

OPENING DORS TO EMPLOYMENT

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

DORS Programs and Services Help People with Disabilities Go to Work!

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Employment Services to help people with disabilities prepare for and find employment.
- Student Employment Services (SES) and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Services

DORS helps people with physical, emotional, intellectual, developmental, sensory and learning disabilities by providing programs and services to help them get ready for employment, go to work, and keep their existing jobs.

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

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

BLINDNESS & VISION SERVICES

DORS provides VR Employment Services for individuals whose primary disability is blindness or vision loss through the Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS), which also provides Student Employment Services (SES) and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students 14-21 with blindness or vision loss as their primary disability.

OBVS also provides:

- Independent living services to individuals aged 55 and older who have vision loss or blindness.
- Management of the Business Enterprise Program for the Blind, which trains and supports legally blind individuals who operate retail concession facilities like micro-markets and cafés on government property.
- Evaluation and training, and case management services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to help them live and work independently, as part of DORS Workforce & Technology Services.

Eligibility for VR Employment Services

- Federal law requires that DORS provide VR and Student Employment Services to people with the most significant disabilities first.
- Due to resource limitations, those who are eligible but have less severe disabilities may be placed on the waiting list for services.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients are presumed eligible for services.

Your DORS counselor will provide more information.

Services For Students

DORS provides Transition Services for Students with Disabilities.

Transition Services for Students with Disabilities are activities that prepare students with disabilities to move from school to post-school life.

A **Student with a Disability** is someone who:

- Is enrolled in secondary school (including home school or other alternative secondary education program), post-secondary education, or other recognized educational program, and has not graduated or withdrawn.
- Is at least 14 years old but less than age 22.
- And has a disability that is documented with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 plan, or medical records.

DORS offers two sets of services for students with disabilities:

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Students ages 14 to 21):

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) provide students with disabilities the opportunity to experience and explore the world of work. The five specific services offered are:

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Self-Advocacy Instruction
- Post-Secondary Education Opportunities Counseling
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Work-Based Learning Experiences

Student Employment Services (Students ages 14 to 21):

Student Employment Services are for students with disabilities who would like to receive Pre-ETS and also obtain or prepare for meaningful employment and a successful career. A broad range of VR employment services may be available to these students.

Unlike Pre-ETS, Student Employment Services are subject to eligibility requirements.

Workforce & Technology Services

DORS offers a variety of services in the community and at its Workforce & Technology Center campus in Northeast Baltimore, virtually and in person.

Services Include:

- Academic Tutoring & GED® Prep
- Behavioral Health Services
- Career Training Programs
- Employment Development & Placement
- Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology
- Work Readiness Programs

As well as specialized services for individuals who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, Blind or Low Vision, or who are Autistic.

Services are available to active job seekers referred by their DORS counselor.

Request DORS Services

Go to dors.maryland.gov and select **Request DORS Services**.

You will be contacted to set up an intake meeting where a DORS counselor will gather and provide information regarding eligibility.

This form can be completed by anyone – the job seeker or student themselves, a parent or family member, a medical provider, a teacher, etc.

DORS is a Division of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

Contact Information:

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Notice of Non-Discrimination

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The Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7% of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the Federal fiscal year 2023, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$52,041,475.

The remaining 21.3% of the cost (\$14,084,922) was funded by State appropriations.

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