

Department of Rehabilitative Services

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Leesburg Field Office

Background of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Several federal laws shaped the definition of vocational rehabilitation through the early 1900s.
- Began as a way to assist those with physical disability to re-enter the workforce
- Later broadened to include those with mental illness or intellectual disabilities and increased the services that VR was able to authorize

Vocational Rehabilitation

- Is a federally mandated, state run program
- Vocational Rehabilitation programs are in all 50 states to assist persons with disabilities to find and maintain employment
- Virginia has 36 field offices across the state
- The Leesburg DRS office has 4 Counselors (2 transition and 2 adult), a Placement Counselor, Program Support Tech. We also have a Vocational Evaluator and a manager that covers Winchester in addition to Leesburg.

Department of Rehabilitative Services Mission Statement

In partnership with people with disabilities and their families, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services collaborates with the public and private sectors to provide and advocate for the highest quality services that empower individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence and full inclusion into society.

Eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation

- You have a physical, mental, or emotional disability; and
- This disability is keeping you from working; and
- You want to work and you think DRS services can help you, and
- You are in Virginia (living, working, or moving here), and
- DRS certifies that there is a good chance that DRS vocational rehabilitation services will result in your employment.

Order of Selection

- When, due to limited resources, all eligible VR consumers cannot be served, the law requires that the VR program provide services to persons based upon priority categories
- As of March 1, 2011, all of our priority categories are closed, and any person applying for services after this date is placed on a waitlist for services

Referrals for DRS Services

- Receive referrals from Transition Teachers, case managers, adult agencies, etc.
- Recommend referral to DRS about 3 years from high school graduation or exit (but can take referrals at anytime)
- We also have adult counselors who work with anyone who has left/graduated from high school, who receive referrals from multiple places, including mental health, doctors, worker's comp lawyers, etc.

DRS Transition Services

- Transition services assist students in the movement from school to the world of work and adult life. The Department of Rehabilitative Services works together with students, families, schools and community agencies to provide services to support a successful transition from school to work

Collaboration with Schools and Adult Agencies

- DRS collaborates with transition planning with the assistance of the school staff, parents, and other adult agencies (if appropriate) to create a plan for after they leave school.
- Create an Individualized Plan for Employment with the student to determine their employment goal, and what services they need to reach it. Services and goals are tailored to each person and his/her employment goal
- DRS services are coordinated while still in school and continue after they leave school
- DRS Transition Counselors aim to be in each high school about once a month to follow up with students and to assist with career counseling and establishing plan for after graduation
- DRS can attend IEP meetings to discuss transition plans

DRS No-Cost Services

- Guidance and counseling
- Evaluations
 - Vocational evaluations (locally through DRS vocational evaluator or through WWRC)
 - Assistive Technology evaluations
 - Driving evaluations
 - Rehabilitation Engineering consultations
- Career counseling
- Job placement and search assistance
- Follow along services to help maintain employment

Cost Services to Assist with Employment Outcomes

- Training
 - Job coaching/supported employment
 - Vocational Training
 - Woodrow Wilson Center for Employment
- Assistive Technology (PDAs, hearing aids, etc.)
- Modifications to vehicles, homes, and worksites
- And other services needed by the individual

Financial Participation

- DRS has the potential to pay for cost services with active consumers, if the person requires cost services to obtain their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) goal
- Examples of how we can verify your participation
 - SSI or TANF recipient award letter
 - Qualify for our financial eligibility based upon income through previous tax year
 - Your counselor will work with you to determine your participation and what documentation will be needed

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center

- Provides vocational training and medical intervention to assist person with disabilities to obtain employment and to live more independently
- Vocational evaluations
- DOL certified training and WWRC supervised apprenticeships with employers
 - Life Skills Training Program
 - Trades and occupations (nursing, food service, etc)
- Provides medical rehabilitation
 - Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy
 - Augmentative Communication Evaluations and Services
 - Driving evaluations
 - Van modification evaluations

PERT

Post-Secondary Education

Rehabilitation and Transition

- 10 day vocational and life skills evaluation/training at WWRC for students still in high school
- Choose 3-4 areas of interest to try (such as auto mechanic, child care, cosmetology, business, etc.)
- Report includes checklist of areas of strengths, and areas to improve in both vocational, residential, and life skills areas
- Referrals are made through the Transition Teacher at the consumer's high school, but must be active and eligible consumers with DRS to attend

Who to Contact?

- Heather Potts
 - Tuscarora HS, Briar Woods HS, Freedom HS, Potomac Falls HS, Dominion HS, and Park View HS
 - Phillips Programs (Leary School), Grafton, and Alternative Paths,

Heather.potts@drs.virginia.gov

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Who to Contact?

- Nichole Sanchez
 - Woodgrove HS, Loudoun Valley HS, Loudoun County HS, Heritage HS, Stone Bridge HS, and Broad Run HS
 - Graydon Manor, Douglass, Oak Valley, and INOVA Keller

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General Contact Information

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Questions??