Budget is Approved - NEW $$$ for VR program included

Senate & House Finalize Budget
by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
April 1, 2015

This may be the best April 1st EVER!
The House and Senate voted the budget complete yesterday, March 31st, with the funding increase for GVRA-VR program approved.

$900,000 state funds = Increase funds to assist training and employment support for Georgians with disabilities. This will pull down $3,600,000 federal funds for a total $4,500,000 You can reference the Final Bill Conference Committee FY 2016 on page 129 line 197.7. (also shown below in this email) Honestly I can't stop looking at the budget line, all our hard work over the past three years really paid off! Thank you for taking the time each step of the way to make a call, visit with a legislator, collect data and share stories.

THANK YOU TO THE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

Our Thank YOU Message - Please contact your legislator to thank them for supporting this funding and then make an extra call or email to the House and Senate Conferees (below).

Message: Your name/Your Org/Your phone number
"We are very pleased YOU supported the additional funds toward assisting people with disabilities with training and employment supports in the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The $900,000 in state funds will match federal dollars 1:4 and serve over 1,400 more Georgians, several hundred in our community. With the federal funding we will have a total of $4.5 million to invest across Georgia in creating jobs and putting people to work. Thank you Senator OR Representative [NAME] for making this happen. We appreciate your support and investment and hope you will come out to see our program this year”.

Special Thank You to the House & Senate Conference Committee

Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill (R-Reidsville)
Capitol Ofc 404-656-5038, District 912-557-3811
jack.hill@senate.ga.gov

Majority Leader Bill Cowert (R-Athens)
Capitol Ofc 404-463-1366, District (706) 543-7700
bill.cowert@senate.ga.gov

Speaker Pro Tem David Shafer (R-Duluth)
Capitol Ofc 404-656-5038, District 912-557-3811
david.shafer@senate.ga.gov

House Appropriations Chairman Terry England (R-Auburn)
Capitol Ofc 404.463.2247
englandhomeport2@windstream.net

Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones (R-Milton)
Capitol Ofc 404.656.5072
jan.jones@house.ga.gov

Chairman Jay Powell (R-Camilla)
Capitol Ofc 404.656.5103
jay.powell@house.ga.gov
### Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation Program

The purpose of this appropriation is to assist people with disabilities so that they may go to work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Governor</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Senate</th>
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<td>TOTAL AGENCY FUNDS</td>
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### Continuation Budget

197.1 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in the employer share of the Employees’ Retirement System.

State General Funds: $232,009

197.2 Increase funds for merit-based pay adjustments and employee recruitment and retention initiatives effective July 1, 2016.

State General Funds: $230,312

197.3 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered self insurance programs.

State General Funds: $2,178

197.4 Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in Teamworks Billings.

State General Funds: $5,687

197.5 Increase funds for telecommunications.

State General Funds: $52,592

197.6 Transfer funds from Departmental Administration program to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation program to provide additional services to consumers.

State General Funds: $71,809

197.7 Increase funds to assist training and employment support for Georgians with disabilities.

State General Funds: $900,000

197.8 Reduce funds for one-time funding for Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) for equipment.

(FODAC): $0

197.100 Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Appropriation (HB 76)

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THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net

GATES
Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

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