

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FAQs (DVR and DVI)

Q. Where can people with disabilities go to find help preparing for, finding, or keeping a job?

A. People with disabilities may contact either the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Division for the Visually Impaired for help with employment. The Division for the Visually Impaired assists people with significant vision loss or blindness while the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation assists all other individuals with physical, emotional, learning, or other disabilities.

Q. How does someone obtain vocational rehabilitation services?

A. Vocational rehabilitation is an eligibility-based program. To receive services, a person must have a disability that keeps them from working and must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in preparing for, finding or keeping a job.

Q. What kind of vocational rehabilitation services might I receive?

A. Vocational rehabilitation services are based on the specific needs of each individual. A plan for employment is developed. Services may include such things as training, assistive technology, counseling and guidance, and job placement assistance.

Q. What should I bring with me to my first vocational rehabilitation appointment?

There are several things that you might have that will make the vocational rehabilitation process move more quickly. Not everyone has this type of information available, but if you do, please bring the following:

- Information that shows that you have a disability
- Information that shows how your disability interferes with finding or keeping a job
- Names and contact information for the doctors
- If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), something that shows that you are receiving either or both of these benefits
- Information, such as names and dates, about schools you have attended or past work you have done

Q. I have heard that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has a waiting list. What does that mean, and should I apply?

A. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation serves individuals according to what is known as the Order of Selection. Under the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's current Order of Selection, people with the most barriers to employment receive services immediately while those with fewer barriers may need to wait for services. If you are put on the waiting list, you will come off the list based on the date you completed the application process, so it is better for you to apply sooner rather than postponing your application.

The Division for the Visually Impaired is not currently under an Order of Selection and does not have a waiting list.

Q. Does the Division for the Visually Impaired provide additional services beyond vocational rehabilitation?

A. The Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) provides a holistic integrated service approach from birth to death for Delawareans who are blind or visually impaired.

Q. What types of services does the Division for the Visually Impaired provide?

A.

Education: Certified Teachers for the Visually Impaired provide support and in-home instruction to families who have just learned that their child has a visual impairment. Direct instruction and consultation services are provided to families, and to the school districts in Delaware.

Independent Living Services (ILS): Certified Vision Therapist conduct in home assessments to identify and train individuals on adaptive techniques and devices that can help individuals with severe vision loss to maintain an independent lifestyle.

Vocational rehabilitation (VR): VR Counselors work with individuals with severe vision loss to assist them to overcome their specific barriers to employment through assessment, counseling and guidance, and training to acquire adjustment, educational, and vocational skills. Job Placement Services assist with locating appropriate job leads in line with employment interests.

Orientation and Mobility: Certified Orientation & Mobility Instructors provide one-on-one cane skills instruction for individuals with severe vision loss that enables them to travel safely and independently within their chosen environments.

Technology Services: Trainer Educators provide training and evaluations for high and low tech assistive technology such as computer screen magnification, speech software, Braille note taker devices, video magnifiers, and Optical Character Recognition text readers.

Q. Is there a cost for these DVI services?

Assessments, evaluations and training are provided at no cost.

Q. How do I apply for DVI services?

To make application for DVI services contact our Central Intake Coordinator at 302 255 9848.