

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Who we are.....

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New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, (DVRS)



NJDVRS



- The New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services NJDVRS is the designated New Jersey state agency dedicated to provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities as provided under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, and as of July 2014, (WIOA) the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act.
- DVRS is administered at the federal level through the Rehabilitation Services Administration, (RSA), which is housed in the U.S. Dept. of Education.

NJDVRS

- Vision: The vision of DVRS is to advance the employment rights and interests of people with disabilities so they may fully participate in competitive-integrated employment.
- Mission Statement: It is the Mission of DVRS to “enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, and capabilities.”

Purpose of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program

- “To empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, achieve economic self-sufficiency and independence, and to realize full inclusion and integration into society.”
- “Persons with a disability have the right to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society and pursue meaningful careers.”

~US Dept. of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration

WHO DOES NJDVRS HELP?



- Individuals with physical, cognitive, or mental impairments who want to work, but will need services and supports in order to work in competitive (independent) employment.
- DVRS is an eligibility program.
- Individuals must have a documented disability that poses a substantial barrier to employment.
- DVRS clients include adults of all ages who are able and willing to work. DVRS also serves transition students in high school who have a IEP or 504 Plan.
- Individuals who are blind or have a serious visual impairment are referred to the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI).

What services can DVRS provide?

- The primary or central service provided to DVRS consumers is **Vocational Counseling & Guidance**.
- Evaluations or other services may be provided if it is needed to assist the individual in obtaining and or maintaining employment.
- Provision of services is individualized based on the person's work history, skill level & disability related limitations as well as the consumer's interests, abilities and strengths.
- Many services are of no cost to the individual including job coaching and vocational counseling & guidance. Other services may be based on a financial needs assessment.
- Individuals may be referred for Diagnostic Evaluations prior to receiving services and/or at a later time if needed.

Listing of Services

- Diagnostic Evaluation
- Vehicle/ home modifications
- Assistive technology
- Trial Work Experience
- Training
- Job accommodations
- Community Based Work Evaluations
- Customized Employment
- Internship Assistance
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Supported Employment

What is Supported Employment?



- Vocational Assessment
- Job development
- Intensive job coaching
- Long Term Follow along (LTFA)

Trial Work Experience (TWE)

The purpose of TWE is to ensure that individuals with the most significant disabilities are given an opportunity to receive and benefit from VR (vocational rehabilitation) services, by providing an opportunity to demonstrate their potential in a realistic work setting. A TWE is used to help determine eligibility for VR services and can last up to 18 months.

Community Based Work Evaluations (CBWE)

- CBWE is an assessment to determine an individual's work related skills, behaviors, interests, abilities, strengths, aptitudes and barriers to determine level of support needs for competitive-integrated employment.
- CBWE occurs one-on-one. It is done in an employment setting with the highest level of integration possible.
- Supported Employment (SE) vendors can provide CBWE if they have been approved by DVRS to provide this service.

Customized Employment (CE)

- Customized Employment is a personalized non-traditional employment strategy & service that assists consumers to identify one primary vocational interest that will lead to the development of an individualized plan for employment. CE can be a job that is carved, created, modified, or a task reassignment. It can also be self-employment.
- The three primary components of CE are: “Discovery” (A comprehensive intake assessment & vocational profile), Job Development & Job Negotiations, and CE supports.

Internships



- Service providers may develop internship sites for DVRS consumers and/or provide supports to consumers who have difficulty with securing employment and related experiences towards employment.
- An internship is considered to be a temporary position with an emphasis on (on-the-job training) and be a paid or unpaid experience. DVRS consumers participating in this service will have already exited secondary school.
- The internship experience is intended to assist the individual transition between school and work while gaining experience in their career area of interest, enhances marketability, increases professional network, links individuals to employers and gain career-related information.

Pre- Employment Transition Services

- Must be provided or arranged in collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
- The 5 required PRE-ETS services include:
 - Job Exploration Counseling
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in transition or post-secondary programs
 - Workplace readiness training
 - Instruction in self-advocacy, including peer-mentoring
- PRE-ETS and transition services can be both vocational services under the VR program and special education and related services under IDEA.
- Pre-ETS service providers may be provided by approved DVRS vendors who may or may not be a supported employment provider. PRE-ETS does not include Time-Limited or intensive job coaching.
- Transition services could include job coaching and has typically been funded by the school district as part of a structured learning experience.
- DVRS Pre-ETS services do not supplant or replace services under IDEA

Vendor Info

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation follows the N.J.A.C. 12:51 in the review and approval of vendor services

- New Jersey Administrative Code 12:51 states that "an organization shall have been in existence providing the service for which it is seeking approval for a minimum of two years or be able to demonstrate the capacity to provide the service applied for as a result of providing a similar service or have a history of being able to implement services successfully."

Referrals

- No referrals or set amount of revenue from DVRS can be guaranteed. Your organization must not consider DVRS funds as a primary source of revenue to either start or sustain operations. Each potential vendor must be able to support its operations independently of DVRS funding and must be doing so at the time of application.

Vendor application process

Application information:

1. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis
2. Fill out the electronic application
3. Send in the appropriate letter of intent
4. Some services require additional training prior to approval
5. Website for vendors:
http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/hire/hiring/disable/dvrs_vendor_information.shtml

Current Vendors

- DVRS will periodically evaluate vendor performance, which includes compliance with New Jersey Administrative Code 12:51, quality of service, and other pertinent factors.
- Technical assistance is available upon request
- You are only as good as your service delivery
- Communication is Key
- Trainings are available on a quarterly basis

Vendor FAQs

- Potential vendors must be registered via NJStart <https://www.njstart.gov/bso/>
- All applicants must submit both an electronic application and a letter of intent
- Any training program must already be listed on the eligible training provider list prior to approval by DVRS
- DVRS and DDD have separate requirements for vendors
- Each service has its own requirements
- Approval is dependent upon information contained in the letter of intent as well as need for the service in the designated area
- No referrals or set amount of revenue from DVRS can be guaranteed. Your organization must not consider DVRS funds as a primary source of revenue to either start or sustain operations.



Important DVR Facts

- Many services including vocational counseling & guidance, diagnostic evaluations and job coaching are of no cost to the individual. Other services are based on a financial needs assessment.
- All services are individualized and based on informed choice.
- Consumer's records are confidential.
- Cases are closed after services outlined in the IPE have ended and the consumer has been successfully employed for at least 90 days
- Consumer may reapply to DVRS if needed, at a future date after their case has been closed.

How to Contact NJDVRS

There are 18 offices located throughout New Jersey. To learn more about how NJDVRS can help, or to make a referral, contact the office nearest you. DVRS also has an administrative office located in Trenton, NJ. This office can be reached at: (609) 292-5987

If you have questions about DVRS vendors, please contact Cheryl Vail in DVRS Central Office at Cheryl.Vail@dol.nj.gov or 609-292-7396.

Toll Free Number: 1-866-871-7867

Website:

http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/foryou/disable/vocational_rehabilitation_services.shtml



NJDVRS Local Offices

- Bridgeton (Cumberland, Salem) 856-453-3888
- Camden (Camden) 856-614-2500
- Elizabeth (Union) 908-965-3940
- Hackensack (Bergen) 201-996-8970
- Hackettstown (Sussex, Warren) 908-852-4110
- Jersey City (Hudson) 201-217-7180
- Randolph (Morris) (862) 397-5600
(Option 3 for DVR)
- Neptune (Monmouth) 732-775-1799
- Newark (Essex) 973-648-3494
- New Brunswick (Middlesex) 732-937-6300
- Paterson (Passaic) 973-742-9226
- Pleasantville (Atlantic) 609-813-3933
- Somerville (Somerset, Hunterdon) 908-704-3030
- Thorofare (Gloucester) 856-384-3730
- Toms River (Ocean) 732-505-2310
- Trenton (Mercer) 609-292-2940
- Westampton (Burlington) 609-518-3948
- Wildwood (Cape May) 609-523-0330