

# 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:

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

- Available for students 14-21 years old.
- 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](http://www.dors.maryland.gov)

Check out  
our  
website  
for more  
information!



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Maryland MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Division of Rehabilitation Services

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

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# More Info/Contact DORS

- o [dors.maryland.gov](http://dors.maryland.gov)
- o 410-554-9442 or 888-554-0334 toll free
- o Videophone: 443-798-2840
- o Email: [dors@maryland.gov](mailto:dors@maryland.gov)

We want to hear  
from you!



# Questions?

