

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



What is the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)?

- Federal/State program designed to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain, maintain, or improve employment.
- Population Served
 - Wide variety of disability groups

Statewide Program


- 11 Workforce Development Area (WDA) offices in Wisconsin.
- At least one office in each WDA

Funding

- DVR is funded by Federal and State government through taxes.
- Justification for program
 - DVR provides services to help people obtain employment, therefore they become taxpayers and allow for other people to receive services.
 - Last fiscal year, DVR placed 3,250 individuals with disabilities into employment.




Referral and Application Process

- High school students should apply two years prior to graduation or sooner if needed.
 - If under 18, parents need to sign application and release for school.
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Eligibility

- 60 days from the time of receiving an individual's application to determine eligibility and order of selection.
 - To be eligible you must have a documented medical or psychological disability that presents a barrier to employment and require DVR services.
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OOS

- OOS looks at serious limitations of the disability.
- OOS is required so that DVR serves those with most severe disabilities first.
- OOS categories; 1, 2, or 3.
- Category 1 are individuals determined to have four or more serious limitations, category 2 is less than 4 serious limitations, and category 3 for other impairments.
- Can use teacher information to document limitations

OOS Wait List

- Ensure that people active in plans will receive all necessary services for employment
- Category 1 is immediately activated
- Waitlist is reviewed monthly. As cases are closed, more cases come off the wait list.
- DVR State Plan states Category 2 wait no longer than 6 months

Order of Selection Cont' d

- If on waiting list, DVR can only provide information and referral. Services cannot be purchased.
- Once activated, we have 90 days to develop a Individualized Plan for Employment.

Vocational Planning

- Discuss interests, work values, learning aptitude, work skills, and abilities to help consumer determine an employment goal
- Interviews, psychometric tests, work samples, situational assessments, and informational interviews

Individualized Plan for Employment

- Developed once employment goal is determined and agreed upon
- Document that contains the following:
 - Employment goal
 - Services required
 - Progress measures
 - Responsibilities
- Individualized
- Consumer is responsible for making plan successful
- Coordination of services in the IEP , ISP and IPE

Job Development

- Assist to find employment in the community-learn how to perform job search.
- May refer to contracted vendor to provide service.
- Competitive employment.
 - Resume development.
 - Interview skills.
 - Job leads.

Services

- DVR can provide almost any service necessary to achieve the vocational goal written IPE
- Some examples are:
 - Guidance and Counseling
 - Finding and Keeping a Job
 - Assistive Technology
 - Training

Other Training

- Youth OJT
- Apprenticeship
 - Work while learn
- Rehabilitation Facility Training
 - Community Based
- Technical College/University

Supported Employment

- More intensive assistance- job development and job coaching.
- DVR provides initial support and other sources provide long-term support.
 - ISP
 - Social Security-PASS/IRWE

Comparable Benefits

- Must look at other sources in the community prior to using DVR funds
- Examples: financial aid, transit services, computer labs
- Cost sharing between agencies

Successful Closure

- Once individual has maintained employment for minimum of 90 days, DVR will close file successfully.
- Allows for others to come off wait list.
- Post employment services.
- Can reapply for services at anytime.

Effective Practices

- ❖ DVR will attend IEPs as able, making Jrs and Srs a priority
- ❖ Prior to the IEP, if possible, DVR and school staff should update each other on where student is at with DVR and transition planning

Effective Practices

- ❖ DVR/Teachers/Others meet at the start of each school year to provide updates, as well as get contact information.
- ❖ If both need services – compromise and share costs
- ❖ With student consent, provide school staff with a list of current students working with DVR so that there can be open communication regarding their school and work goals.

Effective Practices

- ❖ DVR/School Meeting cont' d
 - If both need services – compromise and share costs
 - With student consent, provide school staff with a list of current students working with DVR so that there can be open communication regarding their school and work goals.

Effective Practices

- ❖ Schedule specific days of each semester (ie. one in fall, one in spring) to make presentations to students to introduce DVR and what services are available.

Effective Practices

- ❖ Schedule one day each month to be at the school to meet with students individually.
 - Meet with current DVR consumers as monthly contact
 - Meet with interested students
 - Schedule IEP meetings on those days to increase time management and ease travel

START

- ❖ Representative from each WDA
- ❖ Increase successful outcomes of youth with disabilities
- ❖ Local Resource

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