

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) State Plan Forum

Agenda and Meeting Notice to the Public

~ To Ensure ~

The Opportunity for Public Input and Comment

Virtual Meeting Format via Zoom

[Click here to join](#)

September 19th, 2023, at 10:00AM-11:00AM

OVR's Mission

“To empower Kentuckians with disabilities to maximize independence and economic security through competitive integrated employment.”

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| I. | Welcome | Lametta Isaacs |
| II. | Deputy Executive Director | Susie Edwards |
| III. | Introduction of OVR Staff | Susie Edwards |
| | a. Division of Field Services | |
| | • West Central Regional Manager | Jenny Lampton |
| | • Social Security Administrator | Donna Osbourne |
| | • Employer Services Branch Manager | Deana Wilson-Kimble |
| | • Transitions Branch Manager | Veronica Dale |
| | b. Division of Kentucky Business Enterprise | |
| | • Assistant Director | Jennifer Wright |
| IV. | Open Forum Discussion | Lametta Isaacs |
| | <i>The public has the opportunity to provide input and/or comments regarding OVR services, goals and priorities and supported employment for the new upcoming 4-year state plan. The public also has the opportunity to ask questions regarding the topics mentioned; however, the public will be provided answers to the questions after all forums have been complete and no later than November 1st, which is after all the October 31st deadline for all public comment to be received by OVR.</i> | |
| V. | Closing Remarks | Susie Edwards |

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Public Forum Announcement For the State Plan

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has scheduled five (5) public forums to give consumers, persons with disabilities, and other interested individuals the opportunity to provide input and comment on the Combined State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Supported Employment for 2024.

We invite you to attend and participate in OVR State Plan discussions.

The Public Forum schedule follows:

- Virtual Public Forum: 10:00AM – 11:00AM (EST), September 19th. Contact: Lametta Isaacs, (800) 372-7172.
- Virtual Public Forum: 6:30PM – 7:30PM (EST), September 19th. Contact: Lametta Isaacs, (800) 372-7172.
- Thelma (In-person and Virtual Option): 6:30PM - 7:30PM (EST), October 17th, Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center, 5659 Mainstreet, Thelma, KY, 41260. Contact: Lametta Isaacs, (800) 372-7172.
- Louisville (In-person and Virtual Option): 10:00AM – 11:00AM (EST), October 24th, Charles W. McDowell Center for the Blind, 8412 Westport Rd., Louisville, KY 40242. Contact: Lametta Isaacs, (800) 372-7172.
- Louisville (In-person and Virtual Option): 6:30PM – 7:30PM (EST), October 24th, Charles W. McDowell Center for the Blind, 8412 Westport Rd., Louisville, KY 40242. Contact: Lametta Isaacs, (800) 372-7172.

Kentuckians who are unable to attend the forum may send comments via mail, email and by phone call through October 31st, 2023. Comments may be sent in writing to Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 500 Mero Street, 1st FL., Frankfort, KY 40601, via e-mail to WFD.VOCREHAB@ky.gov or call (800) 372-7172.

If any reasonable accommodations for a disability are required for participation at a public forum, please contact Brooke McDaniel at (502) 782-3494 at least 10 days before the event. If you are interested in attending virtually, please contact Brooke McDaniel at (502) 782-3494. More information and virtual links can be found at [Vocational Rehabilitation - Kentucky Career Center](#).

OVR Forum Questions for Public Comment

1. How can we better assist in networking with employers to expand access for good jobs for persons with disabilities?
2. Have you found it easy or difficult to find a good job?
 - If you find it to be easy, please tell us about your approach.
 - If you find it to be difficult, please tell us why?
3. Do you see any gaps in the services we provide? Are we missing any areas of service that you feel could better assist our consumers in obtaining a good job?
4. What assistive technologies do you feel are important for OVR to consider as we look forward?
5. OVR provides in-person and virtual appointments., which do you prefer and why?
6. What considerations should we make to ensure VR services are reaching all Kentuckians across state?
7. As we look forward, what are the most important take aways from this forum that you would like OVR to consider?

OVR State Plan:

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) encourages the public to review the previous OVR portion of the State Plan, which can be found on our website at

[Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation - Kentucky Career Center](#).

The following areas that may be of particular interest as we look forward to developing the new OVR State Plan: **State's Strategies** (Section O, pg. 110-130); **Evaluation and Reports of Progress: VR and Supported Employment Goals** (Section P, 130-138); and **Quality, Scope, and Extent of Supported Employment Services** (Section Q, 138-143).

However, the link for the entire OVR State Plan is above for your full understanding.

OVR Speakers:

The OVR will have staff representing various areas over the course of the five (5) public forums to briefly speak on their particular area. They will provide an overview of their area of specialization of no longer than 3-minutes unless there is time at the end and after all public comments have been received or spoken. Since the forum is only for one hour, most time is reserved for the public to participate.

Public Comment:

The OVR encourages the public to send comments and/or questions before the forums. For all members of the public, please observe the Open Forum section on the agenda to provide input and comment for no longer than 3-minutes in the interest of time. If the public wishes to make their comment during the time of the forum, please respectfully adhere to the speaking time allowed so that others will have the opportunity to speak. The public also has the opportunity to ask questions regarding the topics mentioned; however, the public will be provided answers to the questions after all forums have been complete and no later than November 30th, which is after the October 31st deadline for all public comment to be received by OVR. All forum questions will be posted on the OVR website at [Vocational Rehabilitation - Kentucky Career Center](#). If you are part of a group, please be mindful that those who are not part of a group should also have the opportunity to speak.

Disruptions:

Those who disrupt the facilitation of the meeting with offensive language and/or conduct will be dismissed.