



## **DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DRS)**

### **Illinois Vocational Rehabilitation Agency**

- PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT TRAINING & PLACEMENT SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO HELP THEM TRAIN FOR CAREERS OF THEIR INTERESTS, SKILLS, ABILITIES, & INFORMED CHOICE
- PROVIDES ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION SERVICES TO HELP GUIDE THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROCESS
- HELP JOB SEEKERS OF ALL AGES WHO HAVE DISABILITIES THAT KEEP THEM FROM FINDING & KEEPING QUALITY JOBS
- PROVIDE PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES TO ALL ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR & SENIORS TO PREPARE THEM FOR EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS
- WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE SUPPORTED COMMUNITY COLLEGES & STATE UNIVERSITIES BY SUPPORTING SPONSORED STUDENTS TO COMPLETE TRAINING & DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE THEM FOR EMPLOYMENT

PARTICIPANTS WORK WITH THEIR VR COUNSELORS TO DEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICE PLANS THAT LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT. SERVICES MAY INCLUDE:

- VOCATIONAL COUNSELING & GUIDANCE
- VOCATIONAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & OTHER SUPPORTS TO ATTEND TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & OTHER SUPPORTS TO ATTEND ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS @ STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
- DIRECT JOB PLACEMENT & FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT SERVICES

**To find the DRS office that services your county, please visit [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us), and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the DHS office locator. You may also go online at [www.dhs.state.il](http://www.dhs.state.il) to apply.**

*If you qualify, we can start today helping you to find employment or to start a certification or academic training program to prepare for your career! DRS services are for those qualifying job seekers with disabilities who need assistance to become successfully employed. Contact us today!*

## Vocational Rehabilitation Program Fact Sheet

### What We Do

The DRS Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) helps prepare talented, qualified job seekers with disabilities for their chosen careers. Each year our professional rehabilitation counselors provide VR services to over 40,000 individuals with disabilities, with around 5,000 becoming employed.

### Services We Provide

Services in the VR program are based on the needs of the individual and are provided in accordance with an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Some of the typical services provided by VR include:

- **Job Placement** - VR counselors work with customers to identify job opportunities in the community, develop a resume and prepare for interviews.
- **College and University Training** - VR assists many customers in pursuing a degree at a community college or at a university, based on the needs and abilities of the individual. Each year DRS assists about 2,500 individuals in attending college training.
- **Treatment and Restoration Services** - VR funds may be used to purchase medical, surgical, or psychological services, as well as other therapeutic services, to help customers achieve greater functioning and reduce barriers to employment.
- **On-the-Job Training and Evaluations** - Many VR customers receive on-the-job training and evaluation services arranged by VR counselors in conjunction with local employers. These services provide an opportunity to demonstrate job skills and learn the requirements of a specific job.
- **Supported Employment** - The supported employment program provides a variety of intensive supports, such as job coaching, to individuals requiring a high level of support, preparation and on-the-job assistance.
- **Assistive Technology** - Many people with disabilities utilize a variety of technological devices to function in the world of work and increase their employment potential. The VR program can assist customers with evaluation services and purchase of technology equipment that will meet their individual needs.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Must have a physical or mental impairment that presents an impediment to employment
- Must have serious limitations in at least one area of functioning, such as mobility, communication, work skills or interpersonal skills.
- Must be in need of VR services in order to become employed.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident entitled to work in the U.S.

### Financial Requirements

Some VR services are subject to a customer financial participation review. Depending on household income, customers may be required to pay for a portion of the cost of VR services.

### How to Apply for VR Services

There are several ways to apply for vocational rehabilitation:

Call us at 1-877-761-9780 Voice, (312) 957-4881 Videophone or 1-866-264-2149 TTY

Apply online at [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us) and click on "Rehabilitation Services – Apply Online"

Access our office locator to find an office near you at [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us)