



HAVE A DISABLING CONDITION? WANT TO WORK?

Do you have a disabling condition that makes it difficult to find or keep a job?

Do you have a disabling condition and have a desire to go to school so you can learn a new trade and be gainfully employed?

Do you receive social security benefits and have a desire to work but are afraid you would lose your benefits?

Do you have a job but a disabling condition makes it difficult for you to continue to work?

If any of these questions pertain to you or someone you know give us a call

Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services

129 N. 15th Street

Mattoon, Illinois 61938

217.235-3154

888.261.2869 NexTalk

What is considered a disability?

This list includes some examples of disabling conditions. Examples: amputation, arthritis, autism, visual limitations/blindness, burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, deafness, head injury, heart disease, respiratory or pulmonary dysfunction, mental retardation, mental illness, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, musculo-skeletal disorders (back injuries), neurological disorders (including stroke and epilepsy), paraplegia, quadriplegia (and other spinal cord conditions), sickle cell anemia, learning disabilities, or renal failure disease

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

FACT SHEET

1. WHAT IS THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) PROGRAM?

Every state gets money from the federal government to help people with disabilities who want to get or keep a job. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) uses this money to run the VR program to help people get or keep a job.

2. WHAT IS A "PERSON WITH A DISABILITY"?

This is someone who has a physical or a mental disability that makes it hard for a person to work and the person needs help from DRS to get or keep a job.

3. WHO CAN QUALIFY FOR VR SERVICES?

You can qualify if you have a disability and need services from DRS to get or keep a job. If you are getting help from Social Security [Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)] you may automatically qualify. You do not qualify if your disability makes it too hard for you to work even with VR services. If you do not want to get or keep a job, you do not qualify.

4. WHAT IS A TICKET TO WORK?

If you get SSI or SSDI, you may get a Ticket to Work from Social Security. You should talk to a DRS counselor about why the ticket should be given to DRS.

5. HOW DO YOU APPLY?

You need to call a DRS office where someone will help you apply. Your records from doctors, schools, past jobs or other programs will help DRS. When this is done; a counselor will look at all of the information to see if you qualify. If the counselor needs more information, DRS may pay for it. Counselors should do all of this in 60 days unless they cannot get the records or office visits soon enough.

6. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU QUALIFY?

You work with a counselor to see what services you need to get or keep a job. The counselor will help you write a plan of services. You have the right to make decisions and choices.

7. WHAT KIND OF SERVICES CAN DRS PROVIDE?

DRS can only pay for services that you need to get or keep a job.

8. DO YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR VR SERVICES?

Sometimes you have to help pay for services. It depends on your income. The counselor will let you know if there is a need to pay. You do not have to use your SSDI or SSI to pay for services. However, you must pay your own normal living expenses.

9. WHAT ARE COMPARABLE SERVICES AND BENEFITS?

Counselors will help you find out if you qualify for other programs or services. Some programs are Medicaid, scholarships, work-study programs or other benefits. The counselor can help you apply for these services.

10. HOW DOES DRS MAKE SURE YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH SERVICES?

You have the right to disagree with services. You should first try to work it out with the counselor or with the counselor's supervisor. If this does not work, you can file an appeal. You can get information how to appeal from your counselor or from the local office. You can ask for help from the Client Assistance Program at any time.

11. WHAT IS THE CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) can help you discuss or appeal a decision. To get more information or help from CAP, contact them at:

Client Assistance Program, 100 North 1st Street, Springfield, IL 62702, 1-800-641-3929 (V/TTY)