



Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Fact Sheet for Tennessee's Parents

What are VR Services?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services help people with disabilities to prepare for employment, get a job, and/or keep a job. In Tennessee, VR services are offered through the **Tennessee's Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program**. This program is funded through the federal Rehabilitation Act under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

What can VR Help With?

Vocational Evaluations: Assessing abilities, interests, job-seeking skills, independent living skills, learning style, physical ability, etc.

Career Exploration: Learning about occupations to see whether they fit with the individual's preferences, skills, interests, and abilities.

Job Training: Gaining the knowledge and skills needed to perform the job desired. It can include education, on-the-job training, and more.

Job Placement: Working to help the individual with a disability find a job and be hired into that job.

Life/Independent Living Skills Training: Gaining skills needed to become self-sufficient and live independently.

Job Coaching: Providing one-on-one assistance to help individuals who need extra support learn their job and maintain employment.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) may be the first service a student might receive from VR.**
- A student may also decide to apply for **vocational rehabilitation services (VR)** with Tennessee's VR Program to receive more services than Pre-ETS provides.
- **Pre-ETS are free services.**



Contact your PTI
TNSTEP
800-208-STEP
800-975-2919 (Español)
www.tnstep.info
gethelp@tnstep.info



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Frequently Asked Questions by People Seeking VR Services

Does everyone with a disability who applies for VR services, get those services?

No. The VR program is an eligibility program. To receive VR services, an individual must have a physical, emotional, or mental disability that keeps them from getting or keeping a job. They must also want to work. The VR agency must also decide that there is a good chance that VR services will help the individual get and keep a job. The individual is informed in writing about the decision.

If I am eligible, how can VR help me find a job? VR services can help in the job hunt. This includes things like sending you to an education or training program, finding job leads, helping fill out job applications and writing a resume, and practicing for interviews. They can help set up job interviews too. You also have to play your part and carry out your responsibilities.

Can VR help me deal with disability issues at work? Yes. VR can help with things like settling into a new job and lifestyle, dealing with problems that may cause a job to be lost, what to say about the disability to co-workers or supervisor, talking with your supervisor about accommodations or modifications you need due to your disability and in some cases providing on-the-job support.

What services will I get? The services you receive will depend on what you and your counselor agree on in writing through your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Your IPE can be changed as needed.

Can I get VR Services if I am already working? Yes. For example, if your disability is causing problems at work, it is getting worse, and you can no longer do your current job, VR Services can help. You may also be able to use VR Services to help you advance in employment.

Are VR services free? Some services such as counseling and guidance are free. Other services are based on your ability to pay. Your VR counselor may also help you find other funding sources. For example, if you are attending college as part of your VR program, you will be required to apply for federal financial aid.

How Can My Child Apply for Services?

You can call the regional VR office and make an appointment. If your child is 18, they will need to contact the office themselves unless you have legal decision-making authority (Power of Attorney or Guardianship).

At that appointment, the individual will be asked for the information needed to decide eligibility. VR may suggest (at no cost to you) vocational testing and other assessments to provide more information.

If eligible, the VR counselor will develop your child's IPE (Individualized Plan for Employment)

Tennessee's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program

1-833-772-TDHS (8347)
www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/vocational-rehabilitation.html

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