## [SLIDE: Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services. About DORS in ASL.]

## [Two women stand in front of a gray backdrop, signing in American Sign Language (ALS). Jennifer is on the left, Alisa is on the right.]

## ALISA

The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, also known as DORS or VR, can help people who

are deaf find work or keep their jobs by providing services such as career assessment and

counseling, assistive technology, job training, higher education and job placement.

## JENNIFER

DORS has VR counselors for the deaf, called RCDs, who are specially trained to work with the

deaf community. Many of them are deaf themselves. The others are hearing but know ASL fluently.

[SLIDE: The VR Process]

## ALISA

The VR process begins when you fill out the online referral form on the DORS website at www.dors.

maryland.gov. If you prefer, you can also contact your nearest RCD by email or videophone. Click on

the link on the homepage that says "Services for Job Seekers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing."

[SLIDE: Your First Meeting]

## JENNIFER

When you fill out the referral form or contact an RCD, you will be scheduled for an appointment to

meet with your RCD at the DORS office. You are welcome to bring a support person, such as a

family member, friend or advocate, to this appointment and to any other meeting with DORS staff.

You'll also want to bring information about your employment history as well as any education, job

training or medical records you might have.

[SLIDE: Eligibility]

## ALISA

After your first meeting with your counselor, the RCD will determine your eligibility for VR services.

Federal law mandates that people applying for VR services be classified into three categories:

* Category 1: "Most Significantly Disabled."
* Category 2 "Significantly Disabled" and
* Category 3: "Not Significantly Disabled."

Your category depends on how many functions of your daily life and work are impacted by your disability.

## JENNIFER

Because federal funding for the VR program is limited, DORS is required to prioritize who gets

served and how quickly by the Category they are in.

* Currently, people in Category 3 ‒ not significantly disabled ‒ cannot receive VR services in Maryland.
* People who are in Category 1 ‒ most significantly disabled – can be served right away.
* However, people in Category 2 – significantly disabled – may have to wait for services.

You should know that at times the wait list for VR services has been more than a year.

## ALISA

People who are deaf automatically qualify for Category 2 ‒ significantly disabled ‒ and will

receive VR services from DORS, but they may have to wait on a waiting list for their turn.

However, depending on how many functions of their daily and work life are impacted, they may be

deemed eligible for Category 1 and receive services right away. Your RCD can explain this process to you in more detail.

[SLIDE: Goals and Services]

## JENNIFER

Once you are eligible for services, your RCD will work with you to help figure out your employment

goals and what services you will need to reach these goals. These services might include career

counseling, career assessment, college or career training, work-readiness training, assistive

technology, job placement assistance and job coaching.

## ALISA

Your RCD will help you figure out what your options are and the pros and cons of each option

to help you decide how best to reach your goals.

## JENNIFER

Many VR services, such as career guidance and counseling, skills testing and job placement, are

provided at no cost to you. However, due to funding limitations, you and your family may be

asked to help pay for some goods and services ‒ such as college books, transportation, hearing aids,

etc. This is according to a sliding scale based on family income.

[SLIDE: After You Are Employed]

## ALISA

Once you find a job, your RCD will follow up to make sure you are successful on the job.

DORS can also work with you and your employer to help you to adjust to the workplace.

## JENNIFER

Once you've been working successfully for 90 days, or three months, DORS will close your case.

However, if you still need some assistance after your case has been closed, you can contact your

RCD for help.

[SLIDE: www.dors.maryland.gov]

## ALISA

We welcome you to visit the DORS website, www.dors.maryland.gov, for more information, or

to find the name of your nearest RCD and to complete the online referral to begin your journey

to successful employment.

[SLIDE: For more information: [www.dors.maryland.gov](http://www.dors.maryland.gov) [DORS@maryland.gov](mailto:DORS@maryland.gov) 443-798-2840 VP 410-554-9442 (voice/relay)]