

# **Vocational Opportunities for People with Disabilities**

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) is a State-Federal partnership. The purpose of VRS is to assist eligible individuals with disabilities to obtain gainful employment. This program is administered by the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services, as part of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

## **The Vocational Rehabilitation Process**

A Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) Counselor will help with identifying a vocational goal and the services needed to achieve that goal. Working as a partner with the VRS Counselor, you may:

- Complete an application for services
- Participate in an assessment of your disability and its impact on your employability
- If eligible, develop an Individualized Plan for Employment
- Receive services identified in your plan
- Achieve your vocational goal of successful employment

## **Applying for Vocational Rehabilitation**

You have the right to an assessment of your eligibility for VR services. A VRS counselor will be assigned to assist you. Please visit the website [www.VRS.IN.gov](http://www.VRS.IN.gov) or call 1-800-545-7763 for the location nearest you. Once your application is complete, existing information such as medical records, school transcripts, work history, military records or social security information may be used to help establish your eligibility and to help plan your rehabilitation. If there is not enough information available, you may be asked to attend additional evaluations at no cost to you.

## **Who is Eligible?**

Eligible individuals must have a physical or mental impairment which creates a substantial impediment to employment and must require VR services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. There must also be a reasonable expectation that you will be able to benefit from VR services in terms of an employment outcome.

## **Services that May Be Provided**

- Evaluations to determine eligibility and services necessary to achieve the vocational goal
- School-to-work transition planning
- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Physical and mental restoration services necessary to become employed
- Rehabilitation Technology services and devices
- On-the-job training or other training to improve job skills, including assistance with post-secondary training
- Reimbursement for additional basic living and/or transportation costs resulting from program participation

- Supported employment services
- Assistance with obtaining equipment and/or licenses for a job
- Job placement and follow-up on the job to assure success
- Post-employment services

### **Who Pays for Vocational Rehabilitation Services?**

VRS program funds can be spent only for the services absolutely necessary for you to be successfully employed. Services obtainable from other agencies will be used before VRS funds are used to pay for services. It will be necessary to apply for other programs that may pay the cost of a service.

### **Transition from School to Work**

VRS helps eligible high school students prepare for work after high school. School counselors will help identify students with disabilities who may qualify for VRS services. Students and/or parents will receive written information about VRS. Before the last year of school the VRS Counselor will discuss the VR program with the student and parents.

### **Supported Employment**

VRS places those with the most significant disabilities in competitive jobs or jobs leading to competitive work. Qualified job coaches provide training at the job site, and follow-up services are provided to help the individual maintain employment.

### **For More Information**

For More Information about Vocational Rehabilitation Services and to find the VRS office nearest you, call 1-800-545-7763, or visit the website at [www.VRS.IN.gov](http://www.VRS.IN.gov).



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