

Is VR Right for Me?

Q. What is the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency's Vocational Rehabilitation Program (GVRA)?

A. Vocational Rehabilitation is a work program that provides services to help individuals obtain and/or maintain employment.

Q: How do I apply for VR services?

A: [Contact your local office](#) or call the main line at 844-367-4872.

Q. Do I have to go to an office to apply?

A. No. GVRA can complete the intake process by phone, but an in-person visit may be required.

Q. What documentation do I need to apply?

A. You will need to be able to provide documentation of your identity and ability to legally work in the USA. Examples of this documentation would be:

- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Driver's License or GA Photo Id
- Passport
- Green Card
- Work Visa

In addition, if you can provide Medical and/or Psychological records of your disability, this will speed up the VR process. If you receive social security benefits, we ask that you submit a copy of the award letter.

Q. Will applying for VR services impact my Social Security (SSI and SSDI), Food Stamps, or Georgia Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits?

A. No. Applying for or receiving VR services will not impact these benefits.

Q. Does income earned after receiving VR services impact my Social Security (SSI and SSDI), Food Stamps, or Georgia Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits?

A. Yes. Earned income may impact these benefits as your financial need decreases.

Q. Am I able to have someone authorized to make decisions on my behalf?

A. Yes, you can designate any individual that you choose to make decisions on your behalf, if you are over the age of 18. If there is a court appointed guardian, we ask that you submit that documentation when you apply for services.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for VR services?

A: You may be eligible for VR services if your goal is to become employed and:

Your physical or mental disability interferes with your ability to become employed, and
You need VR's help to find or keep a job

If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for your disability, you are presumed eligible for VR services, if you plan to become employed.

Q: How long does it take for my eligibility to be determined?

A: On average, it takes 175 days to determine eligibility. VR must make an eligibility decision within 60 days following the submission of a completed application.

Q. After I am notified that I am eligible, what is the next step?

A. Your VR counselor will begin the process to develop your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Q. How long does it take for a plan to be developed?

A. GVRA has up to 90 days to complete an IPE. If you have been placed on the wait list, your plan will not be developed until you are removed from the wait list.

Note: In FY 2020, IPEs were completed in an average of 69 days.

Q. What is an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and how is it developed?

A. The IPE is a document that will outline the services you will receive while you are working with VR to achieve employment. It will include your employment goal, how you will achieve that goal, and the providers that will work with you. During the IPE development, further tests may be required to help you determine the right vocational goal, and to identify the services needed to achieve the goal. This is called the needs assessment. Needs assessment activities may include additional medical, psychological or other specialized tests, as well as a vocational and/or work evaluation.

Q. Do I have a choice in who I work with for service delivery?

A. Yes. VR clients have informed choice. Informed choice means VR staff provide the pros and cons for available options in order to help you make the best choices as it relates to your employment goals.

Q. What choices do I have when selecting services on my plan?

A. When working with VR, your choices include: working with your counselor to select an appropriate employment goal, determining the specific vocational rehabilitation services you are able to receive, selecting the provider from whom you receive services; and understanding how to obtain and/or pay for your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) services.

Q. Will I be required to pay for any of my services?

A: VR will look at the income of eligible individuals to determine if they will be required to share in the cost of vocational rehabilitation services. Some individuals or services may be exempt, and you will not be required to pay for those services. You may be asked to provide proof of financial resources

(Pay Stubs, Social Security Award Letters, and so on) in order to document income.

Q. How can I speed up the time it takes to receive services?

A. You can work with VR staff to ensure that your case progresses timely through the process by doing the following:

- Providing any documentation related to your disability early in the application process.
- Providing updated contact information and notifying VR staff of any changes to your situation; for example, changes in your address, phone number, or medical or psychological condition.

Q. What kind of jobs does GVRA help people find?

A. Employment plans are based on a client's strengths and interests. We work with individuals with all different kinds of interests, from entry-level to professional level to ensure you are able to have a career path **based on your wants and needs.**

Q. Am I guaranteed a job upon completion of the VR process?

A. No. VR cannot "guarantee" anyone employment but we do strive to work with you and alleviate any barriers that may exist as a direct result of your disability to assist you in being able to apply for and go to work successful. Supports are also available after you are employed should there be changes in your medical condition that result in new needs to retain employment.

Q. Are additional supports provided by GVRA upon employment?

A. Yes. Supports are also available after you are employed should there be changes regarding your disability that result in new needs to retain employment. Examples include: assessment of the workspace for disability related accommodations or job coaching to address disability related needs.