



Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

**American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act of 2009:
Vocational Rehabilitation**

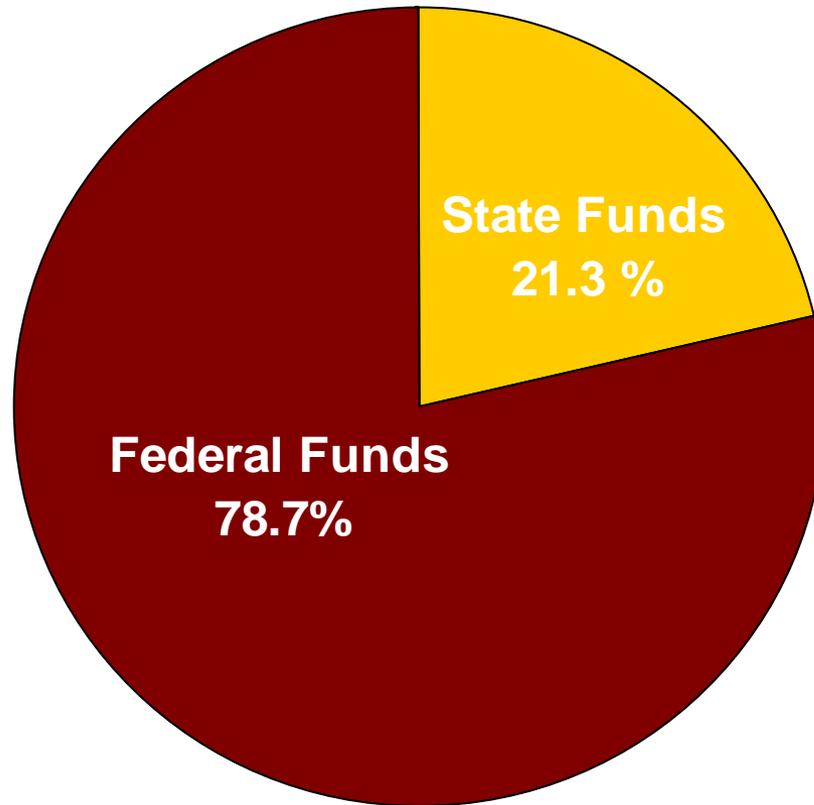


Overview

The Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program provides grants to States to help individuals with disabilities, especially those individuals with the most significant disabilities, prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.



Standard (Non-ARRA) Match





Fiscal Points

The ARRA funds are in addition to regular State VR Formula Grant which totals approximately \$42 million for Mississippi.

ARRA does not waive the 21.3% match requirement of the regular grant funds of \$42 million.



Fiscal Points

Of the \$540 million in national ARRA VR funds, Mississippi has been allocated a total of \$7,214,520.

The ARRA waives the state matching requirements of 21.3% for the VR ARRA funds.



Fiscal Points

VR ARRA funds will remain available for obligation by grantees until September 30, 2011.



Awarding VR State Grants Programs ARRA Funds

- **Mississippi was awarded \$7.2 ARRA VR Funds.**
- **\$3.6 million became available on April 1, 2009.**
- **The remaining \$3.6 will be awarded on September 30, 2009.**



Awarding VR State Grants Programs ARRA Funds

In order for Mississippi to receive the award of \$3.6 million in September, we must submit information for review and approval by the US Dept of Education that addresses the recordkeeping and reporting requirements governing the ARRA funds.



Uses of VR ARRA Funds

VR ARRA funds must be used consistently with the statutory and regulatory requirements for the VR State Grants programs. Generally, funds must be used for short-term investments that have the potential for long-term benefits.



Uses of VR ARRA Funds

State VR agencies are encouraged to consider:

- **increasing services to eligible consumers,**
- **expanding services to traditionally underserved populations,**
- **students with disabilities transitioning from school to the workplace.**



Uses of VR ARRA Funds

- **Obtaining or improving effective case management systems.**
- **Providing training to VR counselors and MDRS staff that will improve employment outcomes for persons with disabilities.**



Uses of VR ARRA Funds

MDRS anticipates spending the ARRA funds on one-time non-recurring expenditures as well as funding for direct client services.



Accountability Principles

ARRA requires that state VR agencies separately account for and report on how those funds are spent.

VR ARRA funds will be reported on the Recovery.gov website and the Governor's stimulus website.



Additional ARRA Funds

- **Mississippi has been awarded \$242,913 in Federal ARRA funds to be administered through the Independent Living Grant.**
- **This grant has a 10% state matching requirement. The state matching requirement was not waived on these ARRA funds.**
- **These funds will be used for one-time non-recurring direct client services.**



Additional ARRA Funds

- **Mississippi has been awarded \$331,382 in Federal ARRA funds to be administered through the Older Blind Grant.**
- **This grant has a 10% state matching requirement. The state matching requirement was not waived on these ARRA funds.**
- **These funds will be used for one-time non-recurring direct client services.**



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