

Kentucky Association of Community Rehabilitation Providers

Introduction

Founded by members of CRPs as a 501(c)6 not-for-profit agency in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, KARCPC is organized as a Member-based Advocacy Coalition for Community Rehabilitation Providers/Programs.

connect.
collaborate.
cultivate.
change.

www.kacrp.org

KENTUCKY
ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY
REHABILITATION
PROVIDERS

K A C R P

EST 2024



Who, What, Why?

KACRP is an alliance of CRPs across Kentucky with a collective voice who advocates for maximized provider capacity, increased efficiency, and decreased barriers to serving our consumers. We want a seat at the table to promote growth and empowerment within each agency, and lobby for SOLUTION-based remedies that will benefit our consumers, agencies and communities in the Commonwealth.



Our Members

Our Members consist of Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs) in the Commonwealth. A CRP contracts with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) seeking successful employment outcomes for consumers with disabilities. Of particular note, CRPs are known for offering Supported Employment (SE) through one of 3 models, Traditional, Individual Placement Services (IPS), or Customized. In addition other services such as Post-Secondary Supports, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and Vocational Evaluations can be offered to maximize potential outcomes. Perhaps most importantly, CRPs are the primary entities that follow individuals into adulthood to assist with employment



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide representation and a voice to CRPs, which will mutually benefit our organizations, partners, and most importantly, our clients. We wish to increase visibility of our field and the valuable work that we collectively do, allowing for greater opportunity for existing CRPs to thrive and fill the needs in our communities. We will pursue systems reform where necessary to meet our goals, and seek more true partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation without fear of retribution or retaliation.



Key Concerns



● **Lack of Transparency**

Budgets are not readily available or publicly posted. Contracts are granted without RFPs or prior knowledge in the field. Money is sent back or not drawn down without an opportunity to spend in innovative programming introduced by CRP “Partners”.

● **Lack of CRP Input**

CRPs feel they are not being heard or seen, and we have limited to no input to *Service Fee Memos* which set the structure for our fee and service rates and delivery. As we provide the boots on the ground, we feel that we are best equipped to lend that expertise, even more so than Committees & Subject Matter Experts from other States.

● **Attrition & Capacity**

OVR reported that CRPs fell from 138 to 114 in 2022–2023 fiscal year alone. That is close to a 20% attrition rate. There are not enough CRPs to cover the numerous consumers that need help, leading to unsuccessful or mismatched outcomes. In addition, CRPs have difficulty sustaining their programs and offering competitive salaries within our staffs, leading to staff turnover or shuttering agencies all together. Too often, local OVR offices are also understaffed. Yet, “Provider Capacity” continues to be an area of concern, year after year. Why?

● **Monies Sent Back**

In 2018, the KY Legislature voted to fully fund the VR budget. Unfortunately, KY–allotted monies are still be sent back or not “drawn down,” when they could be used to sustain existing CRPs and promote growth in our state.

● **National Ranking**

According to the 2023 study by the Human Development Institute (HDI), Kentucky ranks 48th in the NATION for employment of individuals with disabilities versus their nondisabled peers. Knowing the expertise and resources we have available in the field in Kentucky, this doesn’t make sense. We are better than this.

● **Inadequate Lead Time**

Currently, *Service Fee Memos* may be introduced or changed by OVR at any time, to the benefit OR detriment of CRPs. There is not a set “process” in place that allows for business roll out, public comment, opportunities for changes or improvements, or piloting of programming. This can lead to a number of negative consequences, including confusion between OVR field offices & CRPs, stalled services, CRP cash flow deficits, decreased service capacities, and frustration among all parties.



**spend
the
money
in KY!**

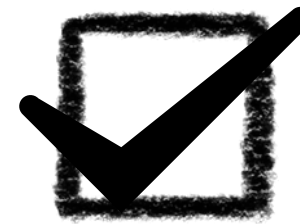
In 2018, the KY State Legislature fully funded the budget for The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. In simplified math terms, for every \$1 the state put up in funding, \$4 could be drawn down from the federal government (the actual match is 21.3%). Attached is a listing of years that some monies were sent back or not drawn down. Note: Monies not spent or drawn down reduce our KY budget and are “reallotted” to other states. Recent years that KY budget/funding was negatively affected:



Year 2023

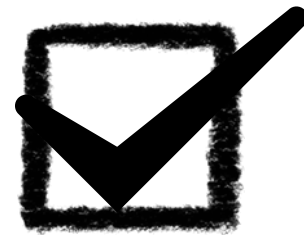
Budget reduced by \$4 million

18,107,965.32 not yet spent as of March 2023



Year 2022

\$573,662.73 award not matched as of Sept. 30, 2022
\$379,639.80 in Pre-ETS



Year 2021

Budget reduced by \$3.5 million



Year 2020

\$3,494,449.00 did not reallot & did not match or spend

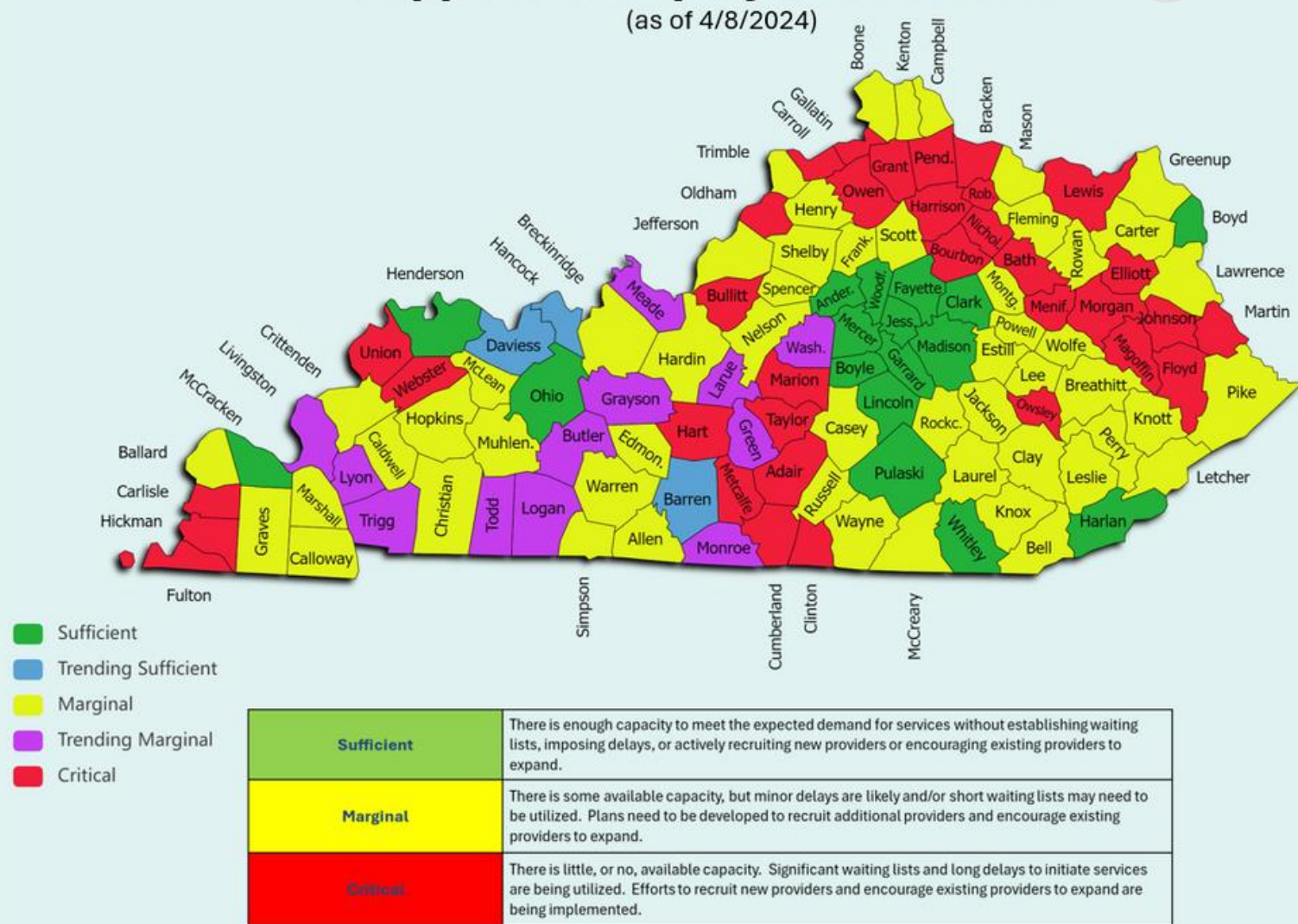


Provider Capacity Issues lead to Employment Gaps



Only 45% of Kentuckians with disabilities are employed, compared to 79% of those without disabilities. This employment rate gap ranks Kentucky 48 in the nation. Provider Capacity was reduced from 138 to 114 in the 2022–2023 year alone.

Capacity of Kentucky Supported Employment Services (as of 4/8/2024)



published by Employment First April 2024

The Gaps for People with Disabilities

Ages 16-64	People w/Disabilities	People w/o Disabilities
Employed	45%	79%
Earnings	\$46,887	\$55,208
Poverty	26%	12%

published by KWIB April 2024



Over \$500,000,000 was sent back to the Federal Government in Pre-ETS funding nationwide as of June 2023.

49 states, including KY were a part of that. Yet KY is still looking to other states for rate studies and best practices, instead of reaching out to Subject Matter Experts in KY.

Prior to this, Pre-ETS was successful in Kentucky, and done right, created a funnel into successful Supported Employment Outcomes. However in July of 2022, OVR changed the Service Fee Memo without warning, input or notice and did not respond to continued CRP feedback of the consequences of these changes.

Many CRPs closed as a result of the impact to their bottom line, while others pulled out of counties they were serving, or closed their Pre-ETS services altogether. Not only did this negatively affect CRPs and Providers, it was a gross disservice to our consumers and potentially-eligible students who deserve a head start in vocational studies & experience. It also greatly impacted our ability to serve schools and students with disabilities that were transitioning into adulthood.

Who is JAG? And why did they get \$10 million, approximately 40% of KYs Pre-ETS budget from 2019-2022?

Not affiliated with Special Ed in Schools

As of the end of July 2023, \$2.5 MILLION dollars in 2022 of Pre-ETS dollars were not spent in KY. Part of that problem was shortsightedness and lack of transparency over this SFM change.



Data Points

What CRPs Mean to the Commonwealth

From OVR's 2023 Annual Report

"When they applied for OVR services, 2,884 (61.9%) consumers reported that their primary source of support was their earnings from employment. At closure, 4,115 (88.3%) individuals listed employment earnings as their primary source of support for an increase of 1,231"

According to our Open Records response, in 2023, of its 1,231 of successful outcomes for people who were unemployed when they began OVR services, 761 had been served by a CRP.

This represents 61.8% of all the successful outcomes for people who were unemployed before they began OVR services!

Verbal confirmations: "Funding is not an issue for OVR," yet, "CRP's decreased from 138 to 114" over the 2022-2023 fiscal year. That is a 20% attrition rate. - Nov. 2023

CRPs were responsible for the following:

55% of successful outcomes for individuals with cognitive disabilities (385 out of 704)

44% of successful outcomes for individuals with behavioral health disabilities (471 out of 1073)

59% of successful outcomes for individuals with cognitive and behavioral health disabilities (176 out of 296)

RSA gives priority is given to service of people with the most significant impact of disabilities

25% of successful category one outcomes had been served by a CRP

**CRPs
have
rights too**

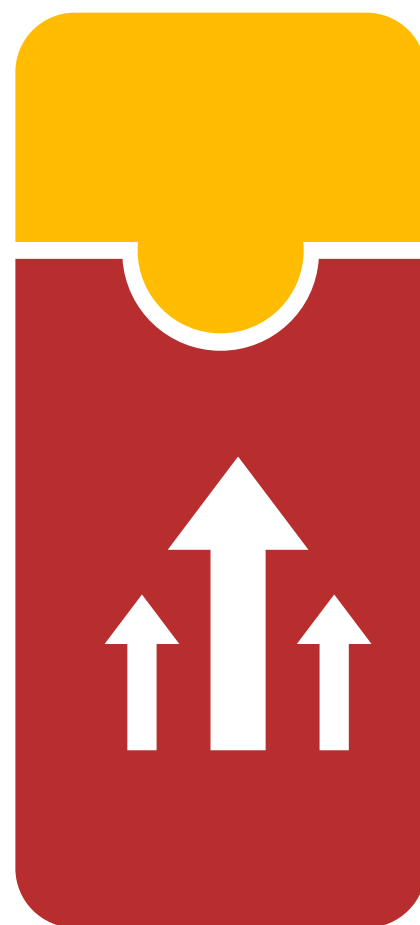


Becoming a Partner

Solution-Based Remedies

Improve Provider Capacity and Attract New Providers to the Commonwealth to serve more Consumers and Expand into under-represented areas.

WE CAN HELP!! KACRP currently represents 14 CRPs in Kentucky, just since organizing in April of 2024.



We want to represent CRPs on decision-making boards and councils to improve conditions for providers.

Have a seat at the table in development of Service Fee Memos that are applicable and accessible.

Propose incentives for existing providers to expand into underserved areas.

Lobby to legislators and executive agents for OVR systems reform around funding, SFM changes, and provider support

List non-negotiables, such as spending all of the allocated monies for Kentucky in a responsible way that promotes outcomes and Proposes innovative ideas for spending what may be budgeted to be leftover (ie. RFPs for grants, etc.)



Connect. 
Collaborate.
Cultivate.
Change.

Thank You

Please contact us for additional information

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