Vocational Rehabilitation Services Overview

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Mission of DDS

To provide innovative, high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces, and communities in every neighborhood in the District of Columbia.
What are VR Services?

Persons with disabilities face some challenges in today’s modern workplace. Vocational Rehabilitation Services assist individuals with disabilities that present as barriers to employment gain and maintain competitive integrated employment.
Benefits of VR Services

- Person-centered assistance with identifying one’s employment/career goal through informed choice
- Specialized assistance with helping one realize his or her employment/career goal through guidance and counseling
- Support with helping one maintain such employment/career
Examples of RSA Services

- Counseling and Guidance
- Orientation and Mobility
- Physical and Mental Restoration
- Job Placement
- Supported Employment
- Financial support for postsecondary education and/or training*
- Provision of Assistive Technology
- Benefits Counseling
- Post-Employment Service (PES)
VR Process

First
• Complete a referral and submit it to the RSA Intake Team at 202-442-8400 or RSA.Intake@dc.gov

Second
• An Intake Staff Member will call you within two business days with your scheduled appointment for an Intake.

Third
• Go to your scheduled appointment and sign / complete all Intake Documents with your assigned worker.

Fourth
• Within two business days of your Intake Appointment, your VR Counselor will be assigned and you will work to complete eligibility with your counselor within 60 days.

Fifth
• After you are determined eligible for services, you will work with your counselor to develop your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) within 90 days.
Client’s Role in the Vocational Rehabilitation Process

- Provide or work with his or her VR counselor with all necessary documentation to advance through the VR process.
- Be an active participant in his or her VR case.
- Keep all scheduled appointments with his or her VR counselor, and be sure to call in a timely manner to reschedule, in the event an appointment cannot be kept.
- Keep in touch with his or her VR counselor.
- Follow the plan outlined in his or her Individualized Plan for Employment.
- Get to work!
- Remain in contact with his or her VR counselor until successful exit from RSA.
Pre-Employment Transition Services

Job Exploration Counseling

Work-Based Learning Experiences

Counseling on Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Postsecondary Educational / Training

Workplace Readiness Training

Instruction in Self-Advocacy, including Peer Mentoring
Work-based Learning Experiences

- WDC Program @ RTEC
- Project SEARCH Program
- CVS Externship Program
- DCPS General Explorations Program
- DCPS CEO Academy Program
- PCS High School Internship Program (HSIP)
- PCS Alternate Spring Break Program
- MBSYEP Jumpstart Program
Service to Business

- Screen Potential Candidates
- Market Job Vacancies
- Work Based Learning Experiences
- Disability Awareness Training
- Job Seeker and Staff Engagement
- Reasonable Accommodation Resources
- Talent Acquisition Portal
- Aspiring Professionals Internship
- NDEAM Recognition
Aspiring Professionals Internship Program

Aspiring Professionals launched in 2018 to create paid internship opportunities for DC residents within DC Government. The program goal is to help RSA clients, to gain employment in DC Government.

- Two Cohorts
- Over 60% of completers gained employed
- Six Month Assignments
- Seeking DC Government Hosts for Cohort 3
- Payroll is managed by a contracted staffing agency
- Not for Students
- Positions can be remote or in the office
Aspiring Professionals Internship Program

Previous Host Agencies

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Department of Forensic Sciences
Department of Health
Department of Human Services
Department of Behavioral Health
Department of Energy and Environment
Department of Public Works
Department on Disability Services
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Developmental Disabilities Council
Metropolitan Police Department
Office of Human Rights
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Office of Public Records
University of the District of Columbia
Questions
Contact Information

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