

Executive Summary
2020 Report of Vending Facility Program, RSA 15

The Vending Facility Program, authorized by the Randolph-Sheppard Act, provides persons who are blind with remunerative employment and self-support through the operation of vending facilities on federal properties. The program has expanded to also include state, county, and other locations. Under the Vending Facility Program, the Business Enterprises Program (BEP) recruits, trains, licenses, and places individuals who are blind to operate vending facilities located on federal and other properties.

The RSA 15 Report of the Vending Facility Program is used to report to the Rehabilitation Services Administration on the program each Federal Fiscal Year, October 1 to September 30. The information on the report includes: Earnings and Employment; Vending Facilities and Vendors; Vending Locations under the Interstate Highway Program; Program Expenditures by Source of Funds; Distribution and Expenditure of Program Funds from Vending Machine Income and Levied Set-Aside; Number of Sites Surveyed; Vendor Training; and State and Nominee Agency Personnel.

The BEP submitted the RSA 15 Report by the submittal deadline of December 31, 2020.

Key facts of this report:

- All reporting elements are adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A key impact was the reduction in business or closures at BEP locations.
- The BEP implemented two key actions to help offset the COVID-19 impact:
 - Waived BEP vendors from paying set-aside fees beginning in February.
 - Issued Fair Minimum Return (FMR) payments of \$2,000 to eligible BEP vendors beginning in March.
- There was an overall decrease in Gross Sales and total Expenses from prior year:
 - Gross Sales reported \$35,465,101, a decrease of \$14,861,339 from prior year.
 - Total Expenses reported \$21,397,360, a decrease of \$2,902,731 from prior year.
- The Payroll Expenses were \$15,668,295, a decrease of \$3,768,158 from prior year, which is attributable to the reduction in business or closures at BEP locations.
- The Average Vendor Earnings decreased by \$34,046 from prior year to \$58,840. The Average Vendor Earnings include the FMR payments.
- The Median of Net Vendor Earnings does not include any FMR payments and decreased by \$37,329 from prior year to \$17,626. The report does not include the FMR payments into the calculation for the median earnings.
- The RSA 15 Report reflects 74 vendors operating locations as of September 30, 2020. This decrease from 80 in the prior year is due to the retirement or passing of 9 vendors and the addition of 3 new vendors.
- The RSA Report reflects 249 sites. However, the actual number of locations is 82. A location may consist of multiple sites. The number of locations decreased by 1, from the prior year primarily due to a location becoming a satellite.