

# **Vocational Rehabilitation In South Dakota**

**Department of Human Services**  
Division of Rehabilitation Services  
&  
Division of Service to the Blind and  
Visually Impaired

# Mission Statements

Division of Rehabilitation Services:

To assist individuals with disabilities to obtain employment, economic self-sufficiency, personal independence, and full inclusion into society.

Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired:

To provide individualized rehabilitation services that result in optimal employment and independent living outcomes for citizens who are blind or visually impaired.

# Vocational Rehabilitation in South Dakota

- Vocational rehabilitation is mandated by the federal rehabilitation act and is a part of the workforce investment act.
- Vocational rehabilitation is a federal state partnership supported with approximately 80% federal funds and 20% state match.
- The Divisions have offices with Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors across the state who deliver services to assigned territories
- The Divisions work closely with the Department of Labor and Regulation
- 11 Vocational Rehabilitation offices- 8 are co-located with the Department of Labor and Regulation

# Employment of People with Disabilities

## **Labor Force Participation**

- People with disabilities: 20.2%
- People without disabilities: 69.7%

## **Unemployment Rate**

- People with disabilities: 14.2%
- People without disabilities: 7.6%

# People Served by Vocational Rehabilitation

- Last year over 2,600 people applied for services
- Over 6,100 people were served
- 943 individuals were successfully employed last year

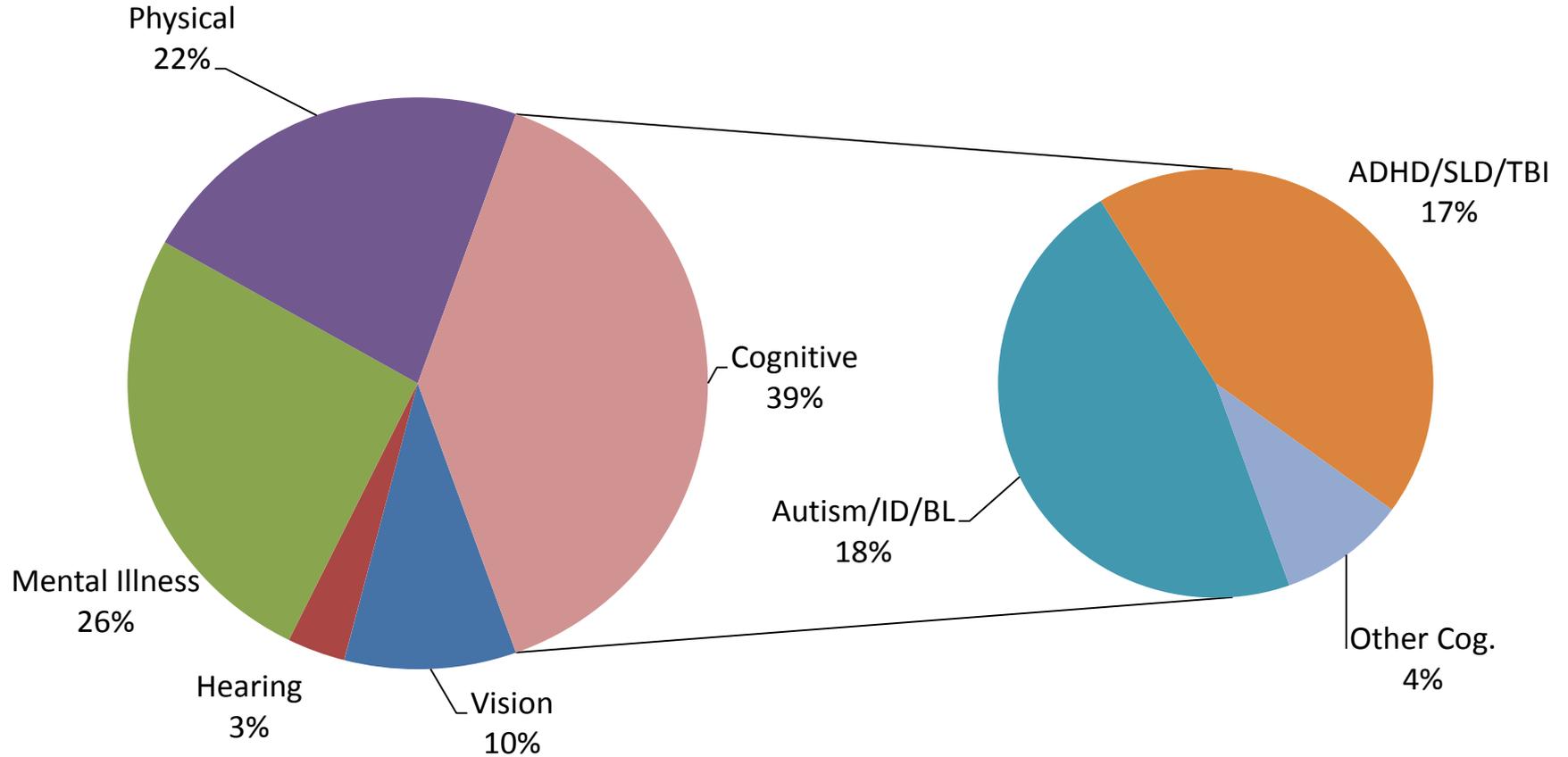
# Vocational Rehabilitation in South Dakota

- 1.75 years - average length of time of VR case
- \$4,995 – average cost of a VR case
- 35% of individuals are on Social Security benefits
- 99.7% - VR consumers with significant disabilities
- \$ 74.02 - average weekly earnings at time of application
- \$ 288.07 - average weekly earnings at successful closure

# Vocational Rehabilitation Eligibility

- **The person has a disability**
- **The person requires services so they can obtain employment**
- **The person can benefit from services**

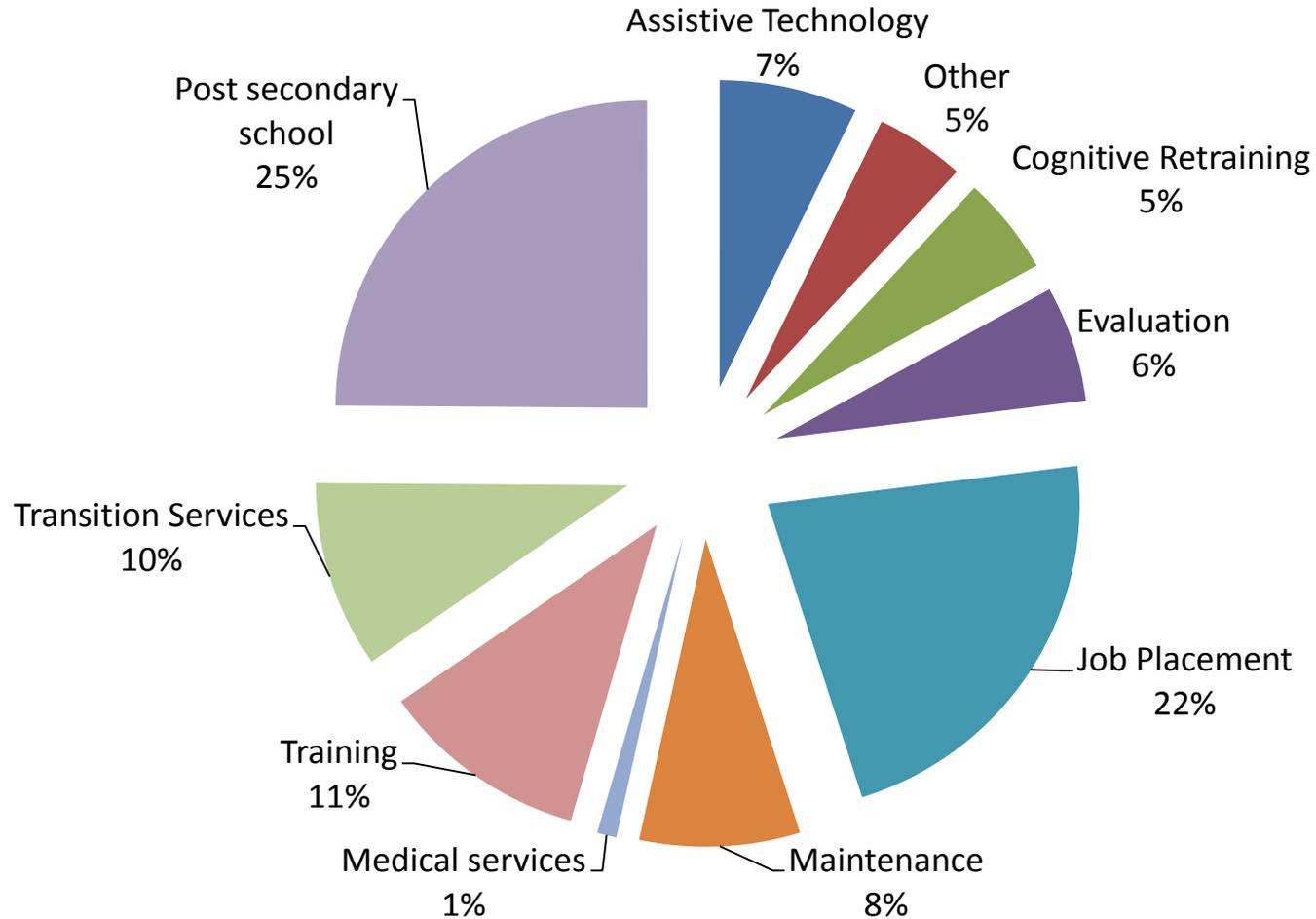
# Disability Groups



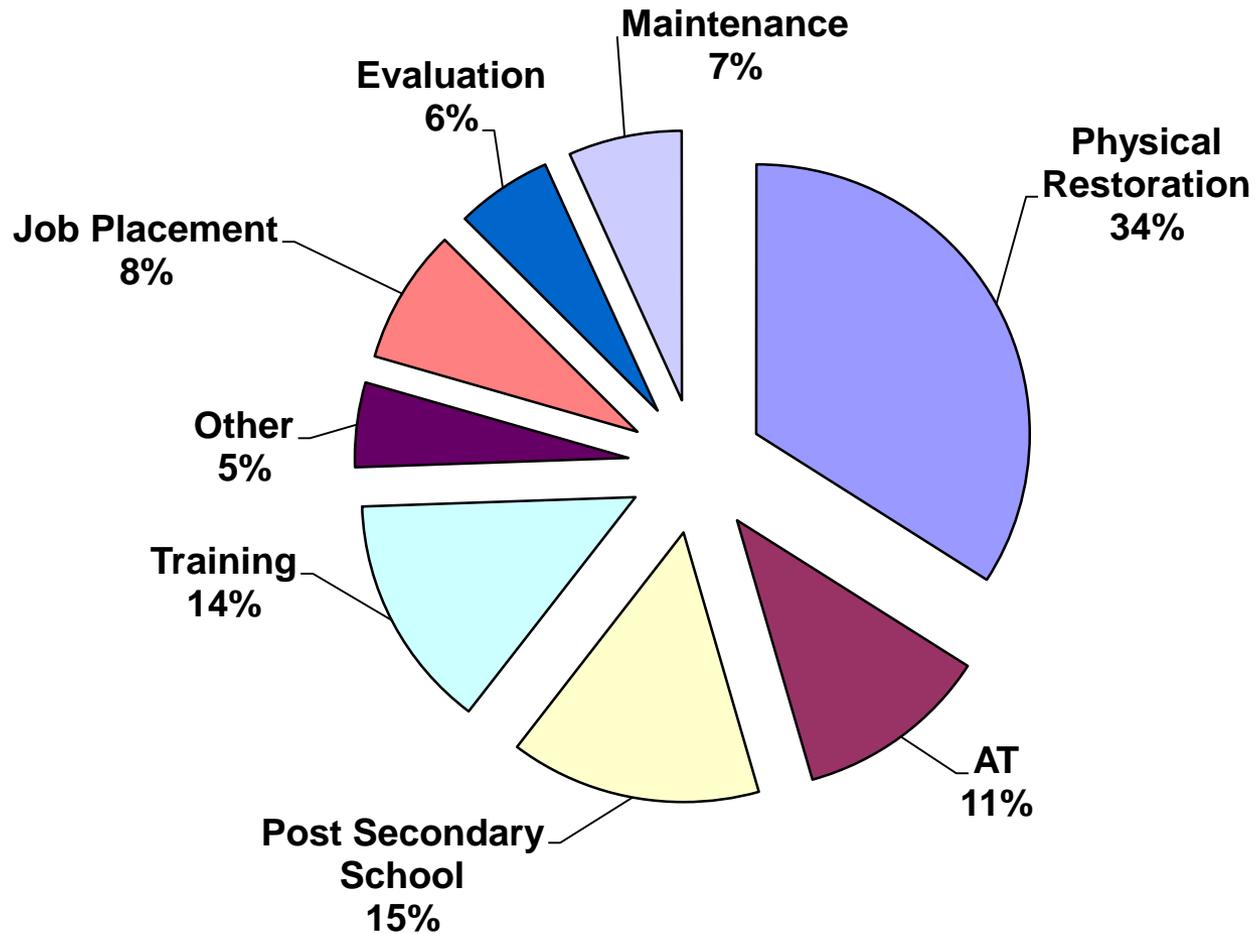
# Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Counseling and Guidance – Provided for all cases; Foundation of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Job Placement
- Assistive Technology
- Post Secondary Education
- Training
- Medical Restoration
- Job Coaching & Follow along

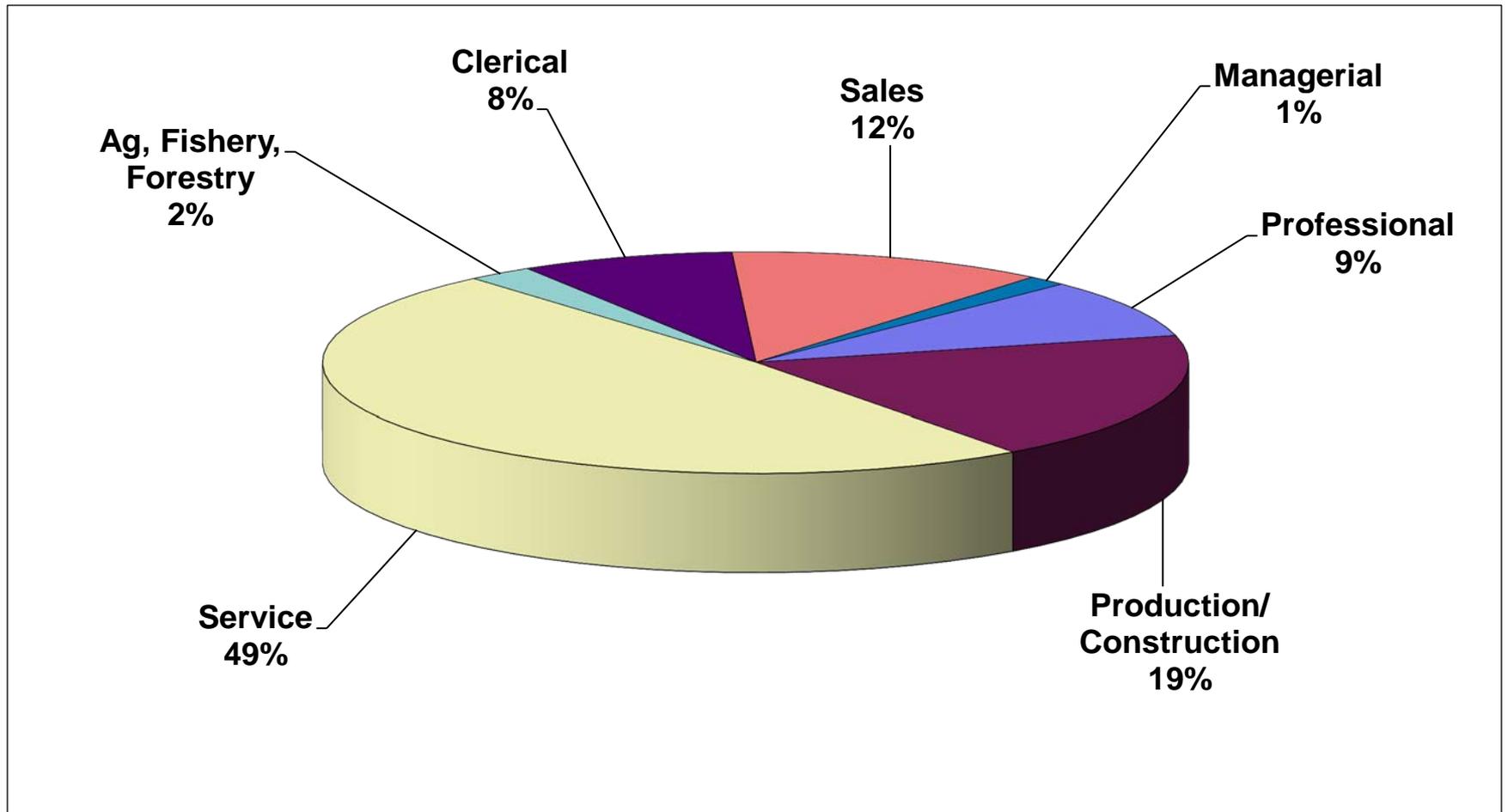
# DRS Purchased Services



# SBVI Purchased Services



# Occupations of VR Clients



# Return On Investment

## **Benefit-Cost Ratio - Consumer Income**

For every \$1 Vocational Rehabilitation spends, rehabilitated consumers will experience an increase in earnings of \$8.96.

# Employers Who Hire People with Disabilities

Public and private employers who hired the most Division of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired eligible consumers over the past two years.

Employer	# Hired
Wal-Mart	50
Hy-Vee Food Stores	32
Black Hills WORKS	27
McDonalds	24
State of SD	20
Aramark	19
Minerva's	18
Burger King	14
Menards	13
Goodwill Industries	12
Kessler's Grocery Store	12
Holiday Inn Express	11
Sanford Health	11
Super 8	11
Pizza Hut	10
Pizza Ranch	10
Subway	10
Target	10

# Employer Partnerships

- The Business Resource Network in Sioux Falls <http://www.sfbrn.org/index.cfm>
- Employment Resource Network in Aberdeen <http://aahra.shrm.org/diversity>
- Workforce Diversity Network of the Black Hills



# Business Partnerships

The Division can provide consultation to employers on job accommodations.

Also available:

- job site evaluations,
- on the job training, and
- disability awareness and etiquette training.

We are engaging businesses by serving as a resource to them for disability related issues.

# Strategies- Current and Future

## Education and Awareness

- Governor's Awards
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month

## Employment Works Task Force

# Thank You

## Contact information:

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