Who is served by the ACCES-VR program?

People with all types of disabilities, who want to go to work.

Note: Individuals who are legally blind obtain vocational rehabilitation services from the NYS Commission for the Blind: http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cb/

ACCES-VR Makes a Difference!

Here are some comments regarding ACCES-VR services:

"I was stressed out and very upset that I could no longer be a nurse's aide due to my injury. My counselor assured me I would be able to complete a computer class. She was RIGHT! Her compassion was unbelievable. I am working now. Thank you so much for your program."

"For me to be out of work for over ten years and then to go back to school made me feel good. Work is great! With help from ACCES-VR, I DID SUCCEED."

"Your organization does a great job of aiding people who need a little help to make positive changes in their lives. Thank you for all your help."

"I still do not know how to thank my counselor. She has been, and still is there for me."

"I cannot say enough good about my counselor's professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness. She made it possible for me to be retrained for work that I love and that provides a good living"

What are the ways to contact an ACCES-VR local office and start services?

- Go to www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/ or www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/do/doindex.html. Click on the ACCES-VR District Office nearest you.
- Call 1-800-222-JOBS (5627) and ask how to contact the office nearest you.
- Go to http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply_for_services/apply.html and download an application. Bring the completed application with you to an ACCES-VR group orientation.

An individual with a disability who applies for ACCES-VR services should want to work and be ready to participate in training or other efforts that will lead to employment.

If an individual with a disability is concerned about losing disability-related benefits by going to work, he/she should obtain information from the following resources:

- A local Independent Living Center - locations can be found at: www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/lsn/ilc/about.html
- Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov/ny

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ACCES VR

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - *Vocational Rehabilitation*

a proud partner of the American Job Center network

Introduction to Services



The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Adult Career and Continuing Education Services
Vocational Rehabilitation
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
www.acces.nysed.gov/vr

ACCES VR

What is ACCES?

The Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) is part of the New York State Education Department and is comprised of three primary areas: Vocational Rehabilitation (including Independent Living Program Administration), Adult Education, and the Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision.

ACCES-VR:

- Administers vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs
- Provides a wide array of services to assist eligible individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment
- Provides transition services to students and youth
- Provides individual consultation, recommendations and training to assist with maintaining a job
- Provides information and support to employers

What is vocational rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, often referred to as "VR", are managed by every state, but are overseen by the federal government. VR is designed to help people with disabilities meet career goals, from entry-level to professional. It helps people with disabilities get jobs, whether the person is born with a disability, develops a disability or becomes a person with a disability while working.

Scan our QR Code to visit the ACCES-VR website:
www.acces.nysed.gov/vr

How does the VR program work?

There are some rules for the program that are established in Federal and State law and regulations. A few of the basics include:

- The person with a disability has to apply for services
- The person must be legally able to work in the United States
- The person must meet the eligibility requirements
- The person must work with a qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) employed by ACCES-VR to determine eligibility

The more information a person has to verify a physical or mental impairment and describe how that impairment affects the ability to work, the faster the process will go.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- The person has a physical or mental impairment
- The impairment makes it difficult for the person to work
- The person can benefit from VR services to achieve employment
- The person requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment

What's next?

If the person with a disability meets the eligibility requirements an individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) will be developed. This process will involve reviewing career choices, discussing responsibilities and identifying a vocational goal, with consideration of labor market trends.

What services can ACCES-VR provide?

- Assessment to help identify skills, abilities, interests and limitations
- Career counseling and guidance
- Benefits Advisement
- Rehabilitation and assistive technology
- Training at a vocational school, community college, or on the job
- Supported Employment
- Information on the Americans with Disabilities Act and reasonable accommodations
- Job placement and job retention
- Other services necessary to achieve the employment goal

Some ACCES-VR services are based upon a review of financial need.

ACCES-VR must consider other benefits and services that are available to individuals. Certain services have spending or time limits.

How does ACCES-VR fit into the community?

ACCES-VR works with school districts, community rehabilitation programs, NYS Department of Labor, Career Centers, Independent Living Centers, colleges and vocational schools, the business community and any other community resource that could provide goods and services that enable an individual with a disability to work.

What is Independent Living?

A network of 39 Independent Living Centers across the State provide peer counseling, independent living skills training, information and referral, individual and systems advocacy, benefits assistance, housing assistance and many other services that support and advance life in the community. Services are based on local availability.

To find the ILC in your area or to learn more about independent living go to: www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/independent-living-centers

www.acces.nysed.gov/vr