



VOCATIONAL --- REHABILITATION

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Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services

What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

- The Vocational Rehabilitation program helps people with disabilities prepare for, enter, engage in, or advance in competitive employment
- The program also helps businesses and employers recruit, retain and accommodate employees with disabilities.

VR Customers

- Adults with disabilities:
- Youth and students with disabilities
- Businesses and employers

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Purpose: To help people with disabilities go to work and keep jobs.

- Services are individualized and provided when they are reasonable and necessary to help someone go to work or obtain skills needed for a vocational goal- can include social independent living skills.
- Transition services are VR services for students who are in high school. We work alongside the schools to help support and enhance the services they already provide in order to better prepare the student for life beyond high school.
- WIOA puts a much greater focus on services to transitioning students.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- VR is eligibility-based.
- Income is not a factor in eligibility, but may be considered as part of the cost of certain services.
- Once a person has completed the application for services, we have 60 days to determine eligibility.
- We are not an emergency services provider.
- Our services are not intended to be long-term, but there is no cut off. If we know a person will need supports at work long term, we will work with them to make sure they are arranged.

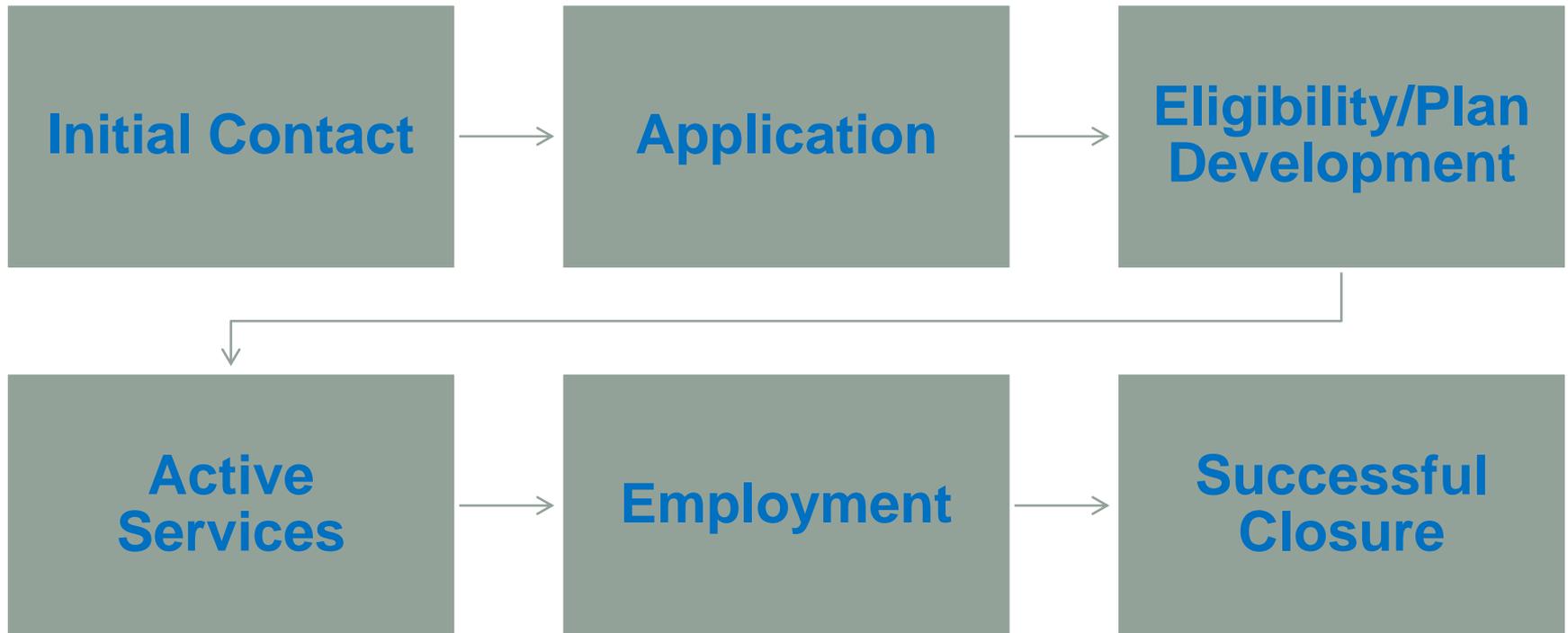
Eligibility-4 Criterion

- The Individual must have a disability (physical, mental or sensory)
- The disability has to result in a substantial impediment to employment
- The individual must require VR services to prepare for, enter, engage in ,or advance in competitive employment
- The individual must be presumed eligible to achieve a competitive employment

VR Updates

- Beginning Sept. 1, 2016, the state agency known as the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) was dissolved and several of its programs were transferred to the Texas Workforce Commission.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation is now referred to as Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS)
- For State FY18, 1,162 total consumers served
3,368 successfully closed
- 97% significant disabilities (disabilities that affect 3 or more major life functions).

VR Process



What kind of services are available through VR?

- Each service, whether purchased, provided or arranged, must be tied to the agreed upon Vocational goal
- Services may be provided directly by your VR counselor, coordinated with other services, or purchased by the VR agency on your behalf
- Many of the services cannot be purchased until an IPE has been developed.

What kind of services are available ?

- The following are some examples VR services that can be sponsored, when appropriate for an individual:
 1. Vocational counseling and Guidance
 2. Job placement assistance and job readiness training
 3. College or vocational training
 4. Supported employment services
 5. Skills training, On the Job Training
 6. Job coaching or tutoring
 7. Transportation
 8. Interpreter/translator services
 9. Assistive and rehabilitation technology (hearing aids, DME, Van modifications)
 10. Referral services

Will I have to PAY for VR services?

- There is no cost to apply for VR services and to find out if you are eligible for the VR program.
- Depending upon your financial resources, you may be asked to help contribute to the cost of certain services.
- For a consumer under 18 still being claimed on their parents income, the parents financial information will need to be obtained.

*SSI/SSDI

What are community rehabilitation providers?

- Vocational rehabilitation agencies frequently purchase services from community rehabilitation providers (CRPs)

Services purchased from a CRP could include:

- Vocational assessments
 - Job placement services
 - Job coaching
 - Work adjustment training
 - Personal social adjustment training
 - Vocational adjustment training
 - Supported employment services
 - Post acute brain injury services
- *Team approach: CRP, DARS, consumer and their family

How do you partner with the Schools?

- The goal of transition services is to identify and begin working with students before they graduate so there isn't a delay in supports once they leave school.
- School assists with referring students and sharing information about the VR program.
- We can start taking applications on individuals, when appropriate, as young as 14 (must be in High School)
- Counselors are assigned to the High Schools and work closely with the Special Education Department and 504 team.
- Counselors can take applications and conduct meetings on site at the School
- Notifying TWS-VRC of future ARD meetings
- Assistance with obtaining School records and IEP's

How does VR partner with local agencies and the community?

- Counselors are tasked with sharing information regarding local resources and programs
- Team approach: We will partner up with other case managers, counselors and programs that are already assisting the consumer.
- Many offices invite local agencies to their in house “resource day” in order for staff to be educated on new programs available in the community.

How does VR partner with local employers?

- TWS-VRS has current initiatives and partnerships with local employers
- Each VR Region has a Business Relations Coordinator(BRC), to serve as a consultant to businesses to promote and develop business relationships that result in the employment of people with disabilities
- TWS-VRS and the employer: On the Job Training Programs

Myths about VR

That VR services can provide:

- A scholarship
- Emergency services
- Long Term on-going supports
- Medical Insurance

Vocational Rehabilitation-Successful Case Closure

- The individual has been able to achieve the employment outcome that was described on the IPE
- The job is consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests and informed choice.
- The individual has been employed in the job for at least 90 days.
- No additional services are necessary and the consumer and employer are satisfied with the outcome.
- *Post Employment Services

WIOA & VR

Congressional finding is added ...



Congress finds that many students with disabilities are leaving secondary school without competitive integrated employment or being enrolled in postsecondary education, and there is a need to support such students as they transition from school to postsecondary life.

There is more emphasis on Transition and youth services throughout. In particular, there is emphasis on transition to post-secondary life, not just to employment or postsecondary education.

WIOA Requirements:

WIOA requires that we spend:

- 15% of our VR allotment on Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities.
- 50% of our Supported Employment grant on youth with disabilities.

This is not new money, it's just an assigned portion of what we previously received.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Job Exploration Counseling, which may include Work Strategy Assessments, Academic Assessments and Vocational Counseling and Guidance.

Work-Based Learning Experiences, which may include exposure to work in real work settings, such as internships or apprenticeships.

Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities, which may include Vocational Counseling and Guidance and Academic Assessments.

Workplace Readiness Training for the development of social skills and independent living skills. This may include Job Readiness Training and Life Skills Training.

Training on Self-Advocacy, which may also include Peer Mentoring, Self-Determination Training and Life Skills Training.

How WIOA Impacts the way we work with transition consumers

1. We will work with students earlier.

- Referrals can be taken on any student, 14-22 years old.
- Referral should be based on individual need, not age alone.
- Referrals earlier in the year support the counselors in meeting the students' needs and giving them time to work through the process.
- Communicate with your counselor when in doubt about the appropriateness of referral.

2. We will be looking to collaborate more with schools.

- Nothing in WIOA diminishes the school's responsibility under IDEA, but we will be looking for opportunities to support and enhance the services you provide for students.
 - Example: a specialized camp over the summer to give the student an opportunity to build needed skills.
 - Example: The school is already providing social skills training, and Vocational Rehabilitation continues to help the consumer build those skills with added self-advocacy training, through counseling and guidance with the VR counselor or a training through a contracted provider.

Aspects of Transition that have not changed:

Any service we would provide to an adult can be provided to consumers meeting the student with a disability definition (when reasonable and necessary to reach their employment goal).

Aspects of Transition that have not changed (cont.):

The Schools' responsibility under the law.

- The schools are charged with providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
- To provide FAPE to a child with a disability, schools must provide students with an education, including specialized instruction and related services, that prepares the child for further education, employment, and independent living

What is the parents/families role?

- When an applicant and DARS consumer is under 18, a parent or guardians signature is required on the DARS application
- For those under 18, the parent, guardian or assigned representative will be an active member of the team
- To assist with sharing ideas, gathering information
- Allowing the consumer to voice their interests and goals
- Assist in the discussion of appropriate and attainable goals and services needed.

Special Population Groups

- Deaf/HOH
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Veterans
- Transition aged

Services in detail

- Work Experiences
- ASD Supports
- Environmental Work Assessment
- ABA-Social Skills services and/or Behavior Intervention
- Job Placement Services
- Job coaching services
- Summer opportunities(camps, workshops, etc)

How do I access VR services?

- 4 offices specifically located in San Antonio
 - South Field Office
 - 1011 Ada Street
 - 927-8300
 - West Field Office
 - 5309 Wurzbach Road
 - 522-8010
 - NorthEast Field Office
 - 10303 Nacogdoches Road
 - 590-5740
 - North Field Office
 - 12000 Network Blvd
 - 561-8600
- Ask for Counselor of the Day

Contact Information

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