

News Release

Date: January 28, 2010

From: Nancy Smith, Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Colorado Department of Human Services

Subject: Wait List Opened in One Category

On October 17, 2008, DVR enacted an Order of Selection wait list process. Since that time, all people desiring service from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) have gone through the eligibility process, had their level of disability determined and been placed on DVR's wait list. DVR's wait list grew to over 3100 people and we were anxious to determine when we might be able to serve some of them.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds received by DVR in 2009 were a timely and very useful addition to DVR's budget. The ARRA funds allowed us to speed up the removal of people from our wait list. Since last spring we have released 3,469 people from our wait list. Over 80% of those individuals still wanted service from DVR and they have been placed in active statuses with counselors in our field offices.

DVR will remove the last group from the category called *Most Significant Disabilities* this week. Once DVR has taken those people off the wait list, people who apply for service from DVR and are determined to be in the *Most Significant* category will be able to be served without delay. This change will go into effect February 1, 2010.

As before, once this last group of those deemed eligible under *Most Significant Disabilities* is removed from the wait list they will be returned to the DVR field office at which they applied for service. DVR field offices around the state will begin contacting individuals by mail. These individuals will be given two opportunities to respond and specific details about which counselor to contact and how to contact them. DVR expects the vast majority of those contacted will be people eager to be served.

DVR will continue to maintain a wait list and individuals will be added to the two remaining categories of that list (*Significant and Other*) as they apply for DVR services and are found eligible. DVR expects to take additional individuals off the wait list in the *Significant* category late in February and on a continuing basis as resources are available.