



## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) SERVICES

### What are VR Services?

Any services to help someone prepare for, get, keep, advance, or regain an employment outcome or result. This includes all necessary services to equip that person for employment.

- Severity of disability or cost of services cannot limit services the eligible individual receives.
- Available services are incredibly broad and varied.

### Required Service Options

There are required services available through Vocational Rehabilitation. These are:

- Assessment(s) to determine eligibility and needs
- Counseling, guidance, and job placement services
- Referrals to the services of WIA providers, if appropriate
- Vocational and other training, including higher education and the purchase of tools, materials, and books
- Diagnosis and treatment of physical or mental impairments to reduce or eliminate impediments to employment, to the extent that support is not available from other sources
- Maintenance for additional costs incurred during rehabilitation
- Personal assistance services while receiving VR services
- Transportation including adequate training in use of public transportation vehicles and systems, provided in connection with the provision of any other service described in this section and needed by the individual to achieve an employment outcome
- Transportation may include vehicle purchase
- Interpreter services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Readers, rehabilitation teaching, and orientation/mobility services for individuals who are blind or have vision loss
- Occupational licenses, tools, equipment, initial stocks, and supplies
- Technical assistance for those who are pursuing telecommuting, self-employment, or small business operation
- Rehabilitation or assistive technology including vehicular modification, telecommunications, sensory, and other technological aids, and devices
- Transition services for students with disabilities to facilitate the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the IPE
- Supported employment

**Please contact Protection & Advocacy for an alternative format of this handout.**

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- Services to the family to assist an individual with a disability to achieve an employment outcome
- Other goods or services necessary to achieve employment outcome
- Post-employment services to help retain, regain, or advance in employment
- Not intended to be complex or comprehensive

### **VR Services Policies**

States must develop Vocational Rehabilitation policies. Policies must:

- Ensure services are provided based on each person's individual needs
- Not place any arbitrary limits on the nature and scope of VR services to be provided to achieve an employment outcome
- Have reasonable time periods to provide services, but time periods may not be so short as to effectively deny a service and must permit exceptions so individual needs can be addressed

Payment rates must not be so low as to effectively deny a necessary service and may not be absolute.

### **Advanced Training**

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 encourage individuals who are interested and able "to pursue advanced training in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics...including computer science, medicine, law or business". Suggested careers are "not limited to" the above options.

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