



EDUCATION AND  
LABOR CABINET



# Update to Information of OOS Change

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Tuesday, April 14, 2025

10:00 – 10:30 AM (ET)

6:00 – 6:30 PM (ET)

[kcc.ky.gov/Vocational-Rehabilitation](http://kcc.ky.gov/Vocational-Rehabilitation)

# Welcome and Introductions

Technology, Accessibility, Guidance on meeting participation, and Staff introductions

# Welcome

- I am Susie Edwards, Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).
- My role is to assist with the facilitation of this public hearing, and I'd like to welcome everyone to this public hearing. Thank you for taking time to participate.
- There are few housekeeping items that we need to cover prior to beginning the formal presentation.

# Accessibility Reminders

- Today's presentation and supporting materials are available on OVR's website and links are in the Zoom chat.
- CART Captioning Services and ASL Interpreters are available. Please let staff know if you have technical issues that we can assist with resolving.

# Staff Introductions

- In addition to Lametta and I, there are other staff assisting with this hearing:
  - Cora McNabb, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Presenter
  - Chad Hunt, VR Administrator and Technology Specialist

# Public Meeting Participation and Comments

## *Introduction*

1. There will be a presentation from Cora McNabb, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.
2. Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to make comments verbally or via the Q & A feature on Zoom until the 30-minute meeting time allotment expires.
3. Limit comments to 3 minutes.
4. At the conclusion of the 30-minutes, the public may continue to submit written comments to [OVRPublicComment@ky.gov](mailto:OVRPublicComment@ky.gov). This link also was included in the public announcement.
5. OVR will document all verbal and written comments submitted through public hearings and the email link.
6. The collected public comments will appear in the minutes from this hearing and will be published on the [OVR website](#) no later than April 17, 2025, at noon (ET).
7. Cora McNabb will now begin the presentation.

# Recap: Public Hearings February 2025

In February 2025, the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) held hearings to inform the public of intentions to implement an Order of Selection (OOS). At that time, plans were announced that the agency would keep open Priority Category 1 and would close Priority Categories 2, 3 and 4. At the four public hearings that were held, OVR gave a comprehensive overview of Order of Selection. Information is available on the website.

# Why the change?



# Updated Proposed OOS Changes

As disclosed in the press release for this hearing, the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has now updated its original draft of proposed changes to the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Portion of the 2024-2027 Combined State Plan to implement an Order of Selection closing all priority categories.

# Amendment Review by RSA

- When the Kentucky Office for the Blind and Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation officially merged in 2018, an updated set of priority categories with definitions was approved by the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). These priority categories and definitions have have been submitted with multiple required state plan amendments.
- During this recent review of the proposed amendment with the Order of Selection, RSA identified duplicative language in our definitions. RSA informed OVR that Priority Categories 1 and 2 both contain "most significant disability" in the definition and therefore must be treated equally. The categories must either both be open or both be closed.
- The identification of this duplicative language has significantly impacted the implementation plans for OOS.

# Closing All Priority Categories

- OVR was prepared to continue services to Priority Category 1. OVR does not have sufficient funds to keep both Category 1 and 2 open as required for compliance with RSA. Therefore, OVR will close Priority Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- In addition, the agency has not received from the federal government the remainder of the federal funds for this year in the amount of \$42 million. We do not know when these funds will be received.

# When Will Categories Open?

The agency will work quickly to address concerns with the definitions. As funding allows, OVR will serve individuals from the waitlist with most significant disabilities from Priority Categories 1 and 2 based on application date. We will open categories as updated regulations are approved.

# OOS and All Categories Closed

- The same guidance provided in the original public hearings remain in place except they now include Category 1 as well as 2, 3, and 4.
  - For compliance in treating Category 1 and 2 the same, as funds become available, the agency will serve individuals on the waitlist starting with the “most significantly disabled” in Categories 1 and 2 based on their date of application.

# Review of Services that Continue

In addition, the agency will continue to:

- Serve the more than 15,000 individuals that have employment plans in place
- Meet with individuals applying for services
- Assess for eligibility determination and assign priority categories
- Make referrals
- Provide Pre-Employment Transition Services.

# Why Should An Individual Apply if Categories are Closed?

We encourage individuals seeking services to apply to establish their application date for a place on the waitlist.

# The Priority Category Update Plans

- The agency will work with the Rehabilitation Services Administration to craft definition recommendations in keeping with federal regulations.
- OVR will address the necessary changes to the priority category definitions through the regulatory process which allows public input. There will be public hearings when this occurs.
- The public hearings will provide an opportunity for comments prior to amending the definitions and updating state regulations that mirror the definitions.



# Remaining Time

With the formal presentation completed, there are XX minutes remaining in the 30 minute time allotted. Participants may unmute their microphone to provide a 3 minute or less comment and/or submit typed comments to the Q & A section of Zoom.

# Public Meeting Participation and Comments

## *In Closing*

- The allotted 30-minute time has come to an end and this public meeting will close. Reminder for the following:
  - a. OVR will document all submitted comments from this meeting and those submitted via email.
  - b. The collected public comments will appear in the minutes from this hearing and will be published on the [OVR website](#) no later than April 17, 2025, at noon (ET).