

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) helps people with disabilities get paying, meaningful jobs.**

### **The Application Process**

- “Intake” – learn about you and your job interests
- Complete the application
- Find out eligibility requirements
  - Must have physical or mental impairment that poses barrier to employment
  - Must be able to benefit from VR (presumed unless proven otherwise)
  - Must need VR to prepare for, get, or keep a job.
- Find out Priority Category
  - Based on how the disability affects your ability to work
  - Depends on availability of funding

### **Order of Selection**

When VR does not have enough funding to serve everyone who is eligible, available dollars must be used for employment services for those with the most significant disabilities.

- Priority Category 1 includes the most significant disabilities
- Priority Categories 2, 3, 4, go onto a waiting list and are given job hunting resources

### **Priority Category (PC) 1 Criteria**

Limitations in 2 or More Functional Capacities

- Mobility
- Communication
- Work Skills
- Work Tolerance
- Self-Care
- Self Direction
- Interpersonal Skills

### **What can Vocational Rehabilitation do to help you get a job?**

- Diagnosis
- Career guidance and counseling
- Training
- Treatment
- Supported employment
- Job Placement
- Self-employment supports
- Vocational Evaluation
- Assistive technology
- Personal care assistance program
- Post employment supports
- Transition from school to work
- Independent living services
- Maintenance and transportation
- Interpreter services

### **Get Ready! Identify Your Work Interests**

- What do you like to do?
- If you have worked before, what have you enjoyed?
- What jobs seem appealing? Why?
- Visit local Career Center
- Occupational Outlook Handbook
  - Skill level
  - Educational requirements
- Talk to others about their jobs
- JobNet

### **I Know the Job I Want, What’s Next?**

Talk to:

- School Guidance Counselor
- VR Counselor
- People with interesting jobs
- Friends’ plans
- Tennessee Rehabilitation Center TRC
- Community TRCs

### **Job Planning**

Think about your:

- Strengths and abilities
- Education and training
- Paid work or volunteer experience
- Interesting jobs – why?
- Training needed

### **Develop Your Individual Plan for Employment**

- Abilities
- Job Skills
- Job Interests
- Identify the specific job you want and what services you will need to get that job.
- The IPE is your roadmap to employment!

### **Responsibilities When Receiving VR Services**

- Help develop and follow your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Use federal benefits to help cover cost of some services
- Monthly contact with your VR Counselor
- May have to contribute to the cost of your program

### **Rights When Receiving VR Services**

- Know your eligibility within 60 days
- Develop your own IPE
- Receive the full scope of services
- Decide your job goal
- Pick services and providers
- Change your IPE
- Review your IPE
- Review VR Policy Manual
- Appeal decisions if you disagree
- Access the Client Assistance Program (CAP)

## Resources

### What do you like to do?

[http://education.ou.edu/zarrow/files/AIR\\_SD\\_Student.pdf](http://education.ou.edu/zarrow/files/AIR_SD_Student.pdf)

**Occupational Handbook** - <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

**JobNet**—<http://jobnet.com/>

### The Source —

<http://www.sourcetn.org/default.asp>

### Tennessee Rehabilitation Center —

<http://www.tn.gov/humanserv/rehab/trc.html>

### Social Security Ticket to Work -

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/aboutticket.html>

**The Arc Tennessee** — <http://thearctn.org/>

### Tennessee Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services (VR) -

[http://www.tn.gov/humanserv/rehab/rehab\\_main.html](http://www.tn.gov/humanserv/rehab/rehab_main.html)

### Client Assistance Program (CAP) a Program of Disability Law and Advocacy Center—

<http://www.dlactn.org/cap.html>

## Learn More About The Arc Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project

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Click on **Secondary Transition Project**

The Arc Tennessee advocates for the rights and full participation of all people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Through our family-based network of members and chapters, we support and empower individuals and families; connect and inform individuals and families; improve support and service systems; influence public policy; increase public awareness; and inspire inclusive communities.

The Arc Tennessee manages by the values, Integrity, Respect, Courage, and Justice. Donations to The Arc Tennessee are tax-deductible.

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*The Arc Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.*



# Getting a Head Start with Vocational Rehabilitation

