

Kentucky Vocational Rehabilitation

While working with Kentucky Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), the ICI implemented a new approach to providing VR services. These techniques were developed to help beneficiaries who were only receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to achieve sustained employment with earnings above the Social Security Administration substantial gainful activity (SGA) level.

The chart below shows differences between usual service practices and the enhanced services delivered through the SGA project.

The Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Project helps state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies build their capacity so that more consumers can find meaningful employment. Two of our participating states, Kentucky and Minnesota, have made changes to their state VR program that have led to substantial gainful employment for their clients. This series includes some of the key resources that VR and financial professionals implementing the SGA project utilized.

Enhanced SGA Service	Enhanced SGA Service Details	Usual Service
Pre-IPE meeting	An in-house placement specialist met (as needed) with the client before the creation of an IPE. During this meeting they discussed job plans, strategies, and services.	There was no meeting between a client and job placement specialist before the creation of the individual plan for employment (IPE).
Support during the job search process	The placement specialist followed up weekly with the client during the job search process.	Contact with a client was conducted on an as-needed basis.
Follow-up during supported employment	During the supported employment and individual placement and support (IPS) phase, there was monthly contact with the client.	Contact with a client was conducted on an as-needed basis.
Follow-up during college and long-term training	During periods of long-term training and college, job placement specialists maintained quarterly contact.	Contact with a client was conducted on an as-needed basis.
Follow-up contact during employment	Job placement specialists kept in weekly contact with the client during the first 8 weeks of employment.	Contact with a client was conducted on an as-needed basis.

Source: Kentucky Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Project Demonstration: Final Evaluation Report, page 14.

For Kentucky, the SGA Project innovations led to positive outcomes that were statistically significant in the areas of service pace, competitive employment, and SGA-level earnings. Most notably, it led to an increase of 5.7 percentage points in achieving SGA-level earnings at the time of case closure. Find out more about the pace of services, client engagement, SGA-level earnings and competitive employment in the Mathematica Kentucky final report.

Sevak, P., Martin, F., Livermore, G., Honeycutt, T., & Morris, E. (September 2017). *Kentucky Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) project demonstration final evaluation report*. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research.



Explore VR

Informing Research, Policy, and Practice

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