

## News Release

As you may recall, on October 17, 2008, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) enacted an Order of Selection wait list process. At that time, all people desiring service from DVR went through the eligibility process, had their level of disability determined and were placed on our wait list. DVR's wait list grew to over 3500 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 more than 4,000 people from our wait list. Over 75% of those individuals still wanted service from DVR and they have been placed in active statuses with counselors in our field offices. In February 2010, DVR closed the wait list category called *Most Significant Disabilities* and people who applied for service from DVR were able to be served without delay.

All of us at DVR are now happy to report that **as of June 2010, the wait list will be closed** and we will resume serving our clients through our field offices as we have in the past. As before, once this last group of people 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 him or her. We look forward to offering service to this last group of people who have been waiting to be served.