

Frequently Asked Questions about...

State of Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program

Vocational Rehabilitation

Who is Vocational Rehabilitation Services for?

Vocational Rehabilitation Services is for people with significant disabilities who want to get or keep a job. Most people who get SSI or SSDI benefits and want to work are eligible.

A staff person will talk to you about the world of work and help you decide if you want to apply for services. We also have information about other programs that may be able to meet your needs. We strive to help people to work full time in the regular labor market earning the same wages and benefits as anyone else.

How do I find out if I can get services?

Qualifying for services is a three step process. In the first step, we consider whether you have a physical or mental condition that makes it difficult to prepare for, secure, retain, advance in, or regain competitive integrated employment. Existing reports from your doctor or mental health provider can assist us in documenting a disability. If you don't have a report or other information to send with your application, Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff can get it for you. In the second step, you and your counselor will determine if other services at the WorkForce Center, or from other agencies, can help you reach your vocational goal, or if you require the specialized services of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Sometimes there are so many eligible people asking for services, they can't all be served. When that happens, Vocational Rehabilitation Services must serve persons with the most serious work limitations first. In the third step, the seriousness of limitations caused by your disability is determined. You and a counselor will talk about any limitations you have in -

- Getting from one place to another
- Talking and listening to others
- Taking care of yourself
- Making plans or carrying out plans
- Getting along with people
- Your work strength
- Your work skills

How long does it take to find out if I can get services?

After you apply, your Vocational Rehabilitation Services counselor will tell you in 60 days or less. If more time is needed, your counselor will let you know and ask if it's okay to take longer.

What can Vocational Rehabilitation Services do for me?

You and your counselor will develop a plan to help you find or keep a job based on your capacity, skills, strengths and/or limitations, and choices. There are many vocational rehabilitation services. You and your counselor choose the services that fit your needs.

For more information contact:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

In the Bemidji Area

616 America Ave NW Ste 240
Bemidji, MN 56601-3848

218.333.8209 V
800.657.3958

In Greater Minnesota

800-328-9095

Or contact the Minnesota Workforce Center near you.

1-888-GET-JOBS (1-888-438-5627)

mn.gov/deed/vrs

Examples of services are:

- Counseling
- Training and education
- Services for keeping a job
- Job placement
- Equipment / Assistive Technology

Counseling: Vocational Rehabilitation Services counseling helps people make choices about their jobs and careers. You and your counselor will work together to develop a plan that both of you agree will lead to employment.

If you aren't sure what kind of work you want to do, you will talk about what you are good at, your interests and how to get the information you need to make good choices. You and your Vocational Rehabilitation Services counselor will talk about what you need at work to be successful.

After your plan is approved, Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff will meet with you from time to time – to talk about your progress, to be sure your plan is still working for you, and to talk about employment related issues important for your success.

Training and Education: If you need new work skills, you may need training either on-the-job or at a school. If you don't know the exact training you need, a Vocational Rehabilitation Services counselor can help you find it.

Services for keeping a job: Starting a new job is a big step. Getting along with co-workers and supervisors is just as important as the job duties themselves. Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff can talk to you about any problems that come up, especially in the first few months.

Job Placement: If you need information about planning a job search, finding job leads, or talking to employers, Vocational Rehabilitation Services job placement services can help.

Equipment / Assistive Technology: Modifying a work station, getting the right equipment or assistive technology, or changing your hours of work can make a difference when you go to school, look for work, or do your job. Vocational Rehabilitation Services counselors are experts at finding solutions. Equipment and assistive technology are often an important part of services.

How much does Vocational Rehabilitation Services cost?

There is no charge for counseling, job placement, and several other vocational rehabilitation services. For some purchased services a sliding fee schedule, based on family income, may apply. You will be asked to pay part of the cost if you can afford to.

Do I have choices?

Yes. Using Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the best information available, you are supported in making informed choices about your goal, your services and who provides them. If you want to develop a plan on your own, or with the help of someone you choose, you can do that too. Your plan must be right for you.

Does my plan have to be approved?

Yes. In order for Vocational Rehabilitation Services funds to be spent, your counselor must determine:

- If it's reasonable to believe that your plan will lead to a job,
- If the services in your plan are those needed to reach your goal, and
- If the plan is complete.

How long do services last?

In general, services continue as long as you are making satisfactory progress toward the job goal in your written plan. After you are employed, Vocational Rehabilitation Services will provide follow-up services for at least 90 days before closing your case. If you need services later, your Vocational Rehabilitation Services case can be re-opened.