

# ORDER OF SELECTION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Montana's Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services (VRB) program anticipates entering into an Order of Selection (Order), which is essentially a state-wide client waiting list for the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services in FY 2014. VRB has never implemented an Order previously.

The federal Rehabilitation Act requires implementation of an Order if the state determines that it does not have enough resources to serve all eligible individuals who apply for services. If a state establishes an Order, it must first provide services to individuals with the most significant disabilities before serving other eligible individuals. It is important to point out that VRB will continue services for individuals who are already receiving them irrespective of the severity of the individual's disability.

Historically, just over 8,000 Montanans annually receive services from VRB. The cost for a client's case can vary greatly from just a few dollars to tens of thousands of dollars and, as such, is difficult to reasonably estimate how many clients may be impacted by the Order.

## HOW IT WORKS

Montana's VRB has three tiers of priority levels of clients:

- Priority Category One: Individuals determined to have Most Significant Disability (MSD);
- Priority Category Two: Individuals determined to have a Significant Disability (SD);
- Priority Category Three: Individuals determined to have a Non-Significant Disability (NSD)

Individuals applying for services will be interviewed and eligibility determined. A decision will also be made regarding which priority level the individual should be assigned. If VRB is currently serving people in that particular priority level, the individual will receive services. If VRB is not serving people in that priority level, the individual will be placed on a waiting list. As more financial resources become available, VRB will serve people from the waiting list based on their priority level and date of application. Consistent with federal regulations, those individuals in Priority Category One (57% of cases) will have the highest priority and will be required to be served first, followed by individuals in Priority Category Two (25% of cases), and finally by those individuals in Priority Category Three (18% of cases). All individuals within a higher priority category must be served before any individual in the next lowest priority category. VRB will refer individuals on the waiting list to alternative service providers and programs.