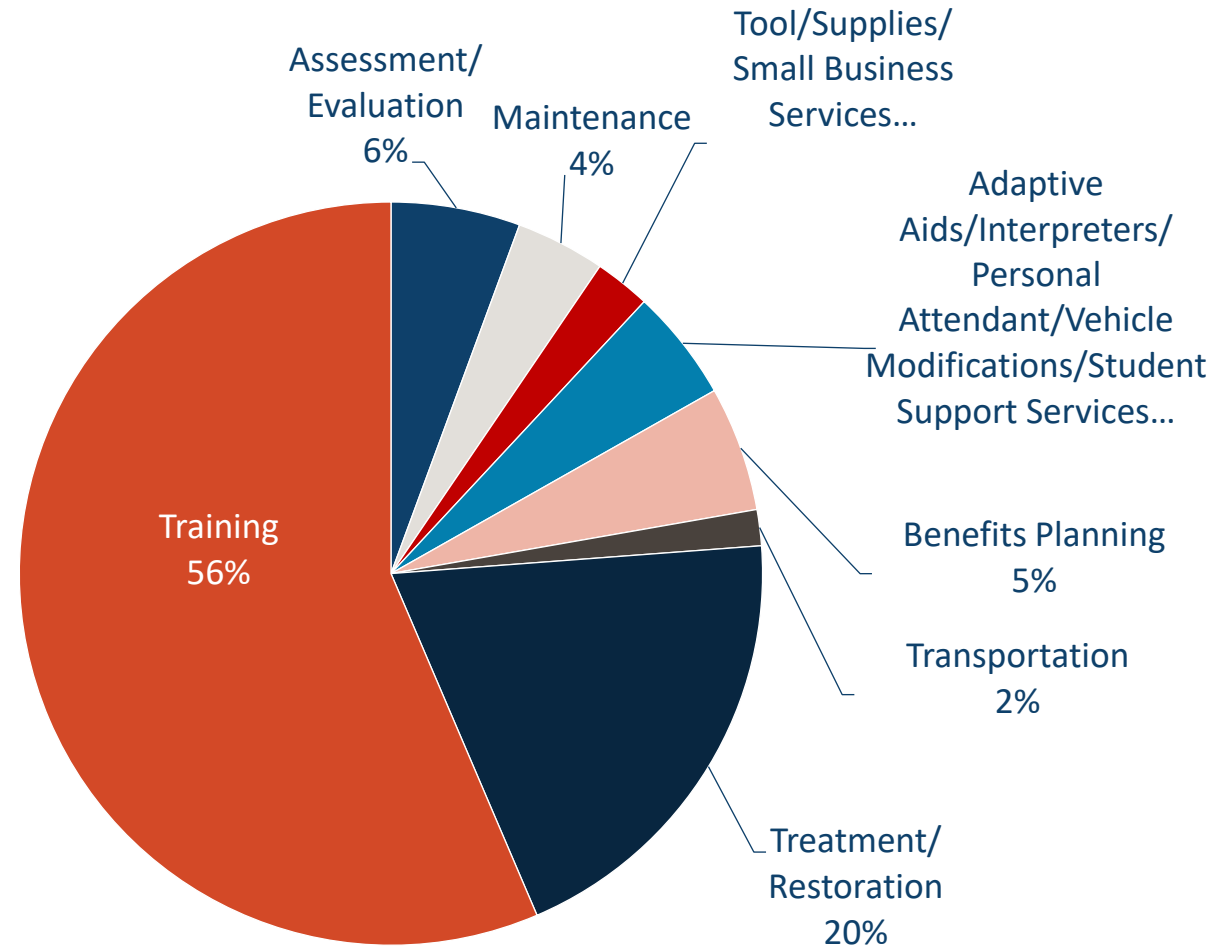
Case Service Expenditures FFY 2022 - \$2,685,887

The largest share of VR's service expenditures (56%) support training

- On-the-Job Training
- Work Experience
- Job Development
- Customized Employment
- Supported Employment
- Post-secondary Tuition

Treatment/Restoration services account for 20% of service expenditures

- Therapy/Medical visits (PT, OT, behavioral health)
- Hearing and vision aids



Supported Employment/Customized Employment Tax Credit

Tax Incentive (HB 1409 / 67th Legislative Assembly)

- Created a ‘business income tax credit for employment of individuals with developmental disabilities or severe mental illness’
- Up to 100 businesses were eligible for 25% of up to \$6,000 in wages paid annually for each employee if the individual needed Supported Employment or has a significant disability requiring Customized Employment in order to obtain employment
 - Note: HB1409 modified bill passed in 2019-21 legislative session by adding supported employment

74

Tax credits approved

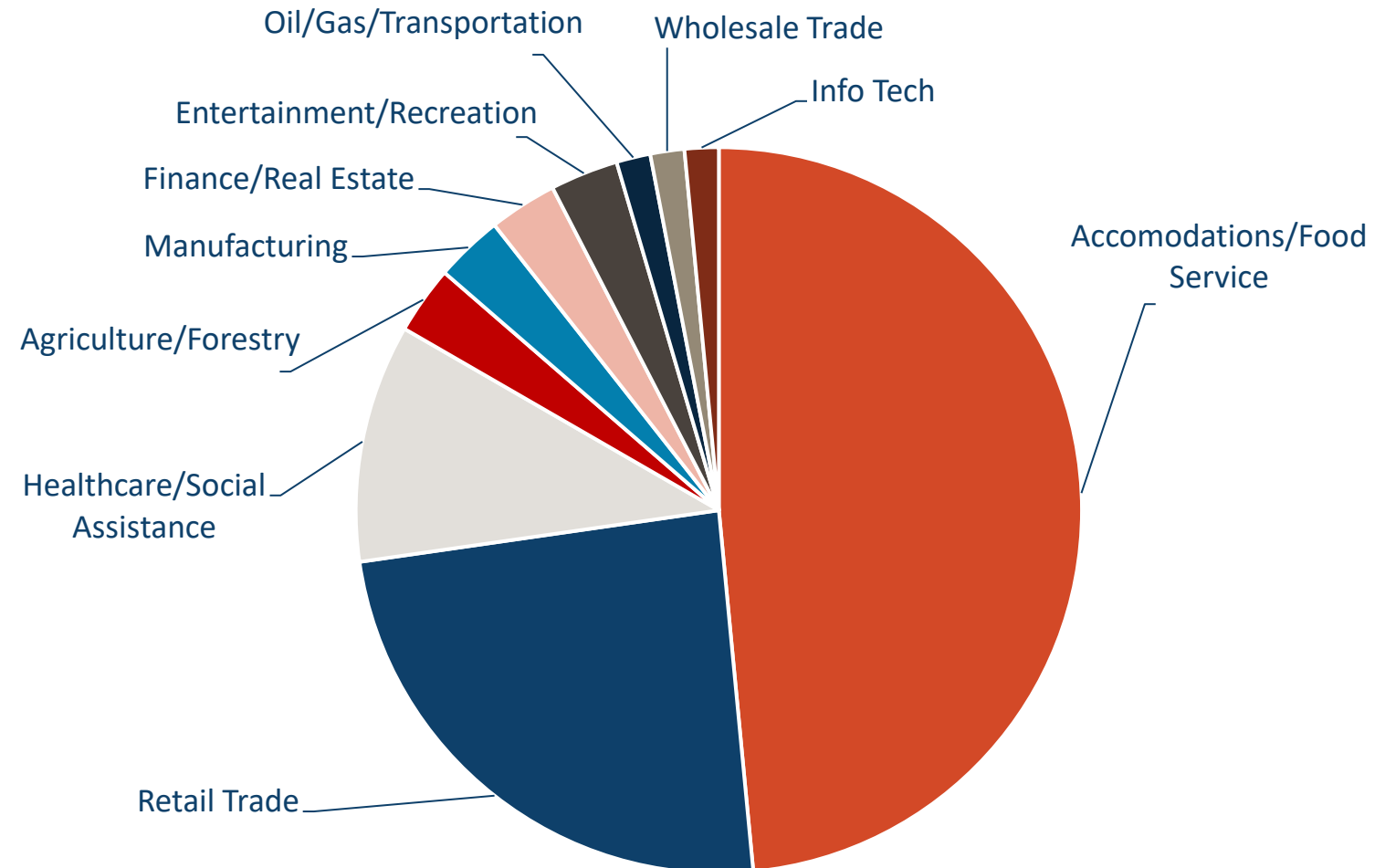
0	CY2019
0	CY2020
28	CY2021
46	CY 2022

Under consideration HB 1244

- Increases to 200 businesses
- Removes sunset clause

Supported Employment/Customized Employment Tax Credit

These industries have been identified as having high workforce needs by Job Service and Department of Commerce



Additional Programs

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

- Adults age 55+, and below 125% of poverty threshold, gain skills toward re-entering the workforce. Participants may not necessarily have a disability.

Federal Plan Responsibility

- WIOA Unified State Plan for Workforce – DOL (along with JSND, Adult Education and English Literacy, Dept of Commerce, and DPI)
- State Plan for Independent Living – Admin for Comm Living/HHS

North Dakota Assistive

Councils and Commissions

- Statewide Rehabilitation Council
- State Independent Living Council

Designated State Entity for Centers for Independent Living

- Independent living skills training
- Information and referrals for orientation and mobility
- Transition services – from institutions to home/community based; also youth transition to independent living
- Peer mentoring
- Advocacy

Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base		Increase/ (Decrease)		2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$	14,756,463	\$	3,022,033	\$ 17,778,496
Operating		7,379,680		906,012	8,285,692
IT Services		12,708		(4,708)	8,000
Grants		11,204,626		(404,943)	10,799,683
Total	\$	33,353,477	\$	3,518,394	\$ 36,871,871

General Fund	\$	9,060,209	\$	637,033	\$ 9,697,242
Federal Funds		24,098,266		2,740,464	26,838,730
Other Funds		195,002		140,897	335,899
Total Funds	\$	33,353,477	\$	3,518,394	\$ 36,871,871

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	85.00	-	85.00
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Vocational Rehab: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION
\$3.5 MILLION

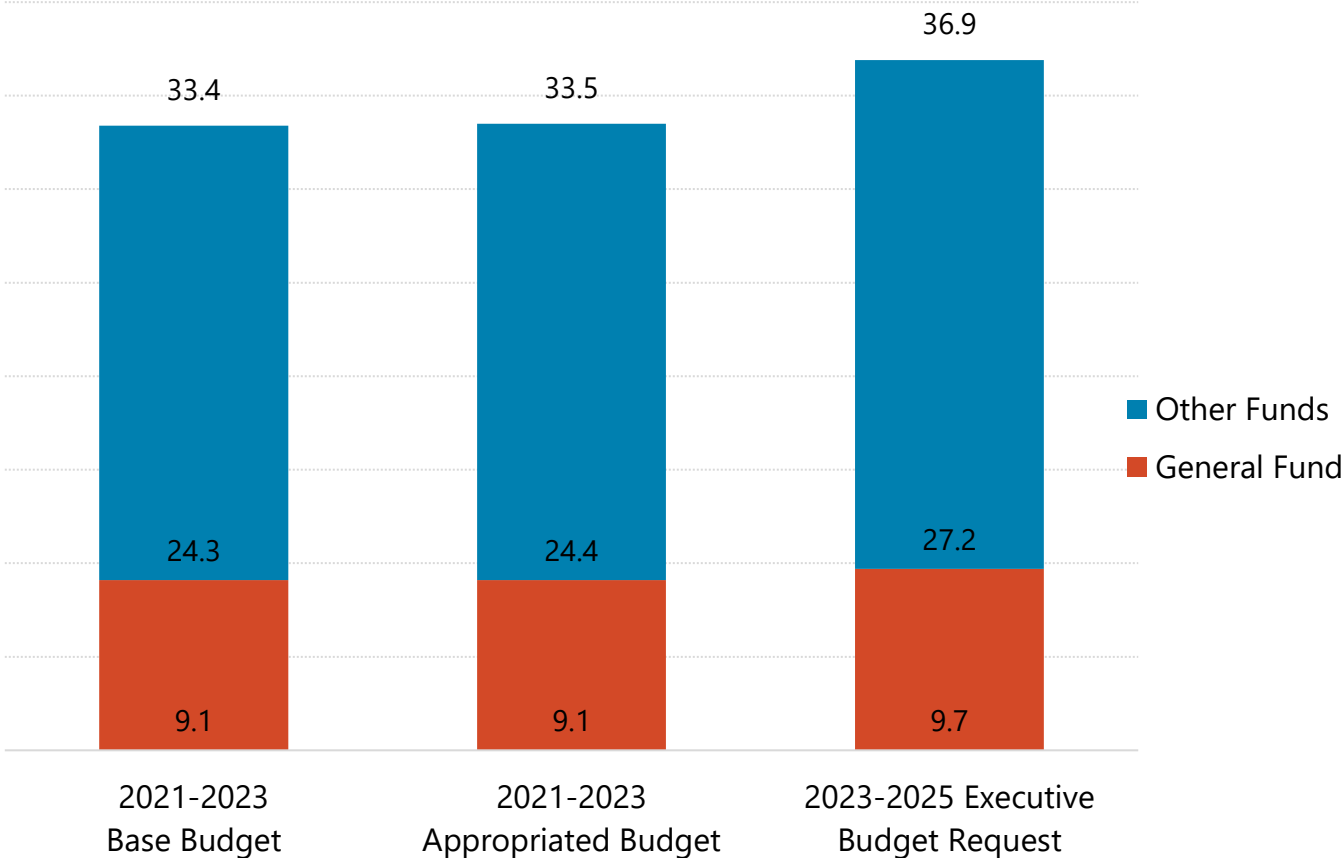
Salaries – \$3.0M

Senior Community Service Employment Program/SCSEP - \$900k (transfer from Aging section)

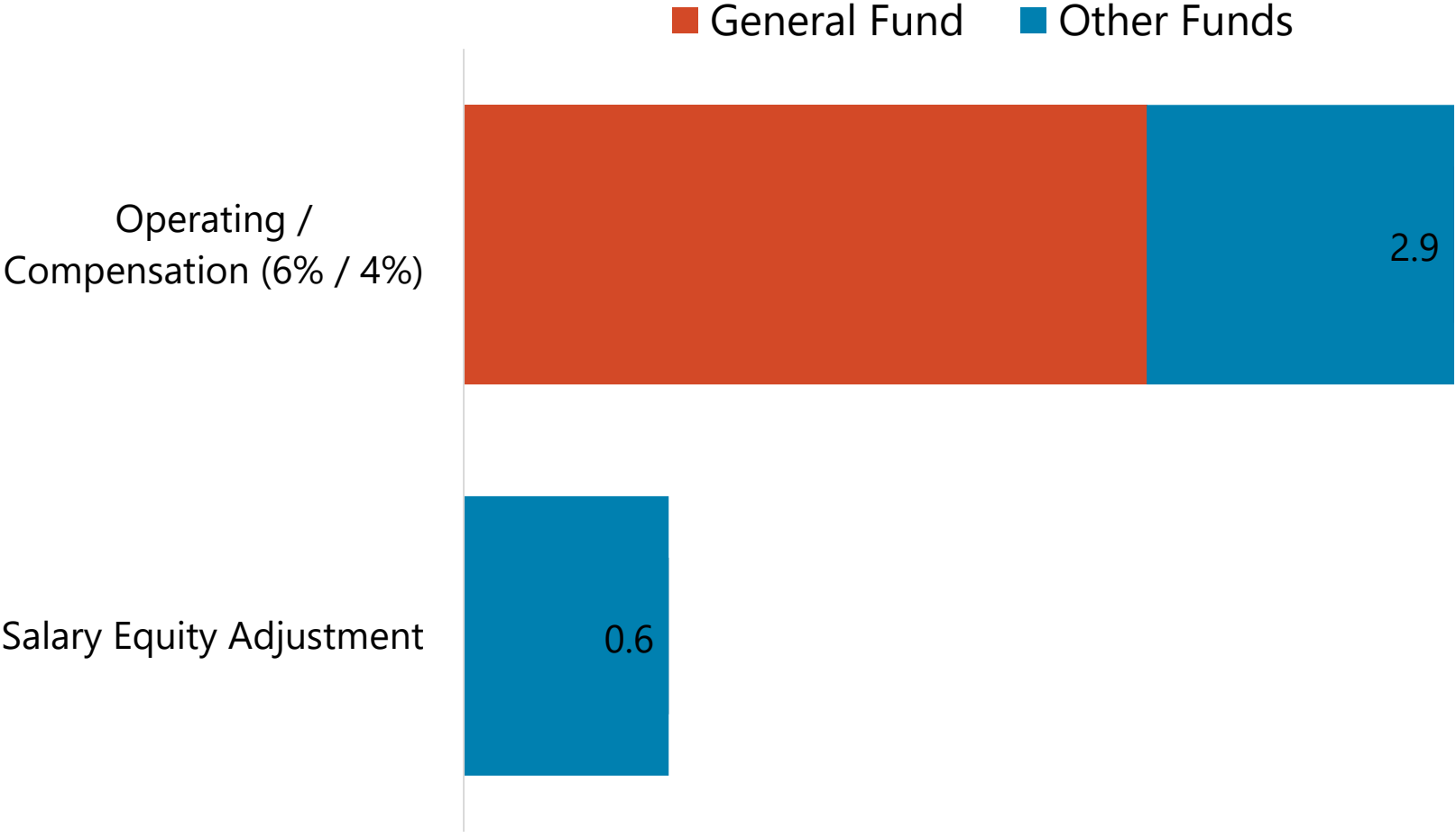
Operating Fees and Services – \$384k

Increased Pre-Employment Transition Service – young adults into workforce; required to provide services statewide

Rents/Leases – \$394k increase (shift from HSC budget)



Vocational Rehab: Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)





Contact information

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<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/vr>