

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. The LaSalle Field Office serves individuals who reside in LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties.

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

The best way to contact us regarding VR services are:

Call us at 815/224-1314

Apply online at www.dhs.state.il.us