Graphic: Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services logo.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Photo: Main in wheelchair in front of business sign.

LIVE AN INDEPENDENT LIFE AND JOIN

OKLAHOMA’S GROWING WORKFORCE

Empowering Oklahomans with disabilities.

Photo: Man uses American Sign Language to communicate with a co-worker via videophone.

Vocational Rehabilitation

What we do: The Department of Rehabilitation Services is the employment agency for Oklahomans with disabilities. We provide vocational rehabilitation services that help people get jobs with benefits.

As a result, thousands of people whose dis- abilities were barriers to employment become taxpayers every year, eliminating or reducing the need for disability benefits and social assistance.

The vocational rehabilitation services offered by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helps people pursue their dreams of living fulfilling independent lives.

Our mission is simple – empowering Oklahomans with disabilities

Graphic: DRS logo. www.okdrs.gov

Graphic: Oklahoma Works logo. www.oklahomaworks.gov

Vocational Rehabilitation process

1. Apply for services.
2. Your eligibility for services is evaluated.
3. Your disability is evaluated.
4. A plan for service is developed.
5. Client receives needed services.

Client gets a job.

Vocational Rehabilitation Primary services

The primary vocational rehabilitation services are counseling and guidance with job placement. Other services provide accommodations to assist in removing barriers to successful employment:

Medical and psychological assessments are used to determine eligibility. Staff reviews consumers’ backgrounds, abilities, disability-related barriers to employment and rehabilitation needs.

Vocational evaluation, counseling and career planning guidance are provided to consumers throughout the rehabilitation process.

Information and referral helps individuals get appropriate services from other agencies.

Employment services include job search, placement and follow-up services. Our mission is to help consumers find and keep suitable employment in their chosen careers.

Assistive technology, including tele-communications, sensory and other rehabilitation equipment, enable consumers to function effectively in the workplace.

Training includes vocational, post-secondary, on-the-job, personal and vocational adjustment training, job search skills and job coaching.

Diagnosis and short-term treatment of physical and mental disabilities may be provided to enhance employment opportunities when services are not available through health insurance or other benefits. You may be asked to share the cost of some other services, depending on your income and financial resources.

Maintenance helps pay for additional costs connected with being evaluated to determine eligibility or receiving certain services under an Individualized Plan of Employment.

Transportation may be provided in connection with other services needed to reach employment goals.

Self-employment programs help individuals who want to work for themselves or operate their own businesses.

Personal assistance services are available while individuals are receiving vocational rehabilitation services.

Transition School-to-Work services help high school students with disabilities prepare for and reach employment goals.

Supported employment assists individuals with severe physical, emotional, mental or multiple disabilities with employment in the community.

Specialized programs assist consumers who are blind, Deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf-Blind and individuals with speech impairments, severe disabilities and those who require independent living services.

Interpreter services including American Sign Language (ASL) and foreign language, enable individuals needing interpreters to participate in their vocational rehabilitation programs.

Some services, such as medical examinations to determine if you are eligible for services, vocational counseling and job placement, are always provided at no charge to you. You may be asked to share the cost of some other services, depending on your income and financial resources.

Graphic: DRS logo.

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Graphic: Oklahoma Works logo.

[www.oklahomaworks.gov](http://www.oklahomaworks.gov)

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