

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

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

JobNet—<http://jobnet.com/>

The Source —

<http://www.sourceten.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

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

