



State of Connecticut
Department of Aging and Disability Services
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Vocational
Rehabilitation
Program

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Who are we?

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) resides within the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS)

Mission of Department: Maximizing opportunities for the independence and well-being of people with disabilities and older adults in Connecticut.

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services helps people with disabilities find, keep, regain, or advance in **competitive integrated employment**.

We have offices and partnerships all over Connecticut, to help you get a great job in the community where you reside.

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Who do we serve?

BRS offers a full range of **individualized** services for persons with disabilities who are **eligible**, to help prepare for, find, keep and advance in employment.

- ✓ CT Residents with disabilities (except legal blindness)
- ✓ Adults seeking competitive integrated employment (Age 18+)
- ✓ Students with disabilities (age 16-22) who are potentially eligible

Services provided are free, no cost to individuals.

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What services do we offer?

- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Job search assistance
- Trial Work Experiences
- Job coaching and short-term job supports
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Level Up Program)
- Skills training and career education in college and/or vocational schools
- On-the-job-training in business and industry
- Assistive technology services
- Supported employment services
- Home and vehicle modification

Goal of Vocational Rehabilitation

COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

- Full-time or part-time employment
- Minimum wage or above
- Customary wages based on the position/employer
- Yields comparable income to others (with or without disabilities) in the field

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What is the process?

- Call the office nearest to you to schedule your Intake.
- Meet your counselor and complete an application for the program.
- Eligibility for the program will be completed within 60 days.
- If eligible, we will work together to create an employment plan together.
- Services will be provided under your Employment Plan to help you reach your employment goals.

Before your Intake



Bring/Send to your Counselor:

- Bring medical records, if you can
- Bring any disability, benefits documents, employment pay stubs (if possible) (SSI, SSDI)
- Name/Address of Doctors and Treatment Providers

Eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation

Individuals who:

- Have a disability which poses a substantial barrier to employment

AND

- Require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, find, succeed and advance in employment

- Eligibility determination within 60 days of Application
- CT does not have a means test
- We can help with diagnostic assessments, if required

Important Factors

- ❑ Informed Choice – giving you meaningful options regarding service providers, services, and employment
- ❑ Communication
- ❑ Community Partnerships
 - American Job Center
 - Schools and Local Education Affiliates
 - Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA)
 - Community Rehabilitation Providers
 - State Agencies (DDS, DMHAS, DOL)

Information and Referral

For services BRS does not provide . . .

contact information and referral as appropriate to other state and community-based agencies will be shared

CT Tech Act Project
Benefits Counseling
College and University Career Centers
Department of Labor/ American Job Centers
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Job Accommodation Network

How to apply for vocational rehabilitation services?

Visit our web site:

https://portal.ct.gov/rehabilitationservices?language=en_US

Contact us:

https://portal.ct.gov/rehabilitationservices/Our-Offices?language=en_US

Resources/Handouts

- Overview of VR Video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLOPKLKiopA>