

# Opening DORS to Employment

## Division of Rehabilitation Services

[www.dors.maryland.gov](http://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- is enrolled in secondary school and has not exited, graduated, or withdrawn, or is enrolled in a post-secondary credit program or a national/ State-recognized accredited training program;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](http://www.dors.maryland.gov)**

410-554-9442 or 888-554-0334 toll free

Videophone: 443-798-2840

Email: [dors@maryland.gov](mailto:dors@maryland.gov)

**Notice of Non-Discrimination:**

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

For inquiries related to Department policy, please contact:

Agency Equity Officer

Equity Assurance and Compliance Office  
Office of the Deputy State Superintendent for Finance and  
Administration  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 W. Baltimore Street - 6th Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595  
410-767-0433 – voice  
410-767-0431 – fax  
410-333-6442 - TTY/TDD

For inquiries regarding this publication, please contact 410-554-9435.

Maryland State Department of Education  
Division of Rehabilitation Services

A proud partner of the American Job Center network.

Find us on YouTube and Facebook.