

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: June 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers
Resolution

ATTACHMENTS: Draft Resolution
House Bill 1077
Senate Bill 1427
Letter from Vocational Solutions

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Vocational Solutions of Henderson County, formerly known as SSEACO, has requested the Board of Commissioners support of two bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, requesting state funding. The funding requested is in the amount of \$1,000,000 and will assist in the production capacity expansion for community rehabilitation facilities in Western North Carolina.

This is not a request for any additional county funding, but a request to show state representatives the level of support that exists in Henderson County for projects that increase self sufficiency for adults with disabilities and the facilities that serve them.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the Resolution presented by Vocational Solutions in support of the passage of Senate Bill 1427 and House Bill 1077.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board adopt the resolution as presented by Vocational Solutions.

Resolution

Supporting S1427 and H1077 to purchase capital equipment, make facility upgrades, and offset administrative start-up costs for its Custom Medical Products Initiative (MCMP).

WHEREAS, The Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers (MARC) , celebrates thirty continuous years of providing sustainable jobs at thirteen locations, serving twenty-one western rural counties from Wilkes and Ashe in the northwest to Cherokee in the far west portion of North Carolina ,with the mission of supporting vocational rehabilitation and developmental training for adults with physical and mental disabilities or both.

WHEREAS, These member community facilities have a total workforce of 2,474 and of this workforce, 1,669 or 67% are workers with a disability. Nationally, almost 70% of individuals with disabilities remain unemployed, but within the region served by MARC, that figure drops to 45%.

WHEREAS, MARC facilities produce an annual payroll of over \$14,270,000 plus benefits that, in turn, are reinvested back into their communities. As a result, adults with severe disabilities are afforded a positive work and training environment each and every day to maintain their level of independence and self-worth as productive citizens.

WHEREAS, MARC is launching an economic development initiative, MARC Custom Medical Products (MCMP). MCMP joins nine Community Rehabilitation Programs to manufacture custom disposable surgical drapes and other devices used in medical procedures. MCMP will create or retain 250 jobs, two-thirds of which will be for people with disabilities, and generate \$5.1 MM in incremental sales within a three year developmental period.

WHEREAS, Funding partners for MCMP include: AdvantageWest, The Golden LEAF Foundation, North Carolina Department of Commerce, North Carolina Rural Center, The Janirve Foundation, along with current MARC membership. These and future funding partners will allow facilities to continue current program offerings to offset reoccurring state funding shortfalls totaling \$ 1.4 million dollars.

WHEREAS, This region-wide job creation and retention initiative will provide pillars of manufacturing in member counties; adding jobs, through community based, small business driven social enterprises, such as Vocational Solutions of Henderson County.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners supports the efforts of our regional and local community rehabilitation center, Vocational Solutions, and is in support and passage of Senate Bill 1427, and House Bill 1077 for an appropriation of \$ 1,000,000.00 to purchase capital equipment, make facility upgrades, and offset administrative start-up costs for its Custom Medical Products Initiative.

Adapted this the ____ day of _____, 2007

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk to the Board

H1077 (Filed)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

H

D

HOUSE DRH50316-LG-384A* (03/13)

Short Title: Marketing Assn. Rehab. Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Tarleton and Walend (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
FOR REHABILITATION CENTERS, INC., (MARC), A NONPROFIT
CORPORATION, TO PURCHASE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

Whereas, the Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers (MARC) provides vocational training and manufacturing jobs for almost 1,500 adults with physical or mental disabilities in 23 counties in Western North Carolina through 11 nonprofit businesses; and

Whereas, MARC has developed a Custom Medical Products initiative that will allow its members to manufacture custom disposable surgical drapes; and

Whereas, this initiative expects to create 250 new jobs, mainly for disabled workers, in some of the region's small rural communities; Now, therefore,
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to Marketing Association for Rehabilitation Centers, Inc., (MARC), a nonprofit organization serving a 23-county region of Western North Carolina, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to purchase capital equipment, make facility upgrades, and offset administrative start-up costs for its Custom Medical Products Initiative.

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE BILL 1427

Short Title: Marketing Assn. Rehab. Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Queen, Snow, Goss; and Nesbitt.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 26, 2007

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
FOR REHABILITATION CENTERS, INC., (MARC), A NONPROFIT
CORPORATION, TO PURCHASE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND FOR
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SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.



Vocational Solutions
2110 Spartanburg Highway
East Flat Rock, NC 28726
Ph: (828) 692-9626
Fax: (828) 692-6617
www.vocsol.com

May 10, 2007

Mr. Bill Moyer, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners
100 N. King Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Mr. ^{Bill}Moyer,

Vocational Solutions of Henderson County, formerly known as SSEACO, is located on Spartanburg Highway in East Flat Rock. The organization has provided training and employment for adults with disabilities for forty years. It is a member of MARC, the Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers. MARC is made up of community rehabilitation facilities in Western North Carolina and was formed to assist each other in developing business enterprises, operated by and for adults with disabilities, with the ultimate future goal of making them financially viable without public funding.

A new venture currently in process which will help achieve this goal is the MARC Custom Medical Products project. These customized medical products have made the Haywood Vocational Opportunities facility, located in Waynesville, very financially independent. The market for these products has grown beyond their manufacturing capacities. As a result, many other community rehabilitation centers, such as Vocational Solutions, will be able to benefit from this strong demand for custom medical products.

Currently, there are two bills, one for the House and one for the Senate requesting state funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 to assist in the production capacity expansion among MARC member facilities. These bills have strong support from our local representatives and from others in WNC. To assist our representatives in gathering support from around the state, the board and management of Vocational Solutions of Henderson County request that the Henderson County Commissioners adopt a resolution in support of this project. This is not a request for additional county funding. We need to show our state representatives the level of support that exists in Henderson County for projects that increase self sufficiency for adults with disabilities and facilities that serve them.

Attached you will find copies of both bills and a draft resolution. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Hicks".

Terry Hicks
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vocational Solutions

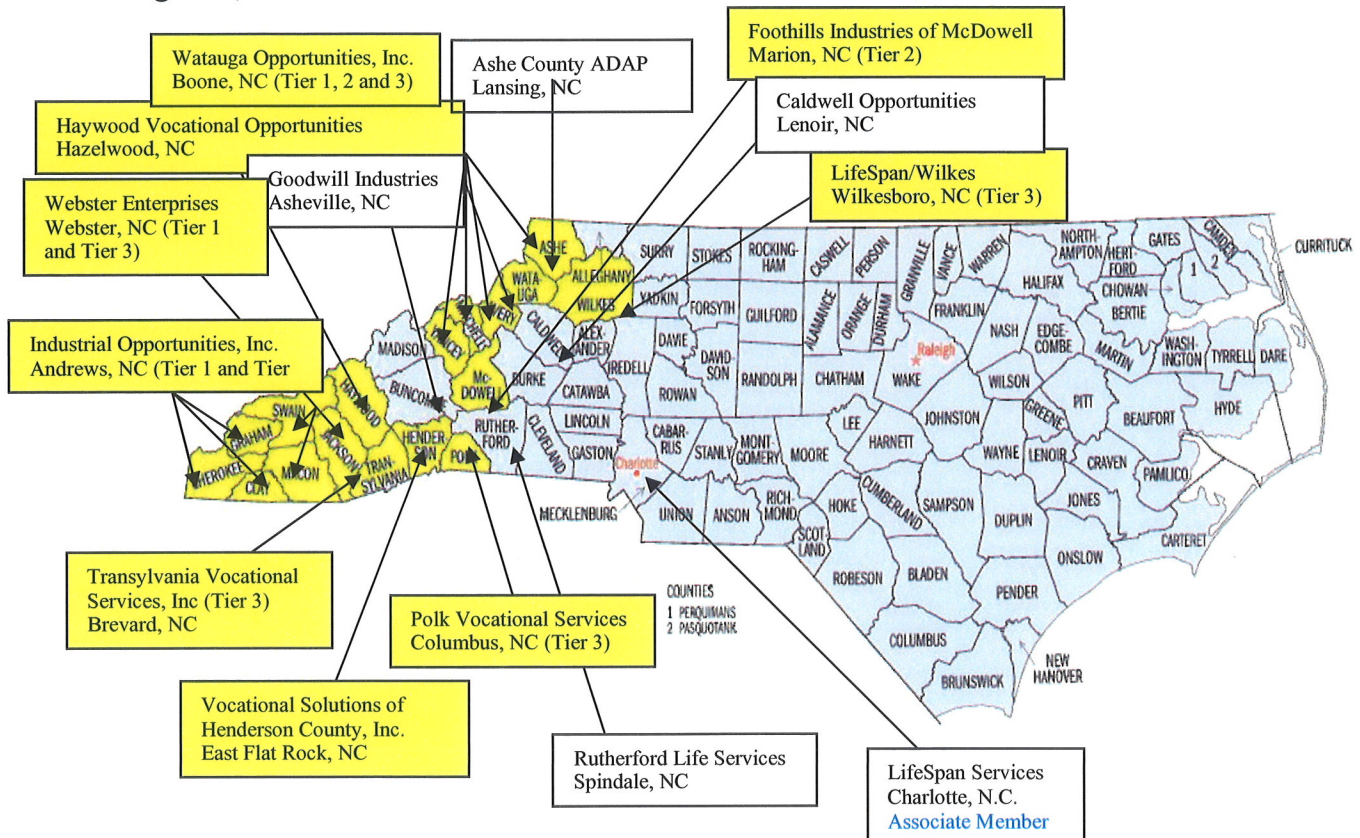
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe White".

Joe White
President, Vocational Solutions

cc: Charlie Messer
Larry Young
Mark Williams
Chuck McGrady

MARC Footprint in North Carolina

The MCMP Program is comprised of nine members supporting 17 counties, shown in Figure 1, below.



Counties colored yellow indicate MARC Custom Medical Products Partners
Source: North Carolina base map, U.S. Census Bureau, 2004.

Figure 1: Location and Names of MARC Members.