

Opening DORS to Employment

Division of Rehabilitation Services

www.dors.maryland.gov

MSDE DORS administers two employment readiness programs for individuals with disabilities:

- The general vocational rehabilitation (VR) program
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR)

DORS VR programs specialize in helping people with disabilities obtain competitive employment in an integrated setting.*

If you are eligible, you will work with a DORS counselor to choose from programs and services such as:

- Career counseling and decision making based on your interests, abilities, and goals
- Training to prepare for employment
- Skills training leading to credentials to meet local labor market demands
- Job search and job placement services
- Job coaching and supported employment services
- Assistive technology solutions for disability related needs

* Competitive integrated employment is work performed by a person with a disability working along with workers who do not have disabilities. Wages are at least minimum wage and comparable to the wages of non-disabled workers performing the same tasks.

VR ELIGIBILITY

Individuals with the most severe disabilities are served on a priority basis. Some eligible individuals with less severe disabilities may be placed on a waiting list for services.

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients are automatically eligible for services, but may be placed on a waiting list.
- Services are provided based on the availability of funds and must be part of your DORS Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).
- You may be required to contribute to the cost of some services and goods, based on income.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES (PRE-ETS)

DORS provides Pre-ETS specifically to “Students with Disabilities.”

A “Student with a Disability” is defined as an individual who:

- is enrolled in secondary school and has not exited, graduated, or withdrawn, or is enrolled in a post-secondary credit program or a national/ State-recognized accredited training program;
- is at least 14 years old but less than 22;
- and has a disability (i.e., receives services under an IEP or 504 plan, or has a disability for purposes of section 504).

The limited Pre-ETS that may be provided, based on identified need and the availability of services, include:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after-school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships
- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational programs
- Workplace readiness training to develop social and independent living skills
- Instruction in self-advocacy

See the Pre-ETS Fact Sheet on the DORS website for more information.

In addition to general VR services, DORS Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS) also provides:

- Independent living services to individuals age 55 and older who have vision loss or blindness.
- Management of the Maryland Business for the Blind, which provides training and supports for legally blind individuals to operate retail concessions on federal and state property.
- Adjustment to Blindness Skills training for consumers ages 16-54

DORS also operates the Workforce & Technology Center in northeast Baltimore

There is a wide range of programs under one roof at WTC – career training, rehabilitation technology, career assessment, job placement, driver’s education, and more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit our website

www.dors.maryland.gov

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Maryland State Department of Education

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2/17