

July 2021

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# How Rehabilitation Services Helps Students with Disabilities Transition to College and Work

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DHS-Division of Rehabilitation Services

# How to choose a reaction



✓	Yes
✗	No
👁️	Too Fast
👁️	Too Slow
👏	Applause
😊	Laughter

# Let's Do a quick survey...

Who in the room personally knows:

- Someone who uses a wheelchair
- Someone who uses a cane/walker
- Someone who has a significant vision loss
- Someone who uses hearing aids
- Someone with an intellectual disability
- Someone with autism

# Let's keep going

Who knows someone with:

- An amputation
- Arthritis
- Depression; Anxiety; PTSD
- Learning disabilities (Dyslexia; Auditory Processing Disorder; ADHD; Memory disorders, etc.)
- Neuromuscular Diseases (MS, ALS, MD)
- Seizure Disorder
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- SSI or SSDI income
- an IEP or 504 Plan in school

# What is “disability?”

1. It's not always what you think it is
2. It can be congenital (born with) or acquired (accident, injury, illness.)
3. It's not only the kids in “special classes”
4. It can be observable or hidden
5. It can be temporary or permanent
6. It does not discriminate (age, gender, race, sexual orientation etc.)

# Division of Rehabilitation

## Basis for Eligibility

An individual shall be eligible to receive services through the VR Program if he/she:

- a) is an individual who has a disability as determined pursuant to Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 USC 401 et seq. and 1381 et seq.) and desires to achieve an employment outcome; **OR**

# OR...

- b) is an individual who meets all of the following:
  - 1) is determined by qualified personnel to have a physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment for the individual;
  - 2) is determined by a qualified vocational rehabilitation counselor employed by DHS-DRS to require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment consistent with the customer's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice; and
  - 3) is presumed to be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in terms of an employment outcome.

# What do you think?

DRS	People you know
Physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment	?
Requires services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment	?
Able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in terms of an employment	?



# What next?

- Qualified Rehabilitation Counselor uses criteria (slide 6) and justifies the need for customer assistance to find and get a job
- Financial Analysis to determine if there is any financial participation
  - SSI and SSDI recipients are exempt from analysis
  - Services provided without financial participation include:

# Services provided without financial participation include:

- Pre-employment transition services for students with disabilities
  - Job Exploration
  - Work Based Learning
  - Counseling for enrollment in Transition or Post-Secondary Training
  - Workplace readiness
  - Self Advocacy and Instruction

# Services provided without financial participation include:

1. Evaluation services (Diagnostic)
2. Services or instruction provided directly by DHS-DRS staff or in a DHS-DRS managed facility (counseling, placement and job search)
3. Assessment, placement and supported employment through any approved community rehabilitation program
4. The evaluation component of Helen Keller National Center, including room, board and transportation
5. Bureau of Blind Service's transition program
6. Secondary Transitional Experience Program (STEP)
7. On-the-job training (OJT)
8. Job coaching services
9. Auxiliary services



AND...

**Ta Da!**

**Community College**

**(in Illinois)**

# Other Services

If you need services that are not exempt, a financial analysis is completed. If under a pre-set balance, services will be at no cost.

If over, dependent on income, there is a sliding scale level of participation.

Standard room and board at a university or residential component of a college will be expected to contribute toward living and food expenses (increased cost.)

# DRS Services

- All services are planned in advance
- All services are individualized base on customer needs
- Counseling and Guidance
- Information and Referral
- Equipment
- Books and Supplies
- Training
- College and Graduate Training
- Medical and Psychological Services
- Etc., Etc., Etc.

# Now that I have your attention...

## **What is Vocational Rehabilitation?**

(aka...What's the catch?)

- No catch
- Originally started at federal level in 1918 after WWI to assist disabled veterans
- Expanded to civilians including people with blindness, mental illness or intellectual disabilities



# Vocational Rehabilitation

- The Rehabilitation Act Amendments in 1973 promoted employment and independent living for people with disabilities. Equal access to federal and federally funded facilities was included.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in employment and provision of equal access.

# Vocational Rehabilitation

- Title IV of WIOA amended Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- WIOA is designed to strengthen and improve the nation's public workforce development system by helping Americans with barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities, achieve high quality careers and helping employers hire and retain skilled workers. (The reason we are here.)

# In Illinois

## Six Divisions of the Department of Human Services

- Division of Rehabilitation Services includes
  - Field Services (VR)
  - Blind Services (VR)
  - Home Services
  - Residential Schools
    - Illinois School for the Deaf
    - Illinois School for the Visually Impaired
    - Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education
  - Disability Determination Services

# How to make a Referral

- 45 Statewide field offices (phone or *walk-in*)
  - <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&officetype=&county=>
  - Currently working mostly remotely with very limited capacity in offices
- Online
  - <https://wr.dhs.illinois.gov/wrpublic/wr/dynamic/referral.jsf>
- DHS Customer Help Line
  - (800) 843-6154

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# Questions

I'll start, what the is definition of an  
optimist?

A college student who opens their backpack and expects to  
find money

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# Questions?

Please post in Q&A or in Chat

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Thank you!!!