

RAMP

no limits

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Art by: Dustin Eckhardt
depicting the Capital Crawl of 1990

ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO REACH
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.



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A message from our CEO

It is with immense gratitude and enthusiasm that I write to you today on behalf of RAMP as we continue our mission of empowering individuals with disabilities to lead full, inclusive lives.

Our Board of Directors, staff, funders, donors, community partners and volunteers provide support and have been instrumental in enabling us to carry out our mission and make a positive impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities. As we reflect on our accomplishments and look toward the future, I wanted to take a moment to share with you the significant strides we've made and the vision we have for the days ahead.

Over the past year, we have been unwavering in our dedication to champion the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.

Through your generous contributions, we were able to:

- Advocate for Barrier Removal: Our organization has actively advocated for changes in legislation to enhance accessibility, inclusivity, and the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities. We've seen remarkable progress, but there is still work to be done.
- Support Services: We've continued to provide crucial support services to individuals and families in need. This includes guidance on navigating complex healthcare systems, securing accessible housing, and connecting with educational and employment opportunities.
- Raise Awareness: Our awareness campaigns have reached thousands, dispelling myths, breaking down barriers, and promoting a culture of understanding and inclusivity.
- Empowerment: We've empowered countless individuals with disabilities to embrace their potential, fostering a sense of self-worth and independence.

Looking forward, we are excited about the prospects that lie ahead. With your continued support, we aim to:

- Expand Our Reach: We aspire to reach the unserved and underserved, ensuring that our advocacy touches the lives of those who need it most, regardless of location or circumstance.
- Enhance Education and Employment Opportunities: We are committed to creating pathways to education and employment for individuals with disabilities, equipping them with the tools they need to thrive.
- Collaborate and Innovate: By collaborating with like-minded organizations and harnessing innovative technologies, we will stay at the forefront of disability advocacy.
- Promote Inclusivity in All Spheres: Our vision includes a society where inclusivity is the norm, not the exception, and where individuals with disabilities are fully integrated into all aspects of life.

None of this would be possible without your continued support. Every donation, every act of advocacy, and every moment of your time invested in our cause brings us one step closer to realizing a more inclusive and equitable world for individuals with disabilities. We invite you to join us in our journey as we move forward. Your continued support will help us transform the lives of individuals with disabilities, ensuring they are seen, heard, and valued in our society.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our cause. Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of those who deserve nothing less than equal opportunities, respect, and hope.

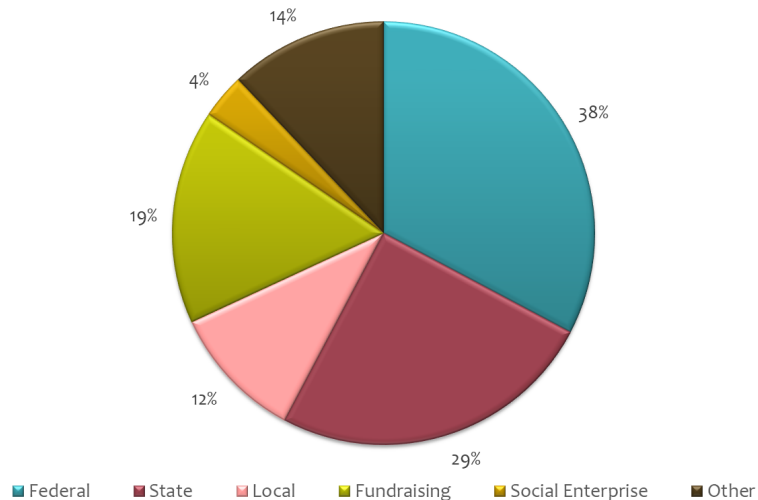
With heartfelt appreciation,


Jackie Sundquist, CEO



Financial Overview

How RAMP is Funded



Fundraising & Development Snapshot



545

TOTAL DONORS

999

TOTAL DONATIONS

118

NEW DONORS

\$914

AVERAGE GIFT

Throughout the fiscal year, RAMP's fundraising and development initiatives have yielded outstanding results, underscoring our organization's dedication to its mission. We are deeply appreciative of the unwavering support we have received from our valued contributors, whose generosity has been instrumental in driving our success.



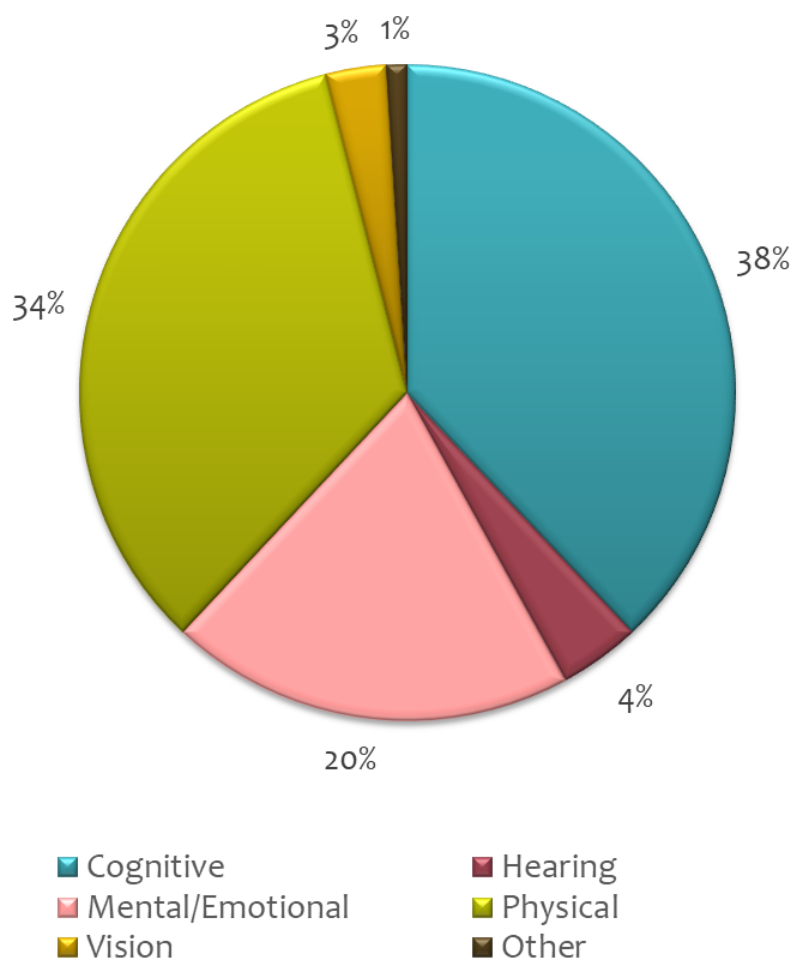
RAMP is excited to announce that our special events fundraising experienced a remarkable growth of 43%, while gifts also saw a substantial rise of 29% compared to the previous year. Although there was a 37% decline in foundation income, we are thrilled to report significant boosts in corporate donations, which surged by 120%, and sponsorships, which saw an impressive increase of 131%.

RAMP's Impact:

A year in review

In FISCAL YEAR '23, RAMP's commitment to expand our capacity to serve more consumers paid off. We witnessed a 14.7% increase in the number of consumers who worked with us on their goals for independence!

Consumers by Primary Disability



836

People with disabilities completed intakes with RAMP staff

2344

Individual goals were pursued

195

Presentations were given to the community to share RAMP's mission

1881

Individuals received information and referral from RAMP



Independent Living Services

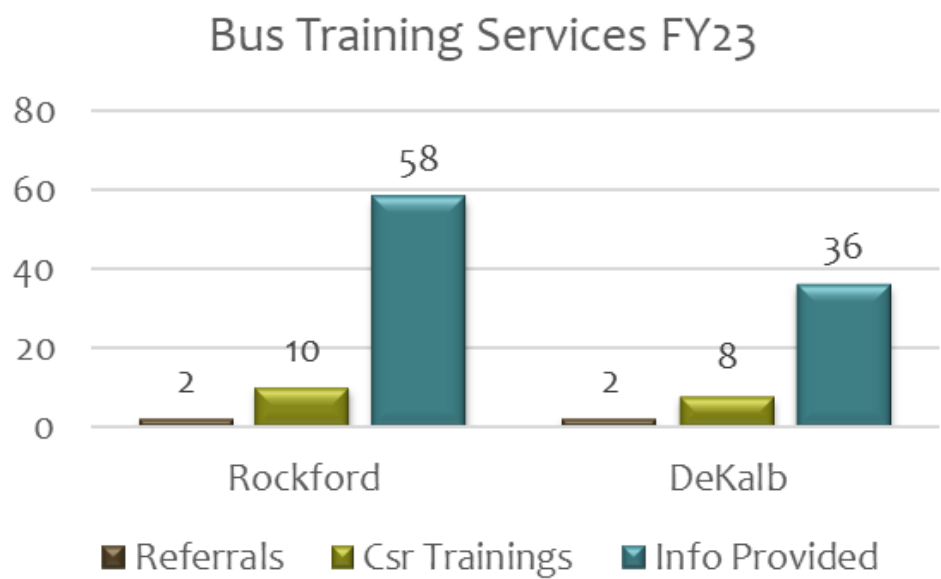


The heart and soul of Independent Living is being in control of your own life. RAMP's independent Living Skills Training empowers people with disabilities to attain new skills and techniques so they are able to participate in daily living, recreational/social opportunities, and vocational/volunteering activities. Through the creation of self-developed goals RAMP assists motivated individuals to gain greater overall independence.



Bus Training

Funded by Rockford Mass Transition District (RMTD) and the City of DeKalb to provide bus training skills/education to consumers who desire to utilize the bus system for independent travel, disability awareness & sensitivity training to drivers annually, and assist with appeals that RMTD receives from para transit applicants/users.



Key Program Info:

- RAMP has a partnership with Rockford Mass Transit and the City of DeKalb to provide training to drivers and riders annually and to be available to assist with appeals.
- Information and referral is provided on the variety of transportation options for people with disabilities and to the community at large.
- Riders/potential riders are assisted in determining the best options for their independent living needs.

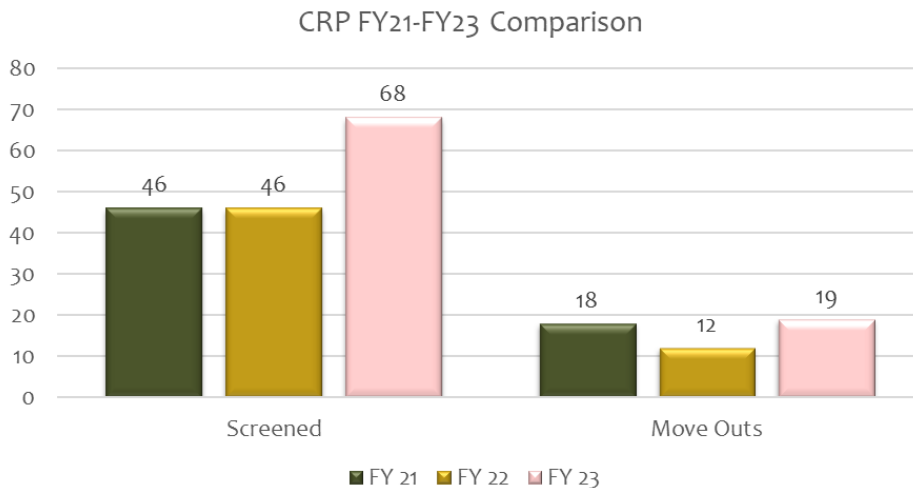
FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 73% of the consumers surveyed, who received 1:1 bus training, are now able to use the fixed route system independently. (Target 75%)
- 91% of consumers surveyed, who received 1:1 bus training, were satisfied with the services provided. (Target 80%)



Community Reintegration Program

Funded by State of Illinois with the purpose to transition 16 consumers from an institution back into the community with home-based supports.



\$36,057

Is the amount that RAMP saves the State of Illinois ANNUALLY for each individual who moves from a nursing home and back into the community!

Key Program Info:

- The CRP program has exceeded FY '22 numbers for individuals screened for the program and reintegrated as a result of participating in the program.
- Affordable and accessible housing continues to be the primary barrier to RAMP reintegrating more individuals.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

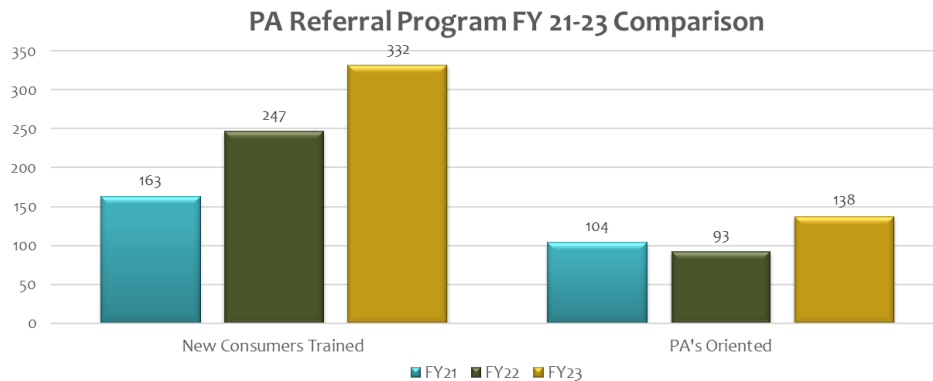
- 100% of consumers who reintegrate into the community stated that their quality of life has improved. (Target 100%)
- 100% of consumers served by RAMP who moved out of a nursing home remained in the community for more than 90 days. (Target 100%)





Personal Assistant (PA) Referral Program

RAMP recruits and orients individuals in the community who want to provide personal assistance to eligible Home Services consumers. RAMP assists eligible consumers in learning how to recruit, hire, and manage their own PA's.



Key Program Info:

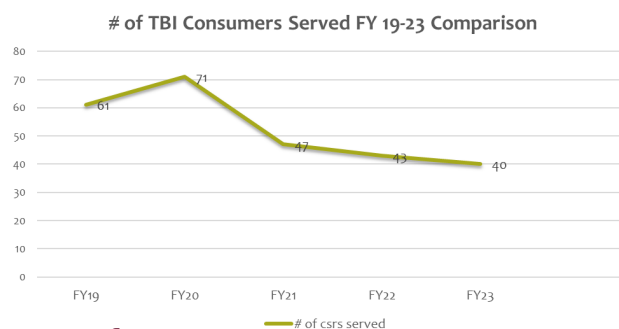
- RAMP staff had 2,411 individual contacts with consumers related to their PA needs.
- RAMP saw a 48% increase in the number of PA's added to our orientation list this year.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

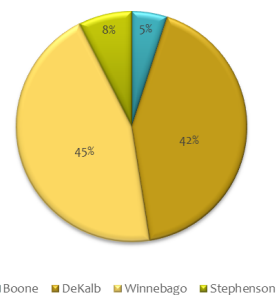
- 100% of consumers surveyed who received advocacy for PA services, found the service beneficial. (Target 60%)
- 67% of consumers surveyed who used our service feel more independent recruiting and managing their PA than prior to RAMP's assistance. (Target 75%)
- 60% of the RAMP consumers who needed to hire a PA, successfully hired one. (Target 50%)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Case Management Services

Funded by the State of Illinois with purpose of providing intensive case management to consumers who have a TBI to ensure they are able to remain living independently in the home vs. an institution. RAMP staff have a minimum of monthly contact via phone and/or face-to-face.



TBI Consumers by County



Key Program Info:

- RAMP served a total of 43 consumers during the fiscal year, with 40 cases open in the last quarter (April-June) of FY '22.
- Consumers leave the program due to improvement, relocation outside of our service area, death, and or transition to managed care.

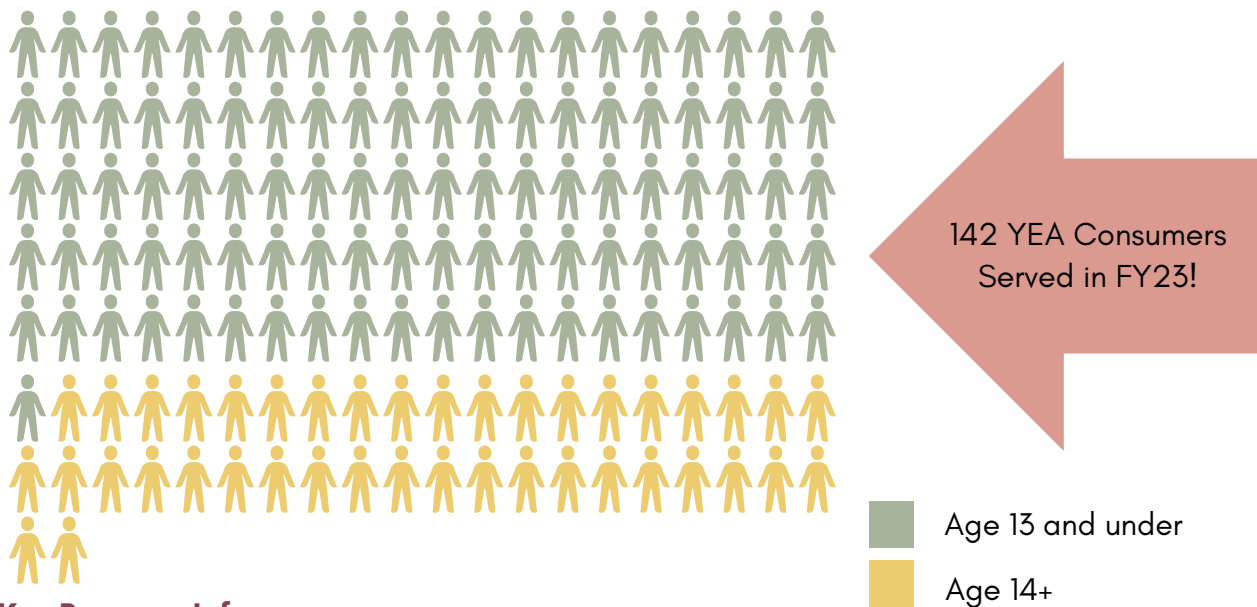
Youth Services

RAMP offers a variety of services that empower youth with disabilities to grow into self-determined adults. These youth-focused services are important to our community because youth with disabilities experience lower graduation and adult employment rates than their non-disabled peers. To combat these statistics, RAMP partners with parents and students to ensure that their journey through the educational system and into adult living honors their individuality and goals for the future.



Youth Education & Advocacy

This program exists to give children with disabilities, and their parents, the skills and information they need to ensure that their child receives a fair and equitable education as do their peers without disabilities. The program also works with school district staff to help them understand their responsibilities to children with disabilities and how to appropriately accommodate their educational needs.



Key Program Info:

- RAMP continues to receive a substantial grant from the Winnebago County Mental Health Board that allows us to continue these services despite a lack of state funding for educational advocacy.
- In FY 24, we will expand funding through a generous DeKalb County Mental Health Board grant!

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 95% of parents surveyed stated a better understanding of the special ed process, law, and their rights. (Target 75%)
- 100% of parents surveyed found the RAMP's self-advocacy training to be effective. (Target 75%)
- 80% of parents surveyed were satisfied with RAMP holding the educational team accountable. (Target 75%)

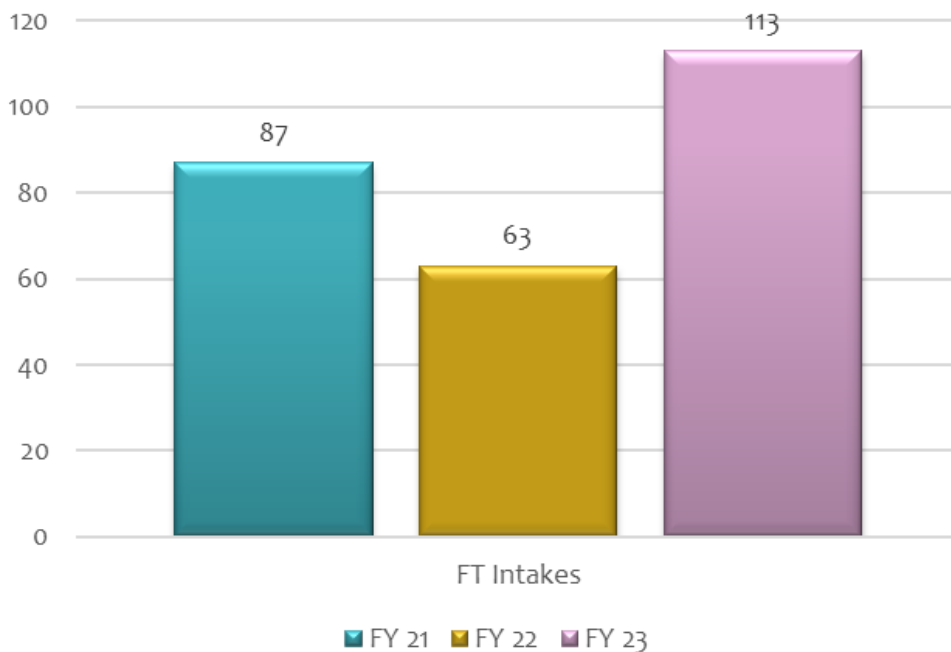
RAMP surveys past youth served in prior years at both 1- & 5 years post-graduation to determine long-term outcome results:

- 84% of youth surveyed stated they graduated. (Target 90%)
- 71% of youth surveyed 1-year post-graduation, stated that they feel they understand their disability.
- 55% of students report that are employed, interning, or volunteering 1-year post-graduation and 95% 5 years post-graduation.

Fast Track

Pre-Employment Transition Services for Youth ages 14-22 funded by the State of Illinois Vocational Rehabilitation (VR); designed to prepare youth for educational and vocational goals post-high school.

Fast Track FY 20-23 Comparison



Key Program Info:

- FY '23 was a record year for the number of consumers served through Fast Track!
- Most of the services were provided 1:1; Some were delivered in small group settings.
- Although actual employment is not a deliverable of this program, 5 consumers who participated in Fast Track this FY received paid work experience!

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 83% of youth surveyed stated their desired career or education path. (Target 85%)
- 46% of youth surveyed completed a job shadow, expert interview, and/or volunteer opportunity in the community. (Target 25%)

555
services were
provided to
participants in
the categories of
self-advocacy,
work-based
learning, career
exploration,
workplace
readiness, and
post-secondary
counseling.



Curriculum Services

iBelong – is a Disability Awareness curriculum intended for grades Pre-Kindergarten – 6th, focusing on acceptance, believing in oneself, and how actions and attitudes affect others.

Key Program Info:

- iBelong had a record year by presenting 54 sections which reached 1,049 students!
- Students learned about 8 disabilities, including ADHD, Autism, Deafness, Blindness, Dyslexia, Communication Disorders, Motor Disabilities, and Down Syndrome.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 100% of teachers surveyed stated this program increased awareness and acceptance of individual differences. (Target 85%)
- 100% of teachers surveyed stated this program increased their knowledge of terminology related to disability and acceptance. (Target 85%)
- 100% of teachers surveyed stated this program increased the use of socially appropriate language. (Target 60%)
- 100% of teachers surveyed stated this program increased comfort in discussing disability-related issues or their own experiences. (Target 70%)



Ignite – designed to teach middle school students with high-incidence disabilities to become active participants in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Transition Plan meetings.

Key Program Info:

- Presented 3 sections of Ignite between Belvidere South Middle School and South Beloit Junior High.
- Students learned about personality & communication styles, accommodations, IEPs, goal setting, note-taking, study skills, and career exploration.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 83% of students surveyed plan to attend or have attended their own IEP/transition meeting. (Target 85%)
- 100% of students were able to identify their personality and communication styles. (Target 80%)
- 91% of students indicated they had practiced self-advocacy skills in 2 or more settings. (Target 75%)
- 78% of students indicated they felt prepared to advocate for themselves at the next IEP or Transition Meeting. (Target 75%)
- 61% of students selected a goal for employment and post-secondary education or training. (Target 75%)



Curriculum Services

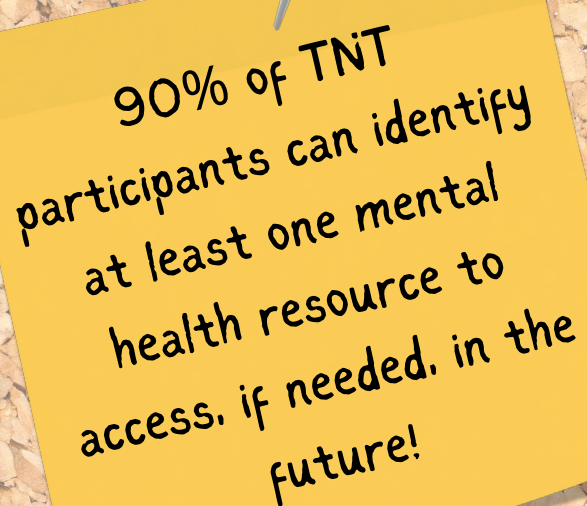
TNT – designed to teach high school students (ages 16-22) with high incidence disabilities essential knowledge and skills in order to prepare to live independently, obtain employment, and choose post-secondary education and training goals.

Key Program Info:

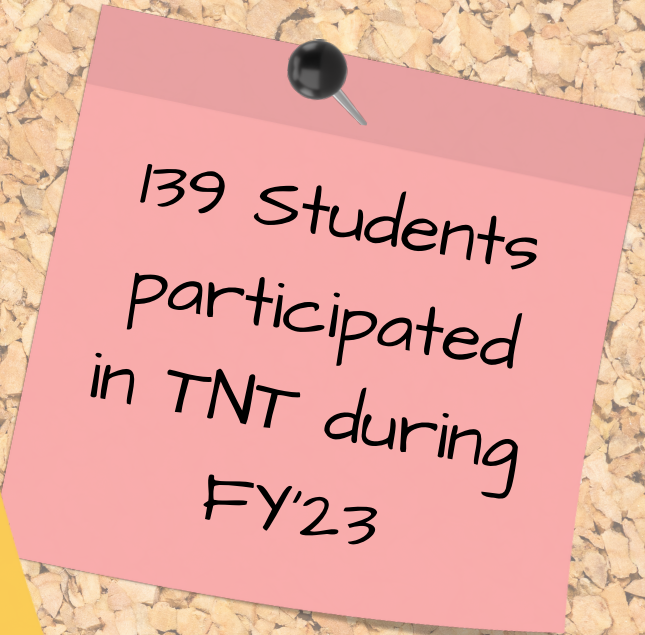
- Presented 17 sections of TNT at high schools in all four of the counties RAMP serves.
- Students learned about searching/applying/interviewing for jobs as well as appropriate employment behaviors and banking, credit, housing, insurance, and post-secondary education and/or training.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 67% of students increased their knowledge of post-secondary education/training opportunities. (Target 75%)
- 84% of students completed a mock interview with a peer or community partner. (Target 80%)
- 93% of students indicated a desire for future employment either during or post-high school. (Target 65%)



90% of TNT participants can identify at least one mental health resource to access, if needed, in the future!



139 Students participated in TNT during FY'23

Employment Services

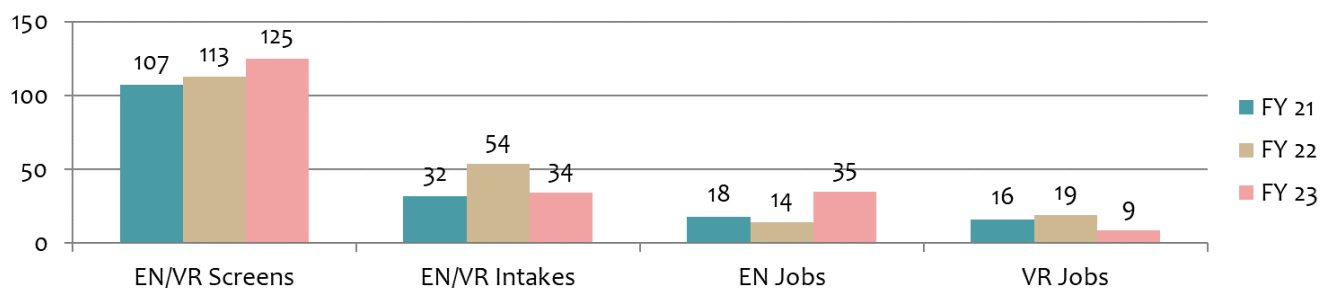


RAMP's Employment Services (ES) has been providing assistance and support to people with disabilities seeking employment through the Ticket to Work program (see Employment Network below) and otherwise since 2012. All employment services are geared toward community-based, integrated employment. Peer support and mentoring are significant aspects of the services participants receive from ES.

Vocational Rehabilitation & Ticket to Work

Funded by the State of Illinois Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) contract and Social Security's Employment Network (EN)/Ticket to Work Program (TTW). Many consumers transition from receiving our Employment Services via the VR contract to the EN/TTW contract. However, an EN/Ticket to Work consumer may access RAMP services without ever having an active VR case.

Employment Services FY21-FY23 Comparison



Key Program Info:

- RAMP's VR Job Placement program relies on referrals from Illinois's DHS/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. Referrals have seen a significant decline over the last two fiscal years. RAMP is engaged in ongoing advocacy to improve the referral process and through Illinois's DHS/Vocational Rehabilitation.
- 44 job placements occurred between the VR and TTW programs this FY - exceeding total jobs from the last two FYs.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 38% of VR consumers and 64% of TTW consumers obtained a job as a result of working with RAMP. (Target is 80%)
- 89% of VR consumers and 70% of TTW consumers surveyed state that they are more satisfied with their financial stability now that they have obtained employment. (Target is 80%)
- 100% of VR and 80% TTW consumers surveyed were able to maintain their job for at least 12 months. (Target 60%)

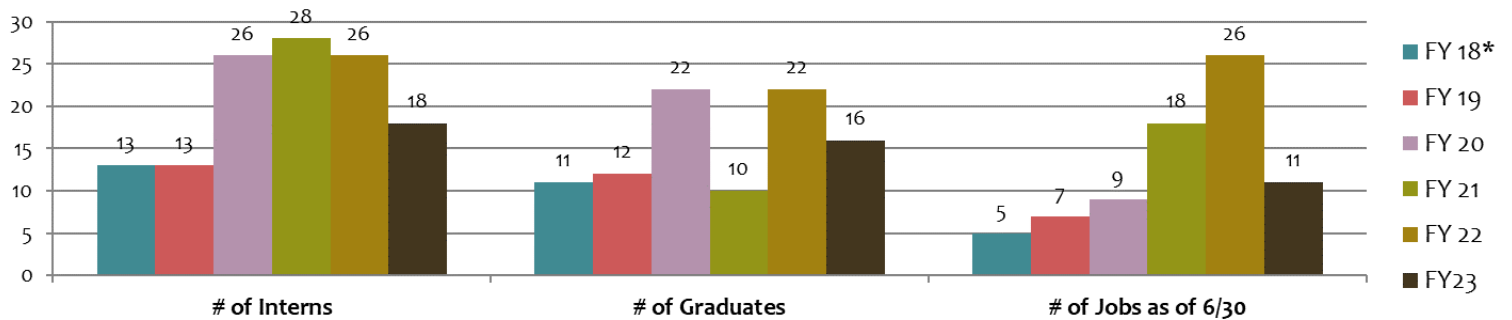


**80% OF VR/TTW CONSUMERS
SURVEYED ARE MORE SATISFIED
WITH WHERE THEIR LIFE IS NOW THAT
THEY HAVE OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT!**

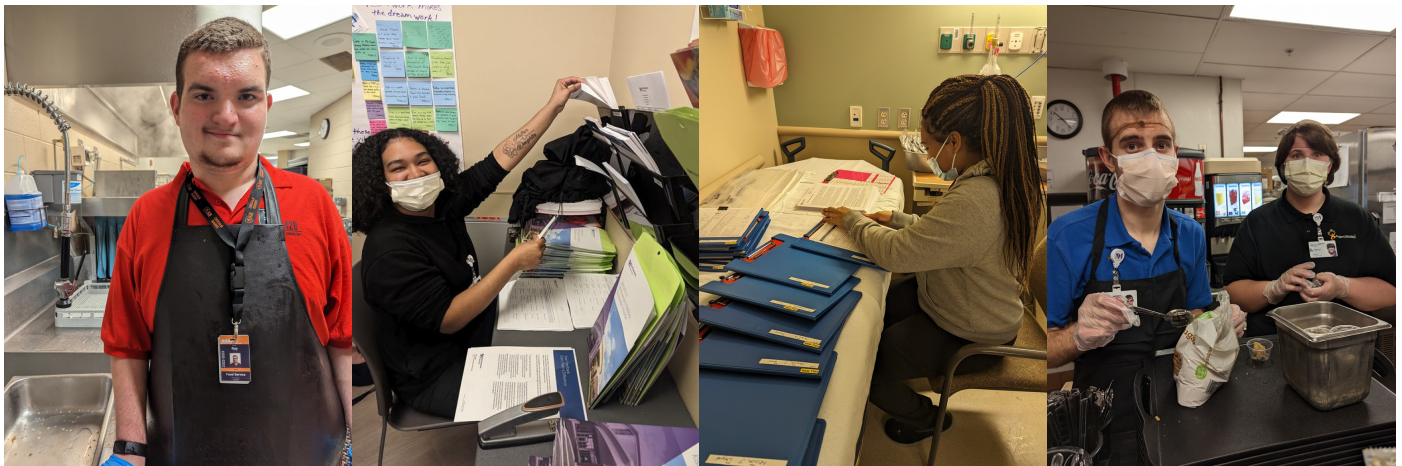
Project SEARCH

A unique, business-led, one-year school-to-work program that takes place entirely in the workplace. The selected students work in three internships over the year with classroom instruction, goal setting, career exploration, and hands-on-training through worksite rotations.

Project SEARCH FY18-FY23



*FY'18 was the first program year for Project SEARCH.



Key Program Info:

- RAMP is a partner at (3) Project SEARCH sites—Mercyhealth, Rockford, Embassy Suites Rockford, and Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital DeKalb.
- Each student intern who participates in Project SEARCH has access to three internships that are supported by RAMP's onsite employment specialists, a special education teacher, and department mentors.

FY 2023 Outcome Data/Results:

- 100% of Project SEARCH graduates who are employed are working in integrated work settings —alongside people with and without disabilities. (Target is 100%)
- 100% of graduates surveyed have an increase in their comfort level when completing an application or interviewing for employment. (Target is 90%)



Systems Advocacy

RAMP advocates for the implementation of current laws, promotion of needed legislation, and improvement of existing systems for people with disabilities while working to diminish negative attitudes that threaten to impede equal access.

SUCCESS

RAMP hosted a meeting with local legislators as part of our advocacy to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities who are seeking employment services. Systemic advocacy surrounding access to employment services promotes diversity, economic growth, and a more inclusive and equitable society.

SUCCESS

RAMP led a group of advocates from the Disability, Aging, and Veteran Communities with support from State Representative Maurice West through a process to draft, advocate for and ultimately pass legislation that brings 7.5 million dollars to Centers for Independent Living to assist people who meet the definition of disability with getting home modifications so they can continue to age in place in their community.

SUCCESS

RAMP, through a partnership with DHS, was able to provide accessibility assessments and training opportunities to key transitional housing providers in Winnebago, DeKalb and Stephenson Counties with the goal of making sure that participants with disabilities have full access to services.





Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services

Through a 3-year grant funded by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), RAMP directs the coalition which includes: Adult Protective Services, Remedies Renewing Lives, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, and the Mayor's Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention. This collaboration works towards realizing their mission ***to create partner services that eliminate barriers, including stigmas and myths, that interfere with the recovery process for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Winnebago County.***

FY 2023 COALITION ACHIEVEMENTS...

The coalition's needs assessment plan, which was approved in August 2023, compiled comprehensive information about the current situation for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors, challenges to accessing services, and opportunities for improving access.

In March 2023, the Key Findings Report, which outlined ten primary areas of focus directly linked to the collaboration's objectives as determined by the Needs Assessment, received approval.

The Focus Memo, submitted in April 2023, reaffirmed the coalition's geographic and demographic focus.

From March 2023 to May 2023, the coalition participated in Immersion Training facilitated by Activating Change. This training included three access and safety modules. The knowledge gained from this training contributed to the strategic plan and will improve how key activities are implemented moving forward.

The coalition submitted its strategic plan on June 30th. This plan is comprised of four initiatives along with their corresponding key activities. Upon receiving approval, the implementation phase will begin in FY '24.

What Consumers Are Saying...

I was able to understand how to request accommodations through my advocate's personal example.

I'm just so grateful for the service that RAMP provides. Every contact with every staff person was positive. Everyone was so kind and accepting.

RAMP is a great organization, very helpful and I appreciate all that was done to help me find a job.

RAMP helped me get this apartment, and helped me with everything. I have memory problems and RAMP is always helpful. I have never had help the way RAMP has helped me. RAMP is great, thank you!

THERE HAD BEEN MANY THINGS THAT I'VE WANTED TO LEARN AND THROUGH RAMP, I WAS ABLE TO LEARN THOSE THINGS. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

RAMP's program has made positive changes in my life.

www.RAMPcil.org

DeKalb County

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Freeport IL 61032
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Winnebago & Boone Counties

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Rockford IL 61107
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