

DORS

The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services

We open
DORS to
Employment





The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)
offers programs and services that:

- help **individuals with disabilities go to work or stay employed**, including:
 - The general vocational rehabilitation (VR) program
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- help **businesses recruit and retain qualified workers.**

DORS is a division of the Maryland State Department of Education.

How do People with Disabilities get DORS' Services?

o Complete and submit the online referral form

OR

o Call a DORS Office to request an appointment

OR

o Visit a DORS Office for in person assistance





First Steps

- o A DORS counselor is assigned.
- o The counselor explains DORS VR and, if appropriate, Pre-ETS services and assists with next steps.
- o The counselor determines eligibility for VR or Pre-ETS services.



Eligible for DORS VR?

- o A physical or mental impairment that seriously affects the ability to go to work or keep a job
- o Need VR services in order to get or keep a job.

Those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), for their own disability are presumed eligible.



Eligible for DORS?

And, how serious or "**significant**" is the disability?

o **Significant** = a physical or mental disability that limits the ability to function in one or more of these areas:

- o Ability to walk
- o Ability to use arms and hands
- o Ability to talk
- o Ability to take care of personal needs
- o Ability to get along with others
- o Ability to adapt to the work place



Service Priority

- **Most Significant** = substantial limitations in 3 or more of those areas.
- **Non-Severe*** = a disability that has a mild effect on working and does seriously limit functional areas

**By law, DORS is required to provide services to people with most significant disabilities first.*

DORS does not currently have enough money or staff to provide services to those with a non-severe disability.



The Waiting List

- **DORS does not have the staff or funding needed to serve all individuals eligible for VR services.**
- **No waiting list for Pre-ETS**
- **“Most Significant Disability”** – no delay for VR services
- **“Significant Disability”** - placed on a waiting list, however, no services for the foreseeable future.
- **“Non-Severe Disability”** – not wait listed and no services for the foreseeable future.



Eligible for services?

○ VR services

Counselor and consumer develop an
Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

The IPE outlines:

- steps needed to reach the employment goal
- payment for services



DORS VR Services

VR Services can include:

- Career counseling
- Career assessment
- College or career training
- Work-readiness training
- Assistive technology
 - Job placement
 - Job coaching
- Other support services



Who pays for DORS VR services?

- DORS is a State and Federally funded program.
- Most DORS services are provided at no cost to consumers.
- A sliding scale is used for determining payment for other services.
- DORS can only pay for the services or goods that will meet a consumer's needs. Consumers may choose to pay the difference for more expensive services .
- Consumers receiving SSI/SSDI benefits will receive most services at no cost.
- College or university training is covered under a separate financial policy.
- There is no cost to the students or their families for Pre-ETS.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal fiscal year 2020, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$48,000,000. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs \$12,991,105 were funded by State appropriations.

Specialized Services

- o DORS staff have specialized training to work with people with a variety of disabilities, including:
 - o blindness and vision loss
 - o deafness and hearing loss
 - o deaf-blindness
 - o Autism
 - o developmental disabilities
 - o serious mental illness
 - o acquired brain injury
 - o and most other disabilities.





High School Students & Transitioning Youth

DORS programs and services for transitioning youth include **Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)** and VR services.

To be eligible for Pre-ETS, youth must:

- Be enrolled in a secondary school (including home school or other alternative secondary education program), post-secondary education program, or other recognized educational program and has not exited, graduated, or withdrawn;
- Be 14 years old but less than age 22; and
- have a disability documented with an IEP, 504 plan, medical records, or a doctor's note.

VR Services for Transitioning Youth

For young adults and students:

- beginning in their next-to-last year of high school
- eligible for SSI or SSDI
- in special education program (I.E.P, 504 Plan, etc.) or have a significant health condition
- Students eligible for DDA or BHA long-term supports.

Pre-ETS

Pre-ETS are limited and based on need and availability

- o Job exploration counseling
- o Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships
- o Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational programs
- o Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
- o Instruction in self-advocacy

Services for Transitioning Youth

May include:

- Pre-Employment Training Services
- Job search, placement and job-keeping
- Supported employment
- Job coaching
- Career decision making
- Counseling & referral
- Technical/vocational training
- Assistance with higher education
- Job preparation
- Assistive technology



Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS)

- o DORS' OBVS programs and services are for people whose primary disability is vision loss.
- o OBVS staff are specially trained to help people who are:
 - blind
 - vision impaired
 - deaf-blind





workforce & technology center

(WTC)

Shaping Careers and Futures in Maryland

- o The WTC, located in northeast Baltimore, is one of eight comprehensive vocational rehabilitation facilities in the US
- o WTC offers a wide range of services to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment.
- o DORS consumers who are referred to WTC by their DORS counselor.

WTC Services Include

- Work readiness programs
- Pre-ETS services
- Career training programs
- Career assessments
- Academic tutoring & GED
- Employment services
- Assistive technology
- Dormitory services
- Health & wellness center



WTC Career Training Programs

- o Automotive Detailing/Refinishing
- o Automotive General Service Technician
- o Childcare Provider
- o CVS Retail and CVS Pharmacy Technician
- o Environmental Services
- o Food Service
- o Office Technology
- o Professional Animal Workers (PAWS)
- o Sephora Distribution Center
- o Starbucks Retail/Barista
- o Warehouse Technician



DORS Offers Information in Other Languages

- o 中国 (Chinese)
- o Français (French)
- o 한국어 (Korean)
- o Español (Spanish)
- o tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)
- o AND all our information is fully accessible!



Working & Keeping Disability Benefits

- o There are work incentives available to encourage SSI and SSDI recipients to try working.
- o Certified benefits counselors (ask a DORS Counselor)
- o Maryland's Employed Individuals with Disabilities
- o Social Security's "Ticket to Work"

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

- o CAP will help with concerns or difficulties with DORS services.
- o CAP's goal: consumers are treated respectfully and fairly and in a manner consistent with agency policies and state and federal laws.

www.dors.maryland.gov

Check out
our
website
for more
information!



The Division of Rehabilitation Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs.

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Division of Rehabilitation Services

Enter search term

Listen COVID-19 HEALTH RESOURCES
Learn more from MD Department of Health

HOME JOB SEEKERS WITH DISABILITIES BUSINESSES & EMPLOYERS COMMUNITY PARTNERS RESOURCES

I Want To:

- See if DORS is Right for Me
- Begin DORS Services
- Find My Local DORS Office
- Hire Qualified Employees
- Contact DORS
- Work for DORS
- Provide Services to DORS
- Volunteer with DORS
- Become a Community Rehabilitation Partner
- Understand My Social Security Benefits

Specialized Services for Job Seekers Who:

- Are Students 14 - 21
- Are Blind/Visually Impaired
- Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Are on the Autism Spectrum
- Are Deaf-Blind
- Have a Mental Illness
- Have a Brain Injury

Helping Marylanders With Disabilities Go To Work

CVS Pharmacy Technician: DORS Newest Career Training Program!

I Want Information About:

- Workforce & Technology Center
- How DORS Can Help Me
- Eligibility for Services
- Independent Living Services
- Help for a Problem with Services
- DORS Policies and Procedures
- State Plan for VR Services
- The Waiting List for DORS Services
- Ticket to Work & DORS
- How to Contact My Counselor or Other DORS Staff

Spotlight: Success Stories

workforce & technology center
Helping Careers and Futures in Maryland

Sign Up for DORS' Messages or WTC Alerts

Email

Email Address

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View our videos on



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More Info/Contact DORS

- o dors.maryland.gov
- o 410-554-9442 or 888-554-0334 toll free
- o Videophone: 443-798-2840
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We want to hear
from you!



Questions?

