

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Opening Doors to Employment
www.dors.state.md.us

The Public Rehabilitation Program

The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) has programs and services that help people with significant disabilities go to work in careers of their choice.

If eligible, you will work with a DORS counselor to choose from programs and services such as:

- Career decision making, counseling and referral
- Rehabilitation Technology Services
- Employment training
- Job search, placement and job-keeping services
- Supported employment/job coaching

DORS places a high priority on providing services to high school students with disabilities who are making the transition from school to employment, higher education or vocational training.

STEP 1

You may complete an online referral at www.dors.state.md.us or contact the DORS office nearest your home.

STEP 2

You will work with a DORS counselor who will describe the application process and then determine if you are eligible for services. If so, you and the counselor will work together so you can prepare for employment.

You may be eligible if you have a physical or mental condition that seriously affects your ability to get or keep a job.

DORS collects educational, medical and psychological reports to better understand your strengths. If more information is needed, the counselor will arrange special assessments. All records are kept in a confidential manner, consistent with state and federal law.

STEP 3

You will develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that lists the steps needed to reach your goal. The IPE also states who pays for services and when you expect to go to work. The rehabilitation counselor is trained to provide local job market information and to assist you in making informed choices.

STEP 4

You will take part in the services outlined in the IPE. During this time, your DORS counselor will stay in touch with you. Once you are working, the DORS counselor will follow-up for 90 days and discuss closing your record. If you need services again in the future, you may reapply.

You Should Know

- DORS will work to provide personalized services that match your interests, abilities and goals. You may choose to have a family member or other advocate involved in your rehabilitation program.
- Services are provided based on the availability of funds and must be pre-authorized by a DORS official.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients are presumed eligible for services.
- Individuals with the most severe disabilities are served on a priority basis. Eligible individuals with disabilities may be placed on a waiting list for services.
- Depending on your income, you may be required to pay toward the cost of some goods and services.
- You have the right to appeal DORS decisions about eligibility and your rehabilitation program. The rehabilitation counselor will tell you about the appeal process. The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is available to help solve problems.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) provides personalized support and employment services so individuals with disabilities can plan a path to a successful career.

Programs are offered through the Office of Field Services, as well as the Office for Blindness & Vision Services (OBVS). DORS field offices are located in communities throughout the state. There are also DORS counselors who work in most Maryland One-Stop Career Centers.

OBVS also provides:

- Independent living services to individuals aged 55 and older who have vision loss or blindness.
- Management of the Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind, which provides training and supports for legally blind individuals to operate retail concessions on federal and state property.

DORS also operates the Workforce & Technology Center, a comprehensive rehabilitation facility located in northeast Baltimore.

What people have said about DORS After Becoming Employed:

- “There was a time when I couldn’t see the future. DORS changed that for me.”
- “I found DORS just when I needed someone to believe in me.”
- “Thanks to DORS, I’m standing on my own.”

- “DORS can make someone better than they think they are. They did that for me. I would not be where I am today if DORS had not entered my life.”

NOTICE OF NON DISCRIMINATION

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. DORS is a state agency that operates in accordance with the federal Rehabilitation Act.

To find the nearest office or to obtain an alternate format of this brochure, call 410-554-9442, 1-888-554-0334 or TTY 410-554-9411. e-mail dors@dors.state.md.us

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