

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting

Tom Wilson, Board Chairman

GVRS_Board@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting Agenda

1:00 pm	Opening	<i>Tom Wilson GVRS Board Chair</i>
1:05 pm	Welcome and Remarks	<i>Tom Wilson GVRS Board Chair</i>
1:10 pm	Roll Call and Agenda	<i>Tom Wilson GVRS Board Chair</i>
1:15 pm	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Meeting Minutes Approval• Budget Report	<i>Tom Wilson GVRS Board Chair</i>
1:20 pm	Special Presentations / GVRA Updates	<i>Chris Wells GVRA Executive Director</i>
1:50 pm	RWS – Past, Present, and Future	<i>Chip Medders Residential Services Director</i>
2:20 pm	New Business/Old Business	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
2:25 pm	*Public Comments/Adjournment	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Consent Agenda

- ❖ Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval
- ❖ Budget Report

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

May 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Virtually):

Tom Wilson, Chair
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair
Sandy Adams, Secretary
Craig Camuso
Suzanne Dooley

Louise Hill
Jane McCall
Johnathan Taylor
Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director
& Ex Officio Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Defoor

Vincent Martin

Opening and Welcome

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the approval of the agenda.

On the motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session
- Approval of Budget Report as of April 30, 2025

On motion of Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mr. Camuso, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Budget Reports

Executive Director Wells reviewed the FY2025 Budget as of April 30, 2025.

Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells recognized the following GVRS Board Members who joined GVRA as employees:
 - Johnathan Taylor, who will be joining GVRA on 6/1/2025 as an Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Taylor served on the GVRS Board from 2014 until 2025.



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- Angela Mackey, who joined GVRA on 1/2/2025 as a Rehabilitation Counselor. Ms. Mackey served on the GVRs Board from 2016 until 2022.
- Executive Director Wells highlighted those chosen as Employees of the Month for February 2025 through April 2025:
 - Eduardo Martinez, Senior Business Operations Analyst Manager, February 2025 Employee of the Month
 - Brentsen Wyatt, Communications Specialist, March 2025 Employee of the Month
 - Takeeya Lee, Supervisor of the DAS Customer Service Unit, April 2025 Employee of the Month
- Executive Director Wells shared the following information with the Board:
 - Examples of outreach activities conducted by members of the GVRs Board
 - Photos from the RWS Groundbreaking Ceremony
 - RWS Updates regarding Pathway Completions and Industry Certifications
 - Georgia State Rehabilitation Council Chair, Juliet Hardeman, was honored as a Champion of the Year by the Lowcounty Down Syndrome Society
 - Photos and activities from Employee Appreciation Week, including an agency-wide Trivia Challenge to:
 - Name all of the locations Executive Director Wells visited during Employee Appreciation Week
 - Map out the most efficient travel route
 - Calculate the total number of stops, miles traveled, and time on the road

Client Services Update

- Mrs. Deana Brown, Director of Client Services, shared updates with the Board, including:
 - The new districting map and a list of all district managers
 - The Client Services organizational structure and increased staffing numbers
 - Training provided by in-house experts
 - Transition Services – key players, key supports, goals, the cycle of transition services, and Transition Fairs
 - Enhancing the quantity and quality of services through monitoring of services, KPIs, and metrics
 - The cycle of continuous improvement
 - Get Ready for Opportunities in Work (GROW) Summer Program Dates

There were a number of questions from the Board regarding Client Services. Chairman Wilson thanked Mrs. Brown and ED Wells for their leadership in moving the agency forward and providing more services to more clients. Chairman Wilson also congratulated ED Wells on his five years of service to the Agency.



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Disability Adjudication Services (DAS)

- Ms. Rita McWhorter, DAS Program Director, shared current information on the DAS program, provided statistics, and provided data from federal fiscal years 2018 – 2024.

Old Business/New Business

Mrs. Hill took over the gavel for the Annual Election of Board Officers.

Mrs. Hill stated that the Board has an uncontested slate of officers and opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing none, Mrs. Hill made a motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Mrs. McCall seconded the motion, and the board unanimously voted to affirm the following officers.

- Chairman – Tom Wilson
- Vice Chairman – Faye Perdue
- Secretary – Sandy Adams

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meetings for the year:

- August 13, 2025 – Roosevelt Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Georgia
- October 8, 2025 – Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia

Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. Stephanie Cutrufelli, Assistant Director of the Georgia Client Assistance Program, read the following statement:

The Georgia Client Assistance Program, in conjunction with The Georgia Advocacy Office, would like to submit the below public comment for the upcoming May 14, 2025 GVRs Board Meeting.

In the FFY 2023 GVRa Monitoring Report, RSA emphasized the importance of documenting Roosevelt Warm Springs' protocols in the agency's policies, procedures, and SOPs. GVRa Leadership advised RSA they expected to complete the necessary revisions by August 2023. Drafted policies for Roosevelt Warm Springs have not been submitted to the State Rehabilitation Council and/or the Georgia Client Assistance Program for stakeholder feedback.

GVRa is also proposing limiting RWS admissions to those aged 18-24 beginning Fall 2025. The proposed admission change is significant and requires public input and hearings be conducted by the State Rehabilitation Council (34 CFR § 361.20 Public participation requirements) per the RSA technical assistance received by The Georgia Client Assistance Program on April 3, 2025. CAP shared RSA's guidance with Executive Director Wells on April 7, 2025 and presented its findings to the State Rehabilitation Council on April 23, 2025.

- *Is the GVRs Board aware GVRa has had 1.5 years to draft and submit policies pertaining to Georgia's State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center, e.g. Roosevelt Warm Springs?*



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- *Was the GVRB Board knowledgeable of the proposed Fall '25 admissions changes to RWS?*
- *Has the GVRB Board been made aware that the Georgia Client Assistance Program and the State Rehabilitation Council have been voicing concerns to Executive Director Chris Wells on these issues since January 2025?*
- *How does the GVRB Board plan to ensure that GVRA is in compliance with RSA's requirements/guidance on this issue?*

Chairman Wilson thanked Ms. Cutrufelli for her comments and stated that a written response would be forthcoming.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Wilson called for a motion to adjourn.

On the motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mr. Camuso, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 p.m.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency FY 2026 Program Based Budget

Program Name	FY 2025 Expenditures	FY 2026 Current Budget			
		State	Federal	Other	Total
Business Enterprise Program	\$3,233,617	\$335,520	\$2,779,295		\$3,114,815
Departmental Administration	\$10,266,052	\$3,587,333	\$8,866,476	\$284,597	\$12,738,406
Disability Adjudication Services	\$57,030,879		\$64,972,843		\$64,972,843
Georgia Industries for the Blind	\$4,735,558			\$4,810,758	\$4,810,758
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$119,192,103	\$25,147,327	\$95,952,501	\$5,207,888	\$126,307,716
Total	\$194,458,208	\$29,070,180	\$172,571,115	\$10,303,243	\$211,944,538



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

GVR Board Meeting Executive Director's Report

Chris Wells, Executive Director
Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Agency Spotlight – Employees of the Month

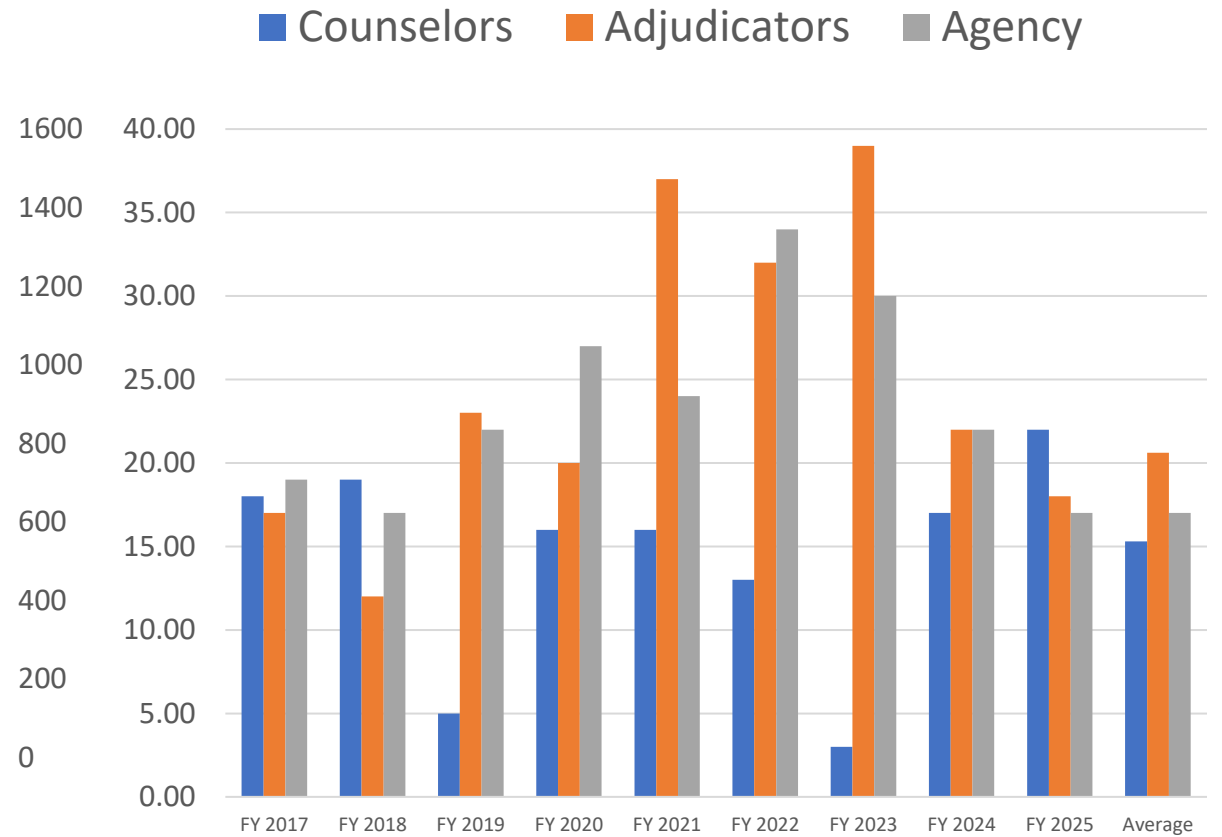
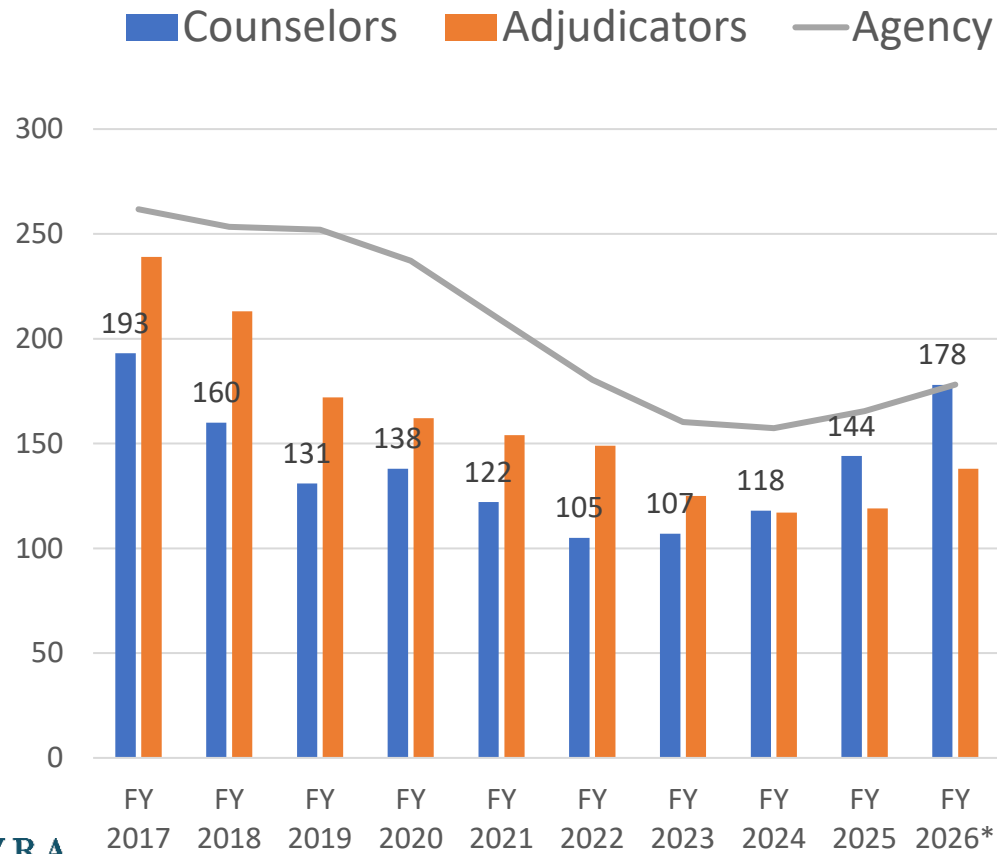


Greg Bagley, Senior Staff Attorney, (May 2025) – Greg was nominated in recognition of his outstanding contributions as one of the unsung heroes of our agency. Greg consistently demonstrates exceptional legal expertise while maintaining a collaborative, approachable, and solutions-oriented demeanor. Greg works tirelessly to ensure that everyone—from our back-office teams to our frontline program staff—receives the legal guidance they need to navigate complex challenges. Whether he’s crafting clear and effective guidance on federal contracting terms or developing practical, workable solutions for staff responding to legal challenges from our clients, Greg’s methodical and thoughtful approach is invaluable. Beyond his technical expertise, Greg is known for his responsiveness, empathy, and unwavering support for his colleagues. He never seeks recognition for his efforts, but his contributions are essential to the success of the agency.

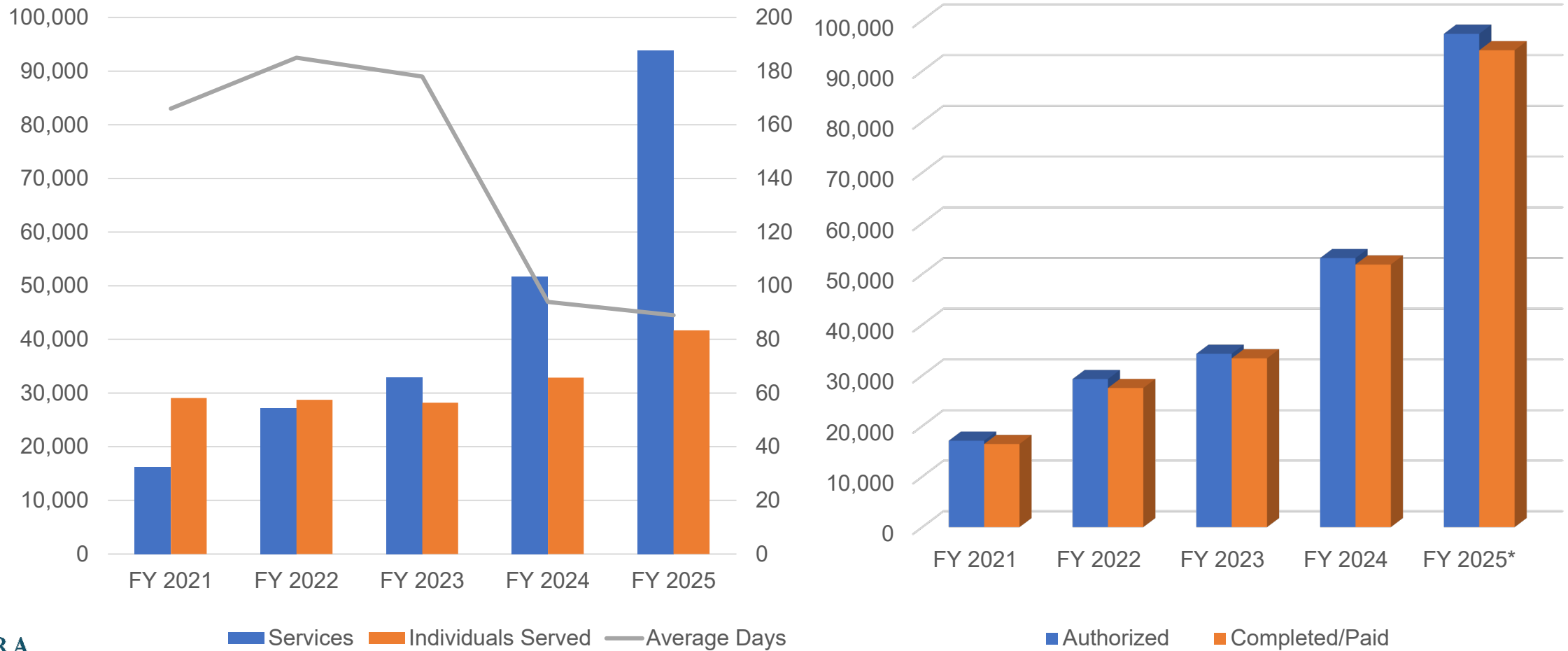
Brooklyn Kirkland, Office Assistant (June 2025) – Brooklyn goes above and beyond to assist with supporting staff and clients. She covers not only the Tifton office but also the Waycross office. She is involved with training new Office Assistants, which she enjoys. She completes quality, daily no-case notes and is excited to speak to our clients. Brooklyn is a team player and does not hesitate to assist her co-workers. She often calls to see if she can help with anything. She has enough knowledge and compassion to be a Counselor. She provides warmth to the offices with a smile and says "Welcome Back" to every co-worker who returns to the office after lunch, school visits, etc.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Position Count and Turnover Rates

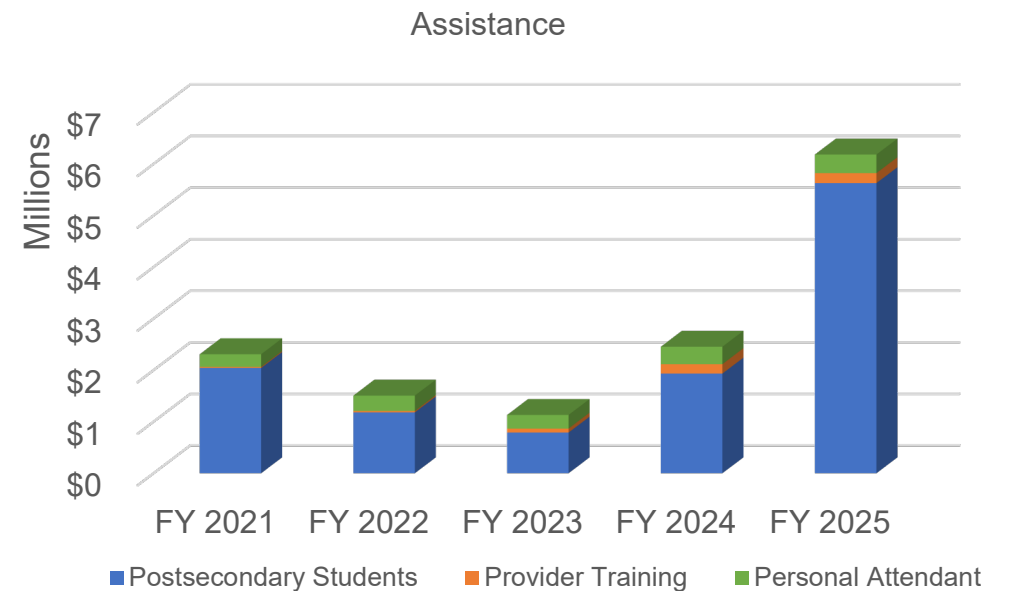
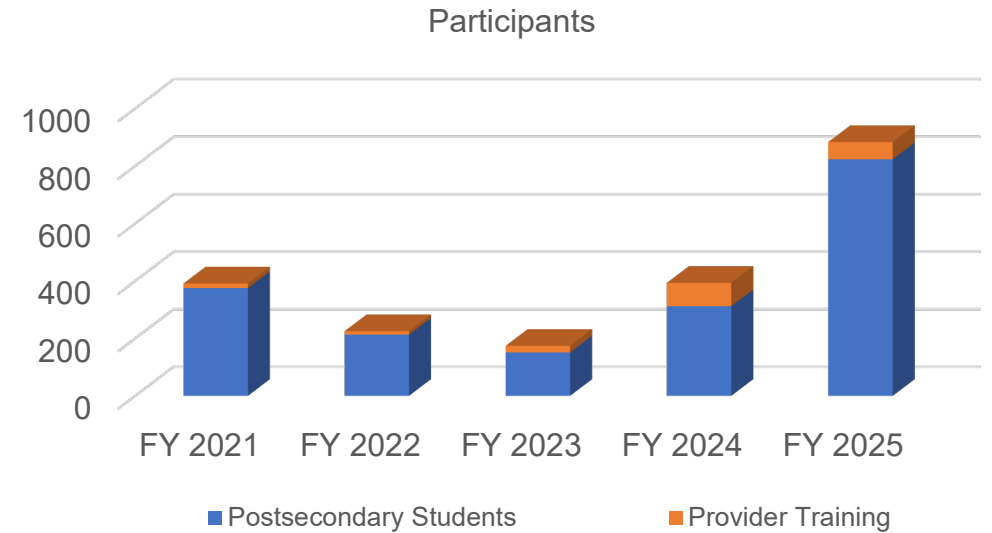


Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Updates

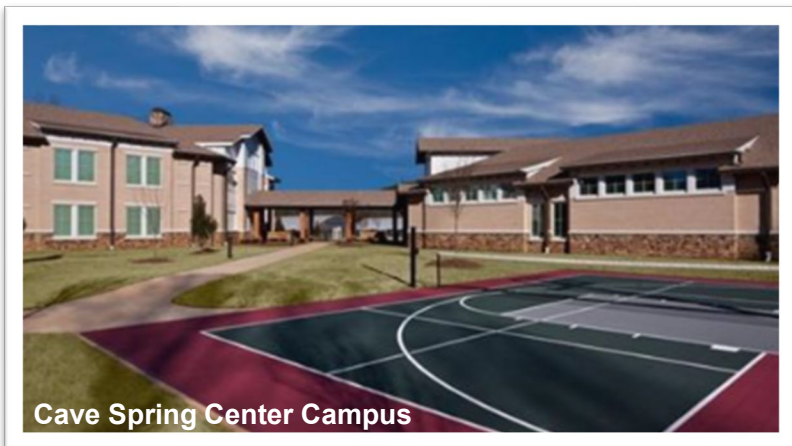


Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Updates

- **Bud McCall Grant** - Effective January 2024, GVRA began offering the Bud McCall grant to students with disabilities seeking post-secondary opportunities and other VR services.
- Individuals with permanent disabilities that result in substantial impediment to employment may be eligible for the grant following application and acceptance as a GVRA client for VR services.
- Undergraduate students who meet the requirements are eligible for the grant for up to five years.
- The annual grant totals up to \$17,725 annually to cover tuition, books, and maintenance costs.

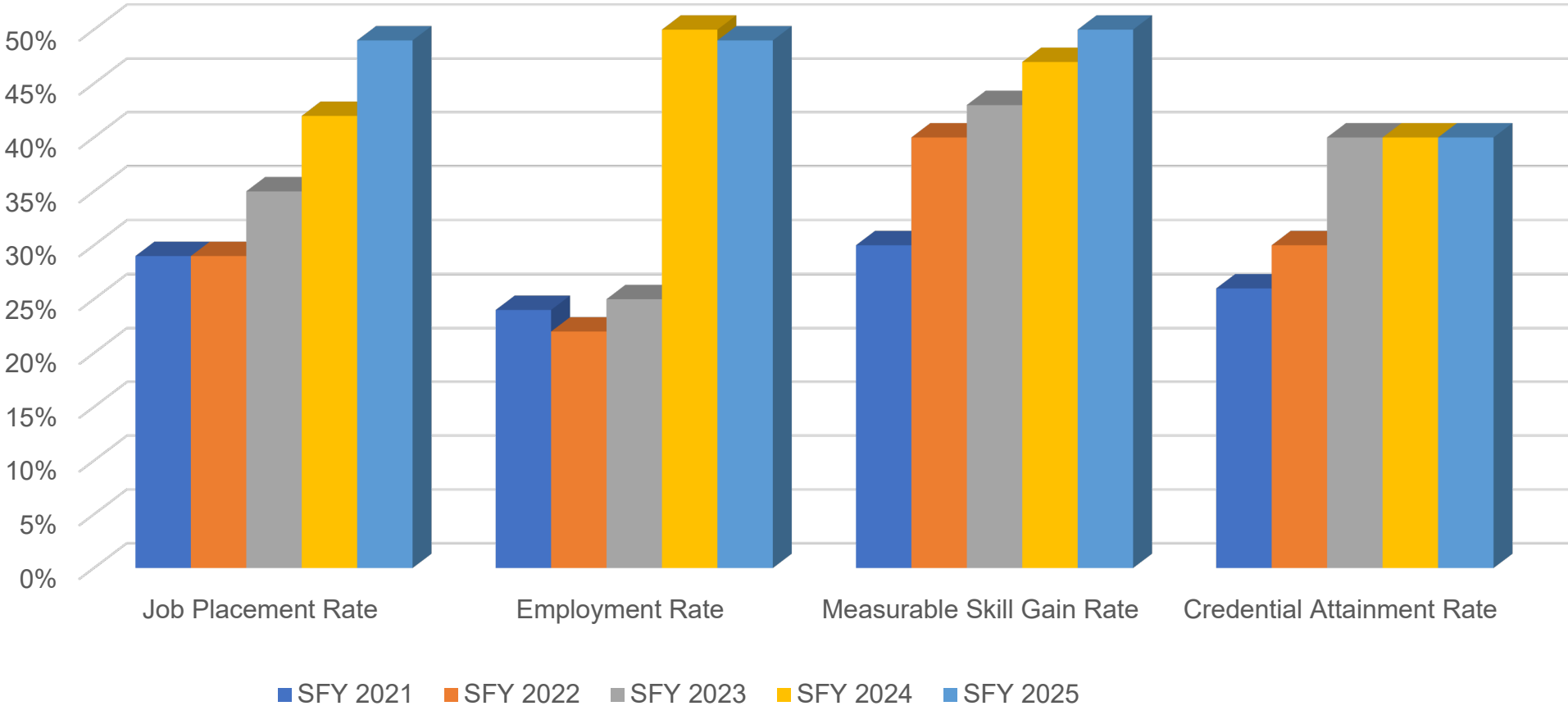


Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Residential Pathways



Pathways	Aug 2023	Jan 2024	Aug 2024	Jan 2025
CVS/Retail	7	14	17	22
Logistics	3	12	13	10
Hospitality	5	12	17	23
Light Electrical/Carpentry	1	7	20	18
Auto-Detailing		9	12	9
Certified Nursing Assistant		5	6	5
Landscape Maintenance				7
Heavy Equipment			9	7
Total Enrollment	16	59	92	100
Applications	21	80	290	156
Credentials/Certifications	35	147	320	365
Measurable Skill Gains	35	135	378	438
Graduation Rate	94%	97%	96%	88%

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Updates



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Updates

WIOA Performance Indicators	PY24 YTD	PY23 Performance	PY22 Performance
MSG Rate	69.4%	47.5%	49.4%
PY24 Negotiated Rate	47.3%		
PY25 Negotiated Rate	48.0%		
Employment in the 2nd Quarter After Exit	66.8%	43.0%	45.0%
PY24 Negotiated Rate	45.0%		
PY25 Negotiated Rate	47.0%		
Employment in the 4th Quarter After Exit	46.6%	42.0%	43.5%
PY24 Negotiated Rate	43.6%		
PY25 Negotiated Rate	45.0%		
Credential Attainment	64.0%	40.0%	40.0%
PY24 Negotiated Rate	42.0%		
PY25 Negotiated Rate	43.0%		



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Updates

“Based on the information you provided, RSA has determined that GVRA has met the criteria for establishing that the corrective actions have been effective for all the findings. As this is the case, the CAP has been successfully completed, and no further action by GVRA is necessary.”

DOE Timeliness

- **FY 2024 – 94%**
- **FY 2025 – 91%**

IPE Timeliness

- **FY 2024 – 92%**
- **FY 2025 – 93%**

PRE – ETS (15%)

- **FY 2022 - \$10.4M**
- **FY 2023 - \$11.1M**
- **FY 2024 - \$13.4M**



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Adjudication Services - Data

Federal Fiscal Year	Medical Providers	Average Staff	Examiners	Average Claim Clearances	Production Per Examiner	Average Cases Pending	Average Processing Time/Days
2020	532	441	181	6,233	571	30,091	186.8
2021	593	411	189	7,397	479	47,965	220.1
2022	553	411	166	6,569	604	49,123	301.7
2023	393	374	158	7,590	615	83,246	308.4
2024	375	334	149	7,640	607	77,425	390.1
2025 (July)	403	349	129	9,405	791	106,953	404.2
% Change	-24%	-21%	-29%	51%	39%	255%	116%



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Keep Improving



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Roosevelt Warm Springs (#RWS-2.0) Update Cave Spring Center Update

Dennis (Chip) Medders, Residential Director

Dennis.Medders@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS Virtual Tour



#RWS-2.0

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS Testimonials



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS Current Pathway Offerings

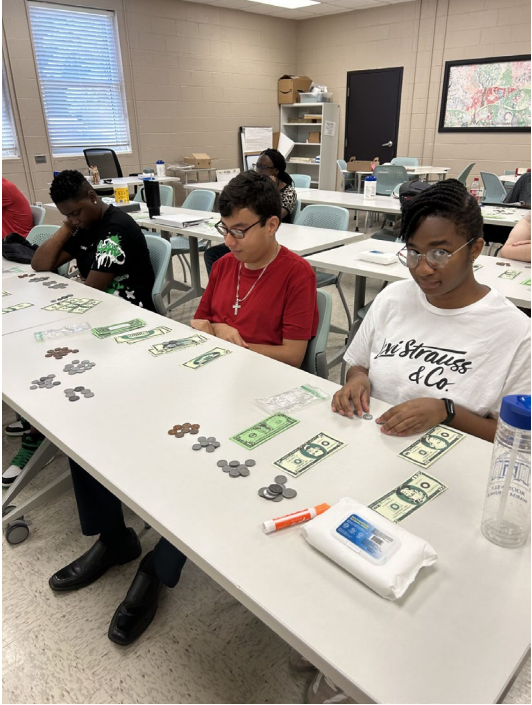
- Light Electrical and Carpentry
- Hospitality
- Logistics/Warehousing
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Auto Detailing
- CVS/Retail
- Landscaping Maintenance and Design
- Pharmacy Tech – Jan 2026



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS Typical Schedule

Fall Semester and Spring Semester

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday – Pathway Classes
- Tuesday/Thursday – Elective Classes, Tutoring, and Fala Time



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

RWS Dorm Life

- Apartment Side
- Standard Dorm Side
- 24/7 Staff
- Room Checks
- Curfew



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS Center for Therapeutic Recreation

- Activities After Classes
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Bowling Alley
- Basketball Court
- Game Room
- Bikes
- Art Room
- End Zone
- Weight Room
- Camp Dream



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS After Graduation

- Employment Specialists
- Providers
- 90 Days
- Interview Practice and Resume Building



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

RWS E&T Bond Project

- Net Funding to Date Is \$1,650,000
- Project Includes the Renovation of Existing Interior Space to Accommodate the Hospitality and Construction Pathways



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency RWS Quad Bond Project

- Net Funding to Date Is \$22,457,922.73
- Kress and Builders Hall Are in Interior Demolition Stages of Construction
- Exterior Brick Repairs and Waterproofing Is in Progress for Kress, Builders, Roosevelt, and Georgia Halls



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Cave Spring Center

Cave Spring Center 2024 - 2025

In 2024 to 2025, Students from Local High Schools Participated in the Day Pre-ETS Program

The number of students served:

- Cedartown High School – 11
- Rockmart High School – 7
- Armuchee High School – 10

Cave Spring Center 2025 – 2026

In 2025 to 2026, the Day Pre-ETS Program Continued

The number of students served:

- Cedartown High School – 11
- Rockmart High School – 5
- Armuchee High School – 6
- Model High School – 3
- Georgia School for the Deaf - TBD



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Cave Spring Center Pathways

Certification Offerings for High School Day Students

- Hospitality
- Retail
- Start Date – August 12th

The number of students working on certifications has not been determined.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Cave Spring Center Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

Inaugural Cohort in the BEP Pilot Program Completed on July 18th

- Residential Pilot Program
- Five Participants
- Chicago Lighthouse Certification
- ServSafe Manager Training and Certification
- Vending Machine/Equipment Training



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Cave Spring Center Future Plans

- Next BEP Group Slated to Begin in January 2026
- Begin Residential Services for Pathway Students, Including Hospitality and Retail
- Continuing the Day Pre-ETS Program with Area High School Students



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

GVRS Board New Business & Old Business

Tom Wilson, Chairman

[GVRS Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVRS_Board@gvs.ga.gov)



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

GVR Board Public Comments & Adjournment

Tom Wilson, Chairman

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