

Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation

While working with Minnesota 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
Job development and the creation of a placement plan	An in-house placement specialist works closely with the client and the rest of the client's team to develop employment goals and to create a placement plan. This placement plan is integrated into an individual plan for employment (IPE) within the first 30 days of working with the client.	A community rehabilitation provider (CRP) provides job development assistance outside of the VR agency. These job development services are at the discretion of the client's VR counselor, generally once the client is ready for placement.
Employment interviews	The placement specialist conducts community outreach and develops a network of potential employers. Once the specialist and client finish setting up the IPE, the specialist helps set up job interviews for the client.	The CRP assists the client in setting up job interviews after being contacted by the client's VR counselor. At that point, the client and CRP work together directly, without the involvement of the counselor.
Follow-along services	The placement specialist conducts regular follow-ups during the first month of employment.	The CRP conducts regular follow-ups during the first month of employment.

Source: Minnesota Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Project Demonstration: Final Evaluation Report, page 15.

For Minnesota, the SGA Project innovations led to positive outcomes, although these were not at a statistically significant level within the limited time period of data collection. Find out more about the pace of services, client engagement, SGA-level earnings and competitive employment in the Mathematica Minnesota final report.

Sevak, P., Kehn, M., Honeycutt, T., & Livermore, G. (September 2017). *Minnesota 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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