

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Is VR Right for Me?

844-367-4872

gvs.georgia.gov



Is VR Right for Me? - Introduction

Goal of this Session

The goal of this session is to provide information about the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, helping you determine if it's the right fit to support you in your journey to employment.

Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

Purpose of Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation is a federally and state-funded program designed to help individuals with disabilities obtain and sustain employment, as well as live independently.

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program offered through the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.



Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

GVRA Vision Statement:

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency is building a client-focused agency that partners with the community to expand opportunities for Georgians with disabilities.

GVRA Mission Statement:

Serve Georgians with disabilities to empower them to live independently.



Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

GVRA Values:

Collaboration

Empowering decisions through strong partnerships, active engagement, and teamwork.

Compassion

Demonstrating humanity through listening and action.

Integrity

Showing a commitment to honesty and transparency in doing what is best for our clients, customers, teammates, and community.

Innovation

Seeking continuous growth and improvement through creative solutions, empowerment, and participation.

Service

Providing a quality and meaningful experience to the individuals we serve and support.



Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

Population Served

VR can assist any eligible individual who is legally authorized to work in the United States.

Additionally, VR offers services to high school students, including those who may not yet be of legal working age, to support their transition from school to employment.



Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

Services Available

Services are tailored to meet individual needs and specific vocational goals.

Example services may include:

1. Orientation and Mobility Training
2. Specific Job Training
3. Supported Employment
4. Assistive Work Technology
5. Work Adjustment Training
6. Job Coaching
7. Job Search Assistance
8. Job Retention

Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

Partners

VR collaborates with a range of public and private businesses, state agencies, and advocacy groups across the state to ensure that the right services are available to help clients achieve their employment goals.

Additionally, new partnerships can be formed as needed to address an individual's specific disability and vocational needs

Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

The Vocational Rehabilitation Process

1. **Referral**
 - Basic information is gathered to initiate the process.
2. **Application**
 - Detailed information is collected to begin the application process.
3. **Eligibility Determination**
 - Medical records are reviewed to determine eligibility for the VR program.
4. **Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)**
 - A job goal and vocational needs are identified, and a plan is developed to help an individual achieve employment.
5. **Services**
 - Services are provided based on the plan outlined in the IPE.
6. **Employment**
 - Assistance is provided to help the individual secure employment.
7. **Closure**
 - The VR case is closed successfully after 90 days of sustained employment.



Is VR Right for Me? – Overview of VR

Considerations

VR is a program designed to provide services that help you secure employment.

If you are not yet ready to work or have not been cleared by your physician to return to work, VR may not be the right program for you at this time.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

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

You may be eligible for VR services if,

- Your goal is to secure employment, and
- A physical, mental, or psychological disability affects your ability to work, and
- You require VR services to help you find or maintain a job.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

How do I know if I will qualify for VR services? (continued)

If you have proof of:

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on your disability, and
- You want to go to work,

then you are presumed eligible for VR services.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

What documentation do I need to provide at application?

You will be required to provide documentation of your identity and proof of your legal authorization to work in the United States.

Examples of documentation include:

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

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

What documentation do I need to provide at application? (continued)

To complete your application and speed up the eligibility determination process, please have the following information ready for your first appointment.

- List of all medications
- Any Psychological records or Psychological Evaluations to document disability
- Any Medical or Hospital Records to document disability
- Veterans' benefits and medical records to document disability
- Proof of Social Security Benefits (SSI/SSDI verification)
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if the applicant is a high school student or recent graduate



Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

Am I required to apply in person at an office?

No, you can submit a referral online at gvs.georgia.gov

Applications are processed over the phone by one of our Intake Specialists.

However, you may be asked to visit an office at some point during the VR process.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

How long will it take to receive services after completing an application?

Providing documentation of your disability at application can shorten the time from application to receiving services to as little as 30 days.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

Will applying for VR services affect any benefits I receive, such as Social Security (SSI/SSDI), Food Stamps, or Georgia Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?

No, applying for or receiving VR services will not affect these benefits.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

Does income earned after receiving VR services affect any benefits I receive, such as Social Security (SSI/SSDI), Food Stamps, or Georgia Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?

Yes, earned income may affect these benefits as your financial need decreases.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

Is there a cost for VR services?

Most VR services are provided at no cost to the individual. However, if the cost of services exceeds the amount covered by the VR program, the individual may be responsible for the remaining balance.

VR staff will work closely with individuals to ensure a clear understanding of any associated expenses.

Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

What are Comparable Services and Benefits, and will they affect services from GVRA?

Comparable Services and Benefits refer to services or benefits provided or funded by federal, state, or local public agencies, health insurance, or employee benefits.

If Comparable Services and Benefits are available when a paid VR service is provided, they must be used before VR funding is applied.

VR is always the payer of last resort.



Is VR Right for Me? – Common Questions

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

If your phone number changes or you move, please inform the staff promptly so we can update your contact information. This will help prevent any delays in service delivery due to difficulty reaching you.

Is VR Right for Me? – Getting Started

How do I begin the process?

You can reach your local office by calling the number provided, and they will connect you with the appropriate VR representative to assist you in completing a referral.

844-367-4872

You can also complete referrals online through our website:

gvs.georgia.gov



Questions?

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