

Cooperation and Coordination with Other Agencies and Other Entities

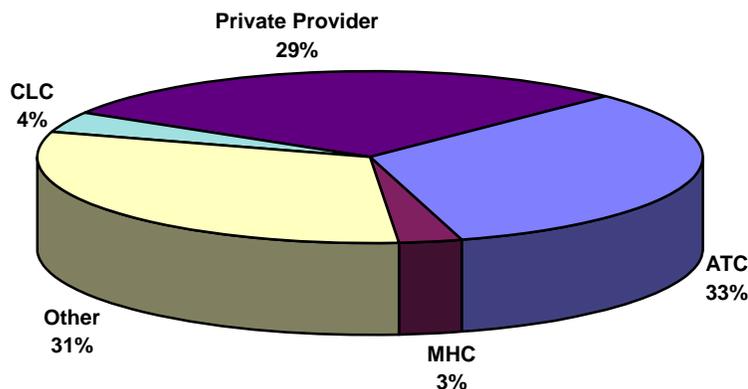
Cooperative Arrangements with Private Non-profit Vocational Rehabilitation Services Providers

Makeup of CRPs

Due to the geographic realities which exist within South Dakota, the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS or Division) recognizes one of the best sources available for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services are community rehabilitation programs (CRP). CRPs consist of Adjustment Training Centers, Mental Health Centers, Career Learning Centers, Job Shops, Independent Living Centers, Communication Services for the Deaf, and the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind. These programs are located in local communities throughout the state.

Utilization of CRPs

During Federal Fiscal Year 2006, 39% of the Division's client services expenditures (approximately \$2,021,862) were to CRP's. Following is a breakdown of the payments for consumer services made to CRP's during FFY2006.



Manner in which cooperative arrangements are established

The Division does have some contractual agreements with private nonprofit community rehabilitation programs. These contracts are outcome based and have been designed to assist some of the CRP's as a means to streamline services for individuals with mental illness. All the services purchased by the Division from CRPs are directly from the vocational rehabilitation counselor utilizing an authorization process. The amount of services purchased depends upon the amount and type of services needed by a consumer. Agencies eligible to receive authorizations must be approved vendors and must be current service providers of the Department or have CARF Accreditation.

Service contracts to CRPs

To help expand the capacity and effectiveness of community rehabilitation programs, the Division of Rehabilitation Services has in the past funded establishment grants and service contracts. These activities consisted of the following:

- Establishment grants and service contracts for Job Shops.
- Service contract to serve individuals with mental illness focusing on employment outcomes.

- Service contract providing transitional employment services for individuals with mental illness. The transitional employment is time-limited to six months and provided in a business setting in the community.

Improve capacity and quality of services from CRPs

The Division continually works on improving the capacity and quality of services from CRPs. One of the Goals of the Division is to expand and strengthen partnerships with business, service providers and service organizations in communities across the state. The Division has established provider networks in Sioux Falls and Rapid City where they meet monthly to coordinate services, improve capacity and improve the quality of services. The Division also encourages providers to attend training sessions offered by the Region VIII CRP training program and the State VR agencies. The main training conferences include the annual Employment Specialists Training, Midwinter conference and the Fall Conference.