

Challenges and Opportunities: Findings from Two Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessments

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Presenter Disclosures Amy Flowers

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Structural Requirements

CSNA Questions

- What are the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities, particularly vocational needs of:
 - individuals with most significant disabilities, including their need for supported employment services?
 - minorities?
 - individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by VR?
 - individuals with disabilities served through other components of the statewide workforce investment system?
- What is the need to establish, develop, or improve community rehabilitation programs within the state?

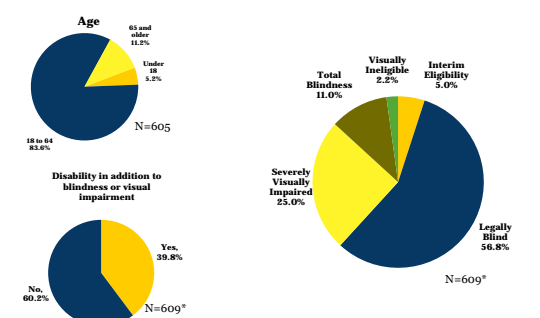
Tale of Two Methodologies

- Staff Interviews;
- Telephone survey of consumers (400-600);
- Interviews with Community Rehabilitation Partners (CRPs), employers of blind or visually impaired workers, health professionals who have worked with DVI referrals;
- Focus group, forum or feedback opportunity with shared findings.

Sample Sizes

	N1	N2
DVI staff	37	12
Employers	7	11
Health Providers	6	50
Community Rehabilitation Partners (CRPs)	4	4
DVI consumers (telephone survey)	159	450

Consumer/Respondent Profiles



Age (N=605)

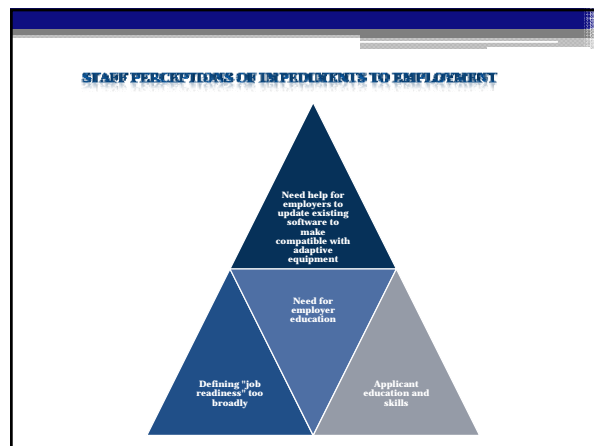
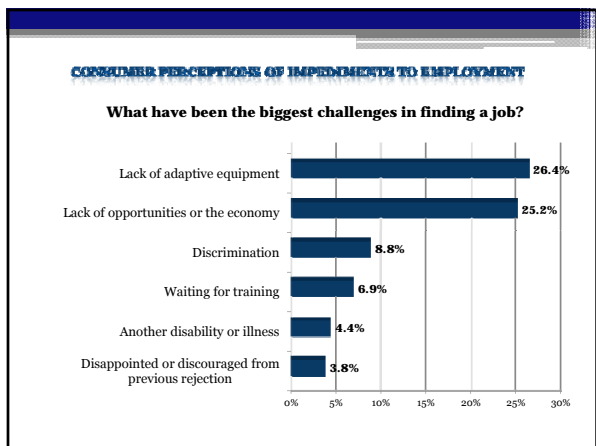
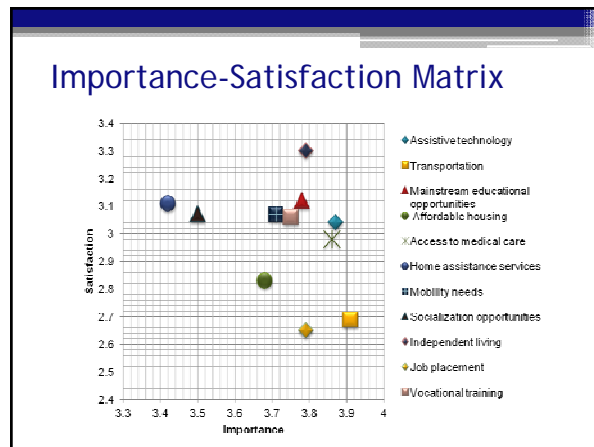
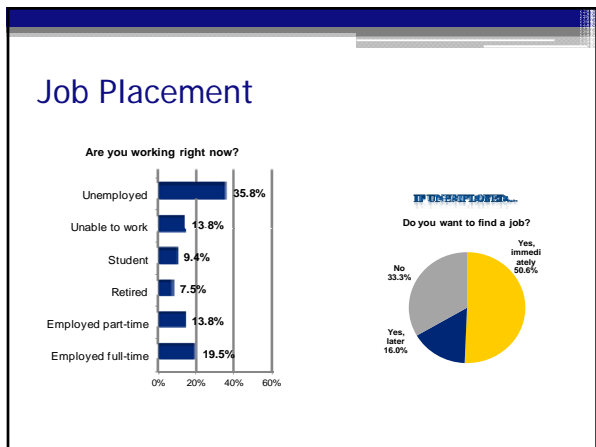
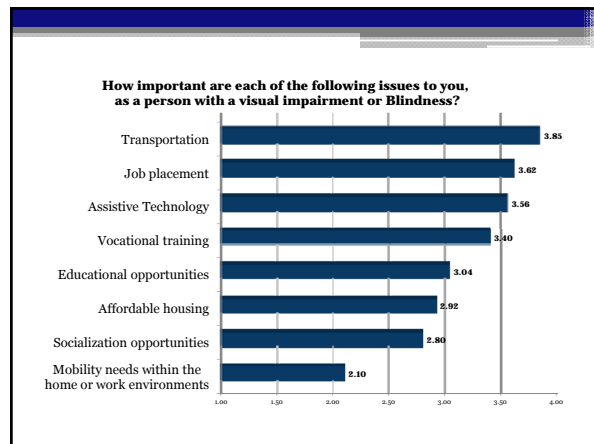
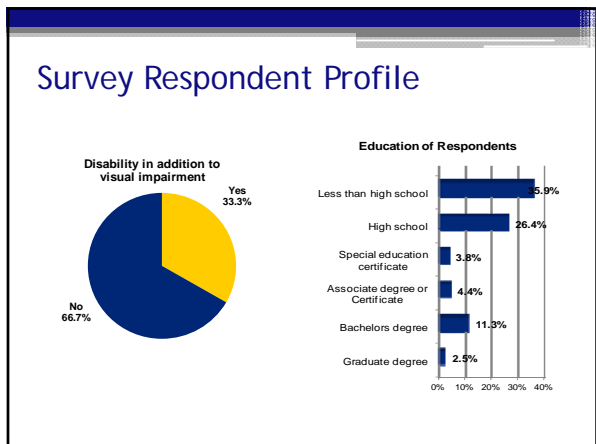
18 to 64	83.6%
Under 18	5.2%
65 and older	11.2%

Disability in addition to blindness or visual impairment (N=609*)

Yes	39.8%
No	60.2%

Total Blindness (N=609*)

Legally Blind	56.8%
Severely Visually Impaired	25.0%
Total Blindness	11.0%
Visually Ineligible	2.2%
Interim Eligibility	5.0%



Conclusions

- Almost one in four consumers reported that employment was their greatest unmet need (23.3%).
- One in three consumers (34%) said that they need educational support such as help obtaining a GED.
- Job placement is important, but not everything
- Levels of training, software updates for compatibility and employer awareness all need to rise together.



Questions?

Thank you!

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