



Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Pre-Employment Transition Service Contracts SFY 2017

Program Description

The MRC Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) contract program serves high school and post-secondary education students age 14-22* across the Commonwealth. Provided by 20 contracted vendors in FY2017 and expanded to 34 vendors in FY2018, the Pre-ETS contract program includes three core service components required of all providers: work-based learning experiences, workplace readiness training, and job exploration counseling. Additionally some providers offer the optional components of post-secondary program counseling and instruction in self-advocacy in addition to the 3 required components. Through these services, participating students are able to receive the individualized services and supports they need to successfully transition to post-secondary education, adult services, and/or the workplace as smoothly as possible in an integrated setting. These contracted services complement Pre-ETS services in all these 5 areas which are provided directly by MRC Area Offices to students served by MRC.

Pre-ETS Contract Components

1. Work-based Learning Experience	2. Workplace Readiness Training	3. Job Exploration Counseling	4. Counseling on enrollment in Post-Secondary Education	5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

Pre-ETS Contract Referrals and Students Served

SFY 2017	West	South	North	Statewide
Referrals	354	247	344	945
Total Served in FY17	331	238	273	842
Total Served Goal	345	272	307	924
% Served in FY17	96%	88%	89%	91%

The percentage of students to goal served in FY17 was generally consistent across the state although the West District holds the highest percentage, five points higher than the statewide percentage. In FY17, the West District had the most student referrals with 354, with the North District at 344, and the South District at 247 referrals. Please note that some student referrals may have been late in the year and thus will be served in FY18.

**effective 2018*

Program Overview

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) is committed to promoting individualized transition services for students with disabilities that lead to successful post-school outcomes in post-secondary education and training, competitive integrated employment, independent living, and community participation.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) promotes coordination of services (including Pre-Employment Transition Services) between Vocational Rehabilitation and local school systems.

MRC Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) provide vocational exploration, hard and soft skills training, and competitive integrated vocational experiences to high school and post-secondary education students age 14-22*.

Pre-ETS services are designed to give students an introduction to work that will serve to both inform their future vocational choices, develop work habits and obtain experience that will make them more marketable in the competitive workforce.

While some of these services are provided directly by the area offices, MRC has chosen to also contract with community vendors through an RFR. The Pre-ETS contract program is a cost-reimbursement contract in which community vendors have developed their programmatic approaches to providing these services.

SFY 2017 Pre-ETS Contract Budget

Pre-ETS FY17 Contracts Budget (total obligated)	\$4.48 million
Pre-ETS amount utilized in FY17	\$4.11 million
Number of Contracted Pre-ETS Vendors, FY17	20

Breakdown of Pre-ETS Contracted Services Completed

SFY 2017	West	South	North	Statewide
Work-based Learning Experience	266	197	130	593
Workplace Readiness Training	266	270	246	782
Job Exploration Counseling	266	229	201	696
Counseling on Enrollment in Post-Secondary Education (or other comprehensive transition programs)	113	9	101	223
Instruction in Self-Advocacy/Peer Mentoring	226	78	144	448
Total Components Completed	1137	783	822	2742

Pre-ETS Success Stories

“By the end of his 12-week internship (at the YMCA), Dylan appeared visibly more confident and said he had no problem approaching new people at the gym and helping them out in the center. Additionally, Dylan loved his internship so much that he continued to volunteer there weekly after he graduated the Pre-ETS program.”

“After months of rigorous work including a plethora of curriculum plans, interviewing lessons, mock interviewing, and company social events, we saw this consumer go from a timid and soft-spoken individual who struggled with eye contact to someone who landed his first paying job because he walked into the human resources office, looked the receptionist in the eye, and professionally asked for more information about employment opportunities. We all thought he did such a good job of presenting himself that the company gave him an on-the-spot interview. Well, it’s now been his 5th week and he has totaled about 30+ hours at his job thus far.”

“Upon completion of the training (courtesy of Whole Foods through the collaboration of MRC, his school, and the pre-ETS vendor), Jay applied to a number of jobs and went on a handful of interviews. After being accompanied by TTW (Transitions to Work) Staff to an interview with Soul Cycle, Jay was offered and accepted a part-time job offer as a member of their cleaning staff. He began his job on August 16th, works 20 hours each week, and has received consistently positive feedback since.”

What Our Consumers Have To Say about Pre-ETS

“I am enrolled as a full-time college student, thanks to the college prep services provided by MRC.”

“MRC helped me get in touch with a couple other agencies to help me live more independently with my disability. MRC also helped pay for college and discuss how to approach my future education with my life circumstances due to my health issues. Without MRC, I don't know where I'd be.”

“I learned how to work in a team and I was helped to write my resume. Our counselor was detailed, knowledgeable and provided us with many useful options.”

“The services at MRC have helped me to open up a huge door for me with finding different jobs I would be interested in working at.”