

# Employment Services for People with Disabilities



Specialized job services to help you reach your career goals

## What Is Vocational Rehabilitation?

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, also known as “VR,” assists individuals who have disabilities to get and keep a job. VR works with adults, as well as with eligible students to coordinate information and resources as they transition to the world of work.

### To be eligible for VR Services you must:

- have a documented disability that prevents you from getting or keeping a job.
- need VR services to keep a job (Eligibility must be determined in 60 days. Medical records can usually provide the necessary documentation.)

If you are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on a disability and have an interest in working, you are presumed eligible for VR services.

## How Do I Apply?

To apply for VR, you need to call one of our offices and schedule an appointment with a VR counselor. The counselor will explain the program and learn more about you and your goals. You are strongly encouraged to view the online VR orientation video prior to applying for services.

[www.maine.gov/rehab/videos/vr\\_orientation.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/rehab/videos/vr_orientation.shtml)

## What About My Employment Goals?

Your VR counselor will work with you to decide what jobs best fit your interests and skills. You’ll also consider where you live, the current job market, and what transportation is available.

## What Services Does VR Provide?

Every person’s employment plan is different. VR will consider any service you need to achieve the agreed-upon vocational goal.

As you identify careers, VR can provide information about the skills and training you need. If training is necessary, VR may help with the cost of the program.

VR may buy tools, uniforms or basic equipment needed to start a job. Sometimes VR can assist with payment for some medical/psychological services. If you need a Job Coach (on-the-job support), VR will provide one. Generally services end 90 days after you start working.

## How Much Will This Cost?

It does not cost you anything to apply for services. There is no charge for testing, vocational evaluation, counseling, or job placement assistance. If you are eligible for services, your counselor will ask you about your income and expenses. Depending upon your income, you may be asked to contribute to the cost of VR services. VR cannot pay for any services you received before you applied to VR, or any services not agreed upon with your counselor and written in your Individualized Plan for Employment.

### Client Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP is an advocacy program that provides information and assistance to individuals who are applying for, or receiving VR services. CAP exists to answer your questions about the VR process, and represent you to help resolve a problem. Contact Disability Rights Maine, V/TTY: 800-452-1948 or [advocate@drme.org](mailto:advocate@drme.org),

### Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

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