

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Is VR Right for Me?



GVRA



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Georgia Vocational
Rehabilitation Agency

Is VR Right for Me? Introduction

Presenter's Name – Jennifer Howell

**Vision: Every Georgian with a Disability
Can Work and Live Independently.**

**Mission: The Mission of GVRA is to
Assist Georgians with Disabilities to Gain
Employment and Independence.**



Is VR Right for Me? Introduction

Pillars: **TEACH**

Transparency – Through Engagement and Communication

Empowerment – Through Education and Informed Choice

Accountability – Through Expectations and Sound Decision-Making

Compassion – Through Quality of Services

Honesty – Through Feedback and Consistency



Is VR Right for Me? Introduction

Purpose of Session

The purpose of this session will be to provide a Question and Answer format that will give more information into whether VR is the “right” agency to assist you in going to work.



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Services Available

Services vary based on individual needs as it relates to specific vocational goals.

Examples may include:

1. orientation and mobility training,
2. specific job training,
3. job placement,
4. assistive technology services, etc...



Is VR Right for Me? Background

Population Served

VR can assist any individual who meets eligibility requirements with employment related services as long as you can show that you are legally able to work in the United States.

VR also provides services to students currently enrolled in High School that may not be of legal age to work.



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Is VR Right for Me? Background

Partners

VR partners with a variety of businesses, public and private, state agencies (in and outside of GA) and advocacy groups statewide to ensure that services are available as needed to assist our clients with achieving their employment goals.

As services are unique to the individual, additional working relationships can be developed as needed to ensure a client's needs are met.

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Is VR Right for Me?

Do you want assistance in going to work?

VR is a work program that provides services to help you obtain employment.

If you are not ready or released to go to work by your physician, then VR might not be right for you at this time.

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Is VR Right for Me?

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.

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Is VR Right for Me?

How do I begin the process?

You can contact your local office by calling the number listed here and they will direct you to the appropriate VR person to complete a referral.

844-367-4872

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Is VR Right for Me?

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), you may be required to come into an office at some point during the process.



Is VR Right for Me?

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.



Is VR Right for Me?

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



Is VR Right for Me?

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)

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Is VR Right for Me?

How can you help VR staff process your referral and subsequent application faster?

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.



Is VR Right for Me?

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.

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Is VR Right for Me?

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.



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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.

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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.



Is VR Right for Me?

What are the process?

1. **Complete Referral** ~ within 5 days of referral, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment for an application
2. **Complete Application** ~ within 30 days of referral being received
3. **Eligibility Determination** ~ within 60 days of application being completed
4. **IPE Determination** ~ within 90 days of eligibility
5. **Services Rendered** ~ varies based on goal
6. **Job Placement** ~ case is followed for 90 days after successful placement



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Why is it important to keep my contact information up to date?

If your phone number changes, or you move, please notify staff as quickly as possible so that there is no delay in service delivery due to not being able to communicate with you.

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