

Referral

- You can complete a referral by phone (844) 367 - 4872, online <https://referral.gvs.ga.gov/> or by coming into a local office.

Application

- You will meet with a counselor and fill out an application for the VR Program. You and your counselor will get documentation of your disability to determine if you qualify.

Eligibility

- Being able to provide documentation to support your disability and related limitations as early in the process as possible will assist in moving your case timely.

Needs Assessment

- You and your counselor will make choices about available services you will need to reach your employment goals. Your counselor may schedule you for tests to find out what services you need.

Employment Plan (IPE)

- You and your counselor will develop a WORK PLAN that lists your responsibilities and the services you may receive.

Services

- Services will be based on your individual needs for the purpose of WORKING. This may include working with a GVRA employee or service provider to include a community rehabilitation provider, or institution of higher education.

Employment

- GVRA ultimate goal is employment. GVRA will continue to work with you to secure employment.

Closure

- Your case may be closed after you have been employed successfully for 90 days.
- You can request additional services after your case is closed if they are needed to keep you WORKING.

How do you know if you will qualify for VR services?

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.

How do I begin the process?

You can also complete a referral by phone (844) 367 - 4872, online <https://referral.gvs.ga.gov/> or by coming into a local office. We recommend reviewing the VR process and eligibility requirements prior to submitting a referral.

Do I have to go in person to an office to apply?

No. You can complete a referral by phone but if you complete an application (also can be done by phone or online,), you may be required to come into an office at some point during the process.

How do you know if you will qualify for VR services?

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.

What documentation is needed at application?

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

If I complete an Application, how long until I receive services?

It can take up to 185 days or longer to determine eligibility and begin receiving services

- 5 days for Referral
- 30 days for Application
- 60 days to determine Eligibility
- 90 days to develop Individual Plan for Employment (IPE)

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

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

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?

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

Is there a cost for VR services?

VR staff will assess the financial resources of your family to determine if you will be required to pay for all or part of the services you require.

Some services are financially exempt and you will not pay for those – this may include assessments or adjustment services for example.

What are comparable benefits and will they impact services from GVRA?

Comparable benefits are services and benefits that are provided or paid for by another Federal, State, or local public agency, health insurance, or by employee benefits to name a few.

If they are available at the time of a VR service, they will be used to reduce the financial burden to VR. VR must always be the payee of last resort.