

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

May 8, 2024

## Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting

Tom Wilson, Board Chairman

[GVRS\\_Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVRS_Board@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Board Meeting Agenda

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board

May 8, 2024

1:00 P.M.

[Virtual](#) – Teams Meeting

1:00 pm	Opening	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:05 pm	Welcome and Remarks	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:10 pm	Roll Call and Agenda	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:15 pm	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Meeting Minutes Approval</li><li>• Budget Report</li><li>• Annual Report</li></ul>	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:20 pm	GVRA Update	<i>Chris Wells GVRA Executive Director</i>
1:30 pm	Public Affairs/Communications Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• External Communications<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ GVRA Website Redesign Update/Plans</li><li>○ Success Stories</li><li>○ Making it Easier for Districts to Request Outreach Materials</li></ul></li><li>• Internal Communications<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Internal Newsletters</li></ul></li></ul>	<i>Carla Murphy Director of Public Affairs/Communications</i>
1:50 pm	New Business/Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Election of Officers</li></ul>	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
2:10 pm	*Public Comments/Adjournment	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>

*\* Individuals are allowed up to five (5) minutes for public comment. The board asks that individuals seeking to offer public comments provide written notice in advance or upon completion of the meeting.*



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Board Meeting Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Remarks
- ❖ Roll Call and Agenda

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Consent Agenda

- ❖ Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval
- ❖ Budget Report

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD**

March 13, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

State Botanical Garden of Georgia, 2450 S. Milledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Wilson, Chair	Suzanne Dooley
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair	Louise Hill
Sandy Adams, Secretary	Vincent Martin (attended virtually)
Craig Camuso	James Defoor (attended virtually)
Jane McCall	
GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells, Non-Member	

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Johnathan Taylor

**Opening, Welcome, and Invocation**

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance, and the meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. Mrs. Adams, Board Secretary, delivered the invocation.

**Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended approval of the agenda and the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session
- Approve Budget Report

On motion of Vice Chair Perdue, seconded by Secretary Adams, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

**GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:**

**Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells**

**Agency Spotlights**

- Executive Director Wells recognized the following employees:
  - Jessica Sanford, a VR Counselor for the Lafayette office in District 1, was chosen as the December employee of the month.
  - Treasure Hight, a VR Counselor for the Columbus office in District 5, was chosen as the January employee of the month.
  - Lauren Knox, a retired VR employee, returned to the agency in her former role as Interim Director of Client Services.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD  
March 13, 2024  
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## House Bills 915 and 916

- Executive Director Wells provided information on House Bill 915 – the amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget, House Bill 916 – the Fiscal Year 2025 adjustments and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Funding.

## Vocational Rehabilitation Updates

- Executive Director Wells shared that the turnover rate for Counselors has improved from 13% in FY2022 to 3% in FY2023 following the improvement in counselors' pay. He also stated that the number of Counselors has increased from 86 in FY2020 to 130 in FY2024.
- He further provided a breakdown of the number of Counselors and Pre-Employment Specialists from FY2019 – FY2024.
- Executive Director Wells also provided updates regarding the increased funding and contracts for the following:
  - Georgia Radio Reading Service
  - Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
  - Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC)
  - BlazeSports
  - Tommy Nobis Center (TNC)
  - Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI)
  - Partnering with the Atlanta Braves

## Legislative Update – John Pilgrim, Legislative & Governmental Affairs Liaison

- Mr. Pilgrim spoke to the current bills that are awaiting approval by the House or Senate related to Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation clients and the Agency.

## Business Relations Update – Leon Allen, Jr., Business Relations Manager

- Mr. Allen briefed the Board on what the Business Relations team does, how the Agency benefits from their efforts, the key principles of VR Business Relations and Engagement, and the different outreach approaches the team uses.
- The Business Relations team has also provided disability etiquette awareness training to the Meriwether County Rotary Club.

## Old Business/New Business

Chairman Wilson reviewed the following items with the Board:

- Project SEARCH – This program is a wonderful opportunity for GVRA. Jeff Allen and his team have worked hard to bring this program as a collaboration with GVRA and hope to transition it to GVRA in October.
- The May 8th GVRs Board meeting will be held virtually.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD**

**March 13, 2024**

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- The August 14<sup>th</sup> GVRS Board Meeting will be held at Roosevelt Warm Springs
- The October 9<sup>th</sup> GVRS Board meeting will be held in Perry, Georgia at the Georgia National Fairgrounds during GVRA Day at the Fair.

**Public Comment & Adjournment**

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. As there was no public comment, he called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Mrs. McCall, seconded by Vice Chair Perdue, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FY 2024 Agency Budget Comparison – 04.30.2024

Category	Total Expenditures	Current Budget	Percent to Budget
Personal Services	\$60,853,890	\$90,702,217	67%
Regular Operating Expenses	5,263,728	6,297,731	84%
Motor Vehicle Expenses	-	-	-
Equipment	547,095	252,340	217%
IT Expenditures	3,189,029	5,077,689	63%
Real Estate Rentals	6,317,288	7,720,942	82%
Telecommunications	1,023,545	2,354,998	43%
Capital Projects/Outlay	670,747	-	-
Contractual Services	6,978,517	13,875,564	50%
Transfers	-	135,000	-
Grants and Benefits	2,644,426	3,370,049	78%
Other	403,306	664,478	61%
DAS Case Services	12,104,602	21,060,000	57%
VR Case Services	19,931,034	31,787,377	63%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$119,927,208</b>	<b>\$183,298,385</b>	<b>65%</b>





# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## GVRS Board Meeting

Chris Wells, Executive Director

[Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Agency Spotlight



**Gwen Lesperance** is the February employee of the month. Gwen is the District Administrator for District 1 in the LaFayette office.

Gwen happily assists new employees in her district to feel welcomed, teaching them the ropes with a positive attitude, and is always available to help with any questions or concerns.

Gwen has served GVRA for 18 years in a variety of positions such as: District Administrative Assistant, Field Services Assistant, Counselor Assistant, and Rehabilitation Job Readiness Specialist.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Agency Spotlight

**Erica Shedd** is the March employee of the month and serves as the Administrative Assistant 2, for Client Services, the Policy & Compliance Program, and supports the State Rehabilitation Counselor.

Erica is very knowledgeable and eager to provide help to anyone in need of assistance. She goes above and beyond to assist the other administrative assistants. Other district administrative assistants have said, "I really don't know what we would do without her. If she does not know the answer to a question, we may have she always says let me find out and I will let you know. We are beyond thankful to have her in our corner."

Erica serves in each role seamlessly and with a positive attitude, grace, and kindness and is the epitome of customer service and organization.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Agency Spotlight



**Moses Little**, a GVRA Specialty Counselor in Athens, was appointed by Governor Brian P. Kemp to serve as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) on April 1st. The SRC is a federally mandated oversight board appointed by the Governor to represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities and non-disabled stakeholders, including family members, employers, counselors, and educators. The board works in partnership with GVRA to assist people with disabilities in achieving employment and independence. Mr. Little was also selected as the GVRA October employee of the month.

Moses is a graduate of Georgia State University with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Educational Psychology. He earned his Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from Mercer University in Atlanta. Moses primarily serves the blind/low vision community as the District 3 Blind/Low Vision counselor. Moses has also worked facilitating substance abuse groups. He is currently in school at Mississippi State University in the Vision Specialist Program.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Executive Director's Update

- ❖ Federal 2023 Monitoring Report
- ❖ Employee Pulse Survey
- ❖ Appreciation Week
- ❖ Appropriations Act

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Public Affairs & Communications Update

Carla Murphy, Public Affairs/Communications Director

[Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## External Communications

### External Website Highlights

- Website is managed in collaboration with GVRA Information Technology (IT) Department.
- Public Affairs Department is responsible for content (including imagery) and look & feel.
- Recent redesign follows a Georgia Technology Authority/Digital Services & Solutions refresh of templates used by state agencies.
- Homepage has been redesigned and additional webpages created to support and promote programs and initiatives.
- Webpages and documents are currently undergoing a review for updates and to ensure accessibility for audiences.
- Website traffic has increased significantly since start of fiscal year – with more than 13,500 visits a month in July 2023 to more than 19,600 visits a month as of April 2024.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Homepage

- Header
- Banners
- HERO Image
- Mission Statement

https://gvs.georgia.gov

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY

MENU

**i** GVRA Client Services Policy Manual | Click here to read the manual. →

**i** Open Enrollment for Providers | Click here for to learn how to become a GVRA provider. →

## Our Mission

Our mission is to serve Georgians with disabilities to empower them to live independently.

GET TO KNOW US →



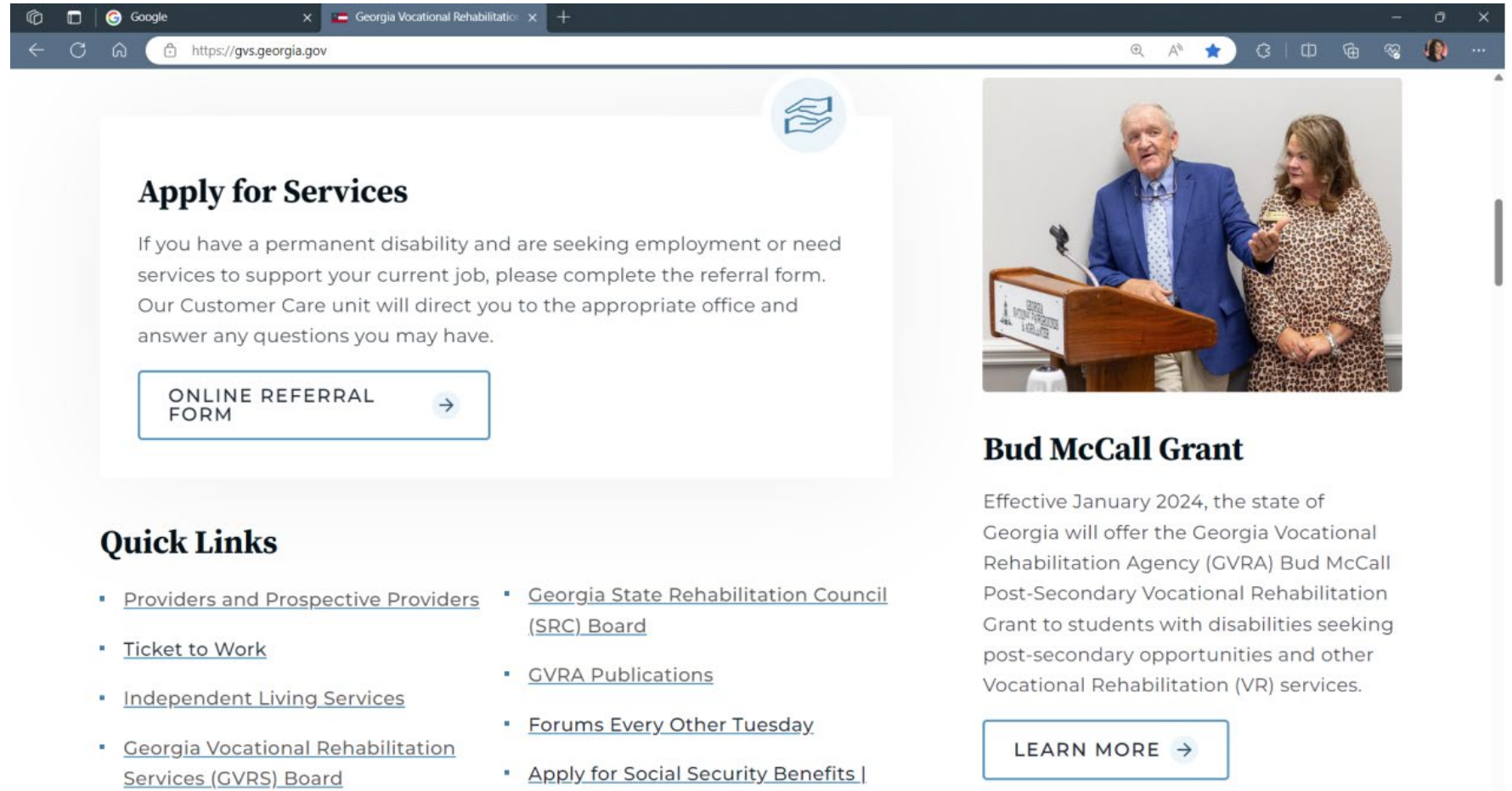


# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Homepage

- Online Referral
- Calls to Action
- Quick Links



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://gvs.georgia.gov>. The page features a prominent "Apply for Services" section with a call to action button for the "ONLINE REFERRAL FORM". Below this is a "Quick Links" section with several hyperlinks. On the right side, there is a photograph of Bud McCall Grant and a woman, with a "LEARN MORE" button below it.

### Apply for Services

If you have a permanent disability and are seeking employment or need services to support your current job, please complete the referral form. Our Customer Care unit will direct you to the appropriate office and answer any questions you may have.

[ONLINE REFERRAL FORM](#)

### Quick Links

- [Providers and Prospective Providers](#)
- [Ticket to Work](#)
- [Independent Living Services](#)
- [Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services \(GVRS\) Board](#)
- [Georgia State Rehabilitation Council \(SRC\) Board](#)
- [GVRA Publications](#)
- [Forums Every Other Tuesday](#)
- [Apply for Social Security Benefits |](#)

### Bud McCall Grant

Effective January 2024, the state of Georgia will offer the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant to students with disabilities seeking post-secondary opportunities and other Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.

[LEARN MORE](#)

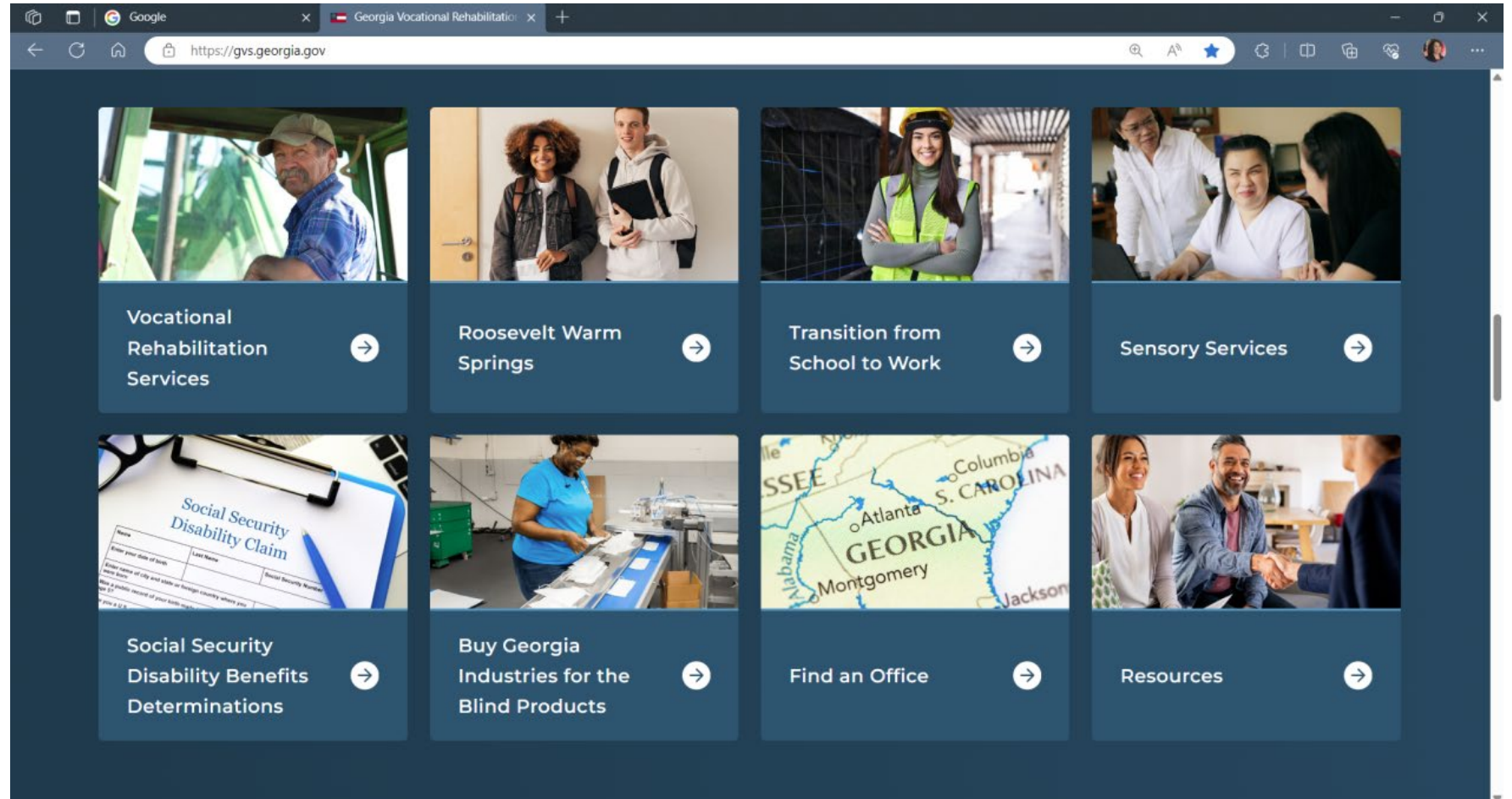


# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Homepage

- Promotional Tiles

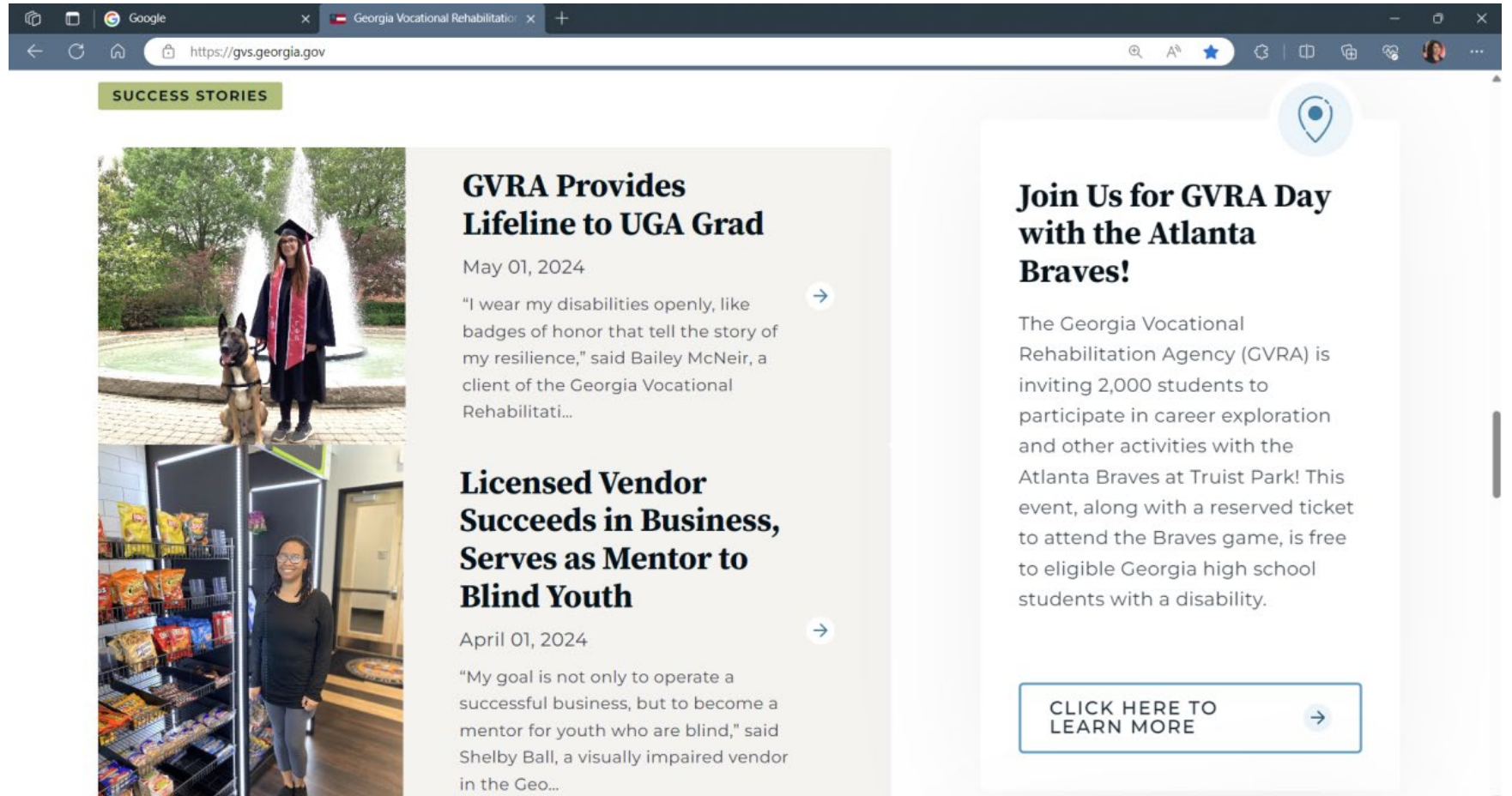


# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Homepage

- Success Stories
- Call to Action



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://gvs.georgia.gov>. The page features a "SUCCESS STORIES" section with two articles. The first article, titled "GVRA Provides Lifeline to UGA Grad", is dated May 01, 2024, and includes a photo of a graduate with a dog. The second article, titled "Licensed Vendor Succeeds in Business, Serves as Mentor to Blind Youth", is dated April 01, 2024, and includes a photo of a vendor in a store. To the right, there is a call to action for "Join Us for GVRA Day with the Atlanta Braves!" with a "CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE" button.

**SUCCESS STORIES**

**GVRA Provides Lifeline to UGA Grad**  
May 01, 2024

"I wear my disabilities openly, like badges of honor that tell the story of my resilience," said Bailey McNeir, a client of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitati...

**Licensed Vendor Succeeds in Business, Serves as Mentor to Blind Youth**  
April 01, 2024

"My goal is not only to operate a successful business, but to become a mentor for youth who are blind," said Shelby Ball, a visually impaired vendor in the Geo...

**Join Us for GVRA Day with the Atlanta Braves!**

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) is inviting 2,000 students to participate in career exploration and other activities with the Atlanta Braves at Truist Park! This event, along with a reserved ticket to attend the Braves game, is free to eligible Georgia high school students with a disability.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Homepage/Footer

- Contact Information
- About Us Links
- Additional Links

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://gvs.georgia.gov>. The page is titled "How can we help?" and features three main sections:

- CALL US**: Primary: (844) 367-4872
- ONLINE CONTACT FORM**: [Email Us](#)
- HOURS**: Monday to Friday, 08:00 a.m. - 05:00 p.m. Eastern Time Zone

On the right side, there is a light blue sidebar titled "About Us" with the following links:

- [Work for GVRA](#)
- [Leadership Team](#)
- [Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse](#)
- [Service of Process Designee](#)

At the bottom of the page, the footer contains the following text:

© [Georgia.gov](#) [Accessibility](#) [Privacy/Security](#) Website powered by [GovHub](#)

[Human Trafficking Notice](#) [Georgia Web Analytics](#)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Interior Landing Page

- Board Overview
- Agendas/Minutes
- Board Presentations
- “Get to Know” Us Links
- Logo Request Form

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Boards & Councils' page on the GVS website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://gvs.georgia.gov/get-know-us/boards-councils>. The page features a navigation menu on the left with the following items: 'Get to Know Us', 'Message From Our Executive Director', 'Publications', 'Resources', 'Vision and Mission', 'Boards & Councils' (highlighted), 'District Map', and 'Logo Request Form'. The main content area has a large heading 'Boards & Councils' followed by a paragraph: 'The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRs) board's nine members provide oversight and guidance to the agency through its executive director.' Below this, a paragraph states: 'Individuals are allowed up to five (5) minutes for public comment when attending the GVRs board meeting in person. The board asks that individuals seeking to offer public comments provide written notice in advance or upon completion of the meeting. You may contact the Board at [GVRs\\_Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVRs_Board@gvs.ga.gov).' At the bottom of the main content area, there are three links: 'Meet the GVRs Board', 'For Agendas', 'For Minutes', and 'For Presentations'.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

External Website

## Interior Page

- Overview of Transition Services
- Quick links related to RWS, Pathways & Summer GROW
- Overview of Cave Spring Center
- Pathways to Partnerships Grant
- Additional links for RWS

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website <https://gvs.georgia.gov/transition-school-work/roosevelt-warm-springs>. The page features a navigation menu on the left with the following items: Transition Services, Pre-Employment Transition Services, Roosevelt Warm Springs (highlighted), RWS Pathways, Get Ready for Opportunities in Work (GROW), Cave Spring Center, and Pathways to Partnerships Grant Project. The main content area contains a blue header, a paragraph stating "For almost a century, the campus has embraced the tenets of public service, technological advancement, program diversity and continuing education for Georgians with disabilities.", a paragraph stating "Today, Roosevelt Warm Springs' comprehensive rehabilitation center remains a national treasure and a Georgia 'point-of-pride.'", a paragraph stating "We invite you to visit our National Historic Landmark campus whenever you are in the area.", and a paragraph stating "Please contact us at (706) 655-5000 for additional information." On the right side, there is a list of links: Learn More About RWS, Contact RWS, Directions to RWS, Donate, and RWS Services Vocational Rehabilitation. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the search bar and various application icons, with the system tray displaying the time as 10:50 PM on 5/21/2024.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Website Analytics

## Fiscal Year 2024 Analytics

Fiscal Year 2024	Visits
July 2023	13,531
August 2023	15,771
September 2023	14,769
October 2023	17,759
November 2023	13,876
December 2023	12,136
January 2024	17,395
February 2024	17,030
March 2024	18,583
April 2024	19,616



## 10 Most Viewed Webpages (April 1- 30, 2024)

- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Roosevelt Warm Springs | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Vocational Rehabilitation | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Map of all our locations
- Contact Us | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Provider Management | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Bud McCall Grant | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Disability Adjudication Services Information | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- The Application Process | Roosevelt Warm Springs
- Get to Know Us | Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Success Stories

Carla Murphy, Public Affairs/Communications Director

[Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov)





# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Success Stories

### Success Story on Website & Social Media

#### SUCCESS STORIES



### GVRA Provides Lifeline to UGA Grad

May 01, 2024

"I wear my disabilities openly, like badges of honor that tell the story of my resilience," said Bailey McNeir, a client of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation...



### Licensed Vendor Succeeds in Business, Serves as Mentor to Blind Youth

April 01, 2024



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency - GVRA

Published by SocialPilot · May 2 at 9:01AM ·



Meet Shelby Ball, a former GVRA client who is now operating her own business in Atlanta, thanks to help from the Business Enterprise Program. Read more about Shelby's story on our website: <https://gvs.georgia.gov/.../licensed-vendor-succeeds...>

GVRA



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Client Highlight

Shelby Ball is licensed to operate vending stands in public buildings. She currently manages snack bars at the Sam Nunn Federal Building and the Georgia Department of Public Safety headquarters in Atlanta.

Read the full story: [gvs.ga.gov](https://gvs.ga.gov)



See insights and ads

Boost post

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Success Stories

### Success Story Flyers



#### Meet Former GVRA Client **ALANNA REECE**

From the time she was a young girl, Dr. Alanna Reece knew she wanted to work with animals. Throughout her childhood in Perry, she enjoyed gymnastics, horseback riding, and taking care of her cats.

Reece attended public schools in her hometown but graduated from a home-school environment. She credits her parents with encouraging her to pursue her goal of working with animals and to apply for GVRA services.

After graduating from high school, Reece wanted to pursue post-secondary education, so she applied to GVRA for tuition assistance. The financial support she received from GVRA allowed her to attend the University of Georgia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in veterinary science. She spent seven years as a GVRA client, and in 2023 she completed her plan.

**"The GVRA staff was welcoming, but sometimes the process was a little complicated. The counselors work side-by-side with you, however, to make your dreams come true."**

Reece is currently working as a veterinarian at Houston Lake Animal Hospital in Warner Robins, GA. While most of the work she performs is at the clinic, she sometimes travels to pet owners' homes. "During the home visits, I typically administer at-home vaccines and perform wellness exams ranging from healthy to ear infections, and sick exams," she stated. "I also perform at-home euthanasia to help animals cross over the Rainbow Bridge peacefully in the comfort of their own homes."

Reece says her participation in services offered by GVRA contributed to her success. "The GVRA staff was welcoming, but sometimes the process was a little complicated," she observed. "The counselors work side-by-side with you, however, to make your dreams come true. I would recommend GVRA to anyone who qualifies for services," she added.



#### Meet Former GVRA Client **NATHAN JOHNSON**

Nathan Johnson Sr. knew his son, Nathan Johnson Jr., needed professional guidance to shape the direction his life was taking. As a teenager, Nathan had worked as a bagging clerk at a grocery store, but he didn't feel like the grocery business was a viable career option. "My son had been diagnosed with a mild intellectual and speech disability," said Johnson. "Because he has a language impediment, I wanted to help him find suitable employment. When I visited our local WorkSource office, they put me in contact with GVRA," Johnson continued.

After learning about options offered through GVRA, Johnson discussed the possibility of participating in vocational rehabilitation (VR) services with his son. Once he understood the options that were available to him, Nathan, now 22 years old, agreed to seek GVRA services.

**"I'm grateful to the GVRA staff for everything they have done for Nathan. I would wholeheartedly recommend GVRA to parents of exceptional children who are in need of services."**

In March of 2023, Nathan accompanied his father to the GVRA Statesboro office to complete the VR intake process. His case was assigned to VR Counselor Lisa Jones. "Nathan was very shy, but he was motivated to work. Once I received his psychological evaluation results, I reached out to Nathan and to his father so together we could create an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). After the plan was established, Nathan could begin receiving GVRA services," Jones said. As a result, Jones referred him to Progressive Abilities, a non-profit that offers supported employment services.

Nathan's case was assigned to Christy Reddick, a supported employment specialist who helped Nathan compose his resume, apply online, and assisted him with his interviewing skills. Nathan began working at FedEx in August of 2023. Looking to the future, Nathan explained working at FedEx Ground is a good job that allows him to contribute to his household. "But I like watching football and basketball, especially University of Georgia (UGA) football and basketball. So maybe someday I will work in sports management," he stated.



#### Meet Former GVRA Client **SHELBY BALL**

My goal is not only to operate a successful business, but to become a mentor for youth who are blind," said Shelby Ball, a visually impaired vendor in the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency's (GVRA) Business Enterprise Program (BEP). "I would like to provide a sense of encouragement to blind young people. I want them to know how BEP can benefit their lives."

Ball, who is originally from Ohio but moved to Georgia in 1996, initially had misconceptions about the Business Enterprise Program. "Before doing research, I thought this program was designed to employ senior citizens," she said. "After researching it, I realized this program benefits all age groups. It's for people who want to become entrepreneurs in vending."

Ball enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to participate in BEP in August of 2022. "I began training that following October. Throughout the program, I have felt as though I enrolled in a mini-business college course," she noted. "In 2023, I completed my training and subsequently was awarded a facility. My provisional period began in July of 2023, and a few months later I became a licensed vendor."

**"BEP has given me a sense of belonging, with the support of my trainer and the VR team, I've learned how to be my own boss and to be successful. I'm earning an income, so my family is becoming financially stable."**

Ball is licensed to operate vending stands in public buildings. She currently manages snack bars at the Sam Nunn Federal Building and the Georgia Department of Public Safety headquarters in Atlanta.

When asked about her day-to-day responsibilities, Ball said she merchandises the snack bar and engages with customers to ensure they have a positive experience. She also manages two part-time employees.

A single parent, Ball spends time away from her job raising her three young sons in Cobb County.

"My overall experience with BEP has been smooth," said Ball. "GVRA continues to assist me a great deal. I am grateful for the support I receive."



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Outreach/Outreach Materials

Carla Murphy, Public Affairs/Communications Director

[Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Agency Outreach Materials (Who We Are)




**HERE TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE SUCCESS**

GVRA serves Georgians with disabilities to empower them to work and live independent lives.

[www.gvs.georgia.gov](http://www.gvs.georgia.gov) (844) 367-4872




**Who We Are**  
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) is a state agency helping individuals with disabilities to work and live independent lives.



**Our Divisions**

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**  
Provides services for individuals with disabilities who want to work or maintain their current jobs.
- Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS)/Cave Spring**  
Offer academic support, job training, and career opportunities to students in a residential, college-like environment.
- Disability Adjudication Services (DAS)**  
Processes claims and determines Social Security benefit eligibility for individuals who cannot work due to their disabilities.
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)**  
Helps visually-impaired Georgians become independent business owners in the food service industry.
- Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB)**  
Creates job opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually-impaired.

**Eligibility**  
To qualify for our services, your disability must be permanent and affect your ability to work. Services will be based on your individual needs for the purpose of working.

**Contact Us**

(844) 367-4872  
[gvs.georgia.gov](http://gvs.georgia.gov)

**BUILD A SKILLED AND RELIABLE WORKFORCE**

GVRA Business Relations partners with organizations seeking a reliable workforce by connecting them to skilled individuals with disabilities.

(844) 367-4872 [gvs.georgia.gov](http://gvs.georgia.gov)



### Benefits to Businesses

- Gain access to job candidates with a variety of educational and vocational backgrounds.
- Reduce turnover costs with employees who exhibit long-term loyalty.
- Receive tax credits and incentives ranging from \$2,400-\$15,000.

### Services to Businesses

Our team will help your business recruit, hire or retain workers with disabilities. GVRA Employment Relations professionals provide the following to businesses at no cost:

- **Recruitment** – Referral of prescreened and qualified candidates based on your business's needs.
- **Job Retention** – Post Hire follow ups from our employment consultants.
- **On the Job Training OJT** – Wage reimbursement for job training/job tryout.
- **Education and Training** – Staff training on disability awareness and etiquette, accommodations, and ADA education.
- **Accommodation and Retention Services** – Identifying job accommodations or worksite modifications barriers to support current employees who develop or acquire a disability.
- **Consultation** – Technical assistance with disability-related issues.


### Contact Us

For more information about our Business Relations services, call us at 844-367-4872. You may also scan the QR code or visit our website at [gvs.ga.gov](http://gvs.ga.gov).



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Pre-Employment Transition Services Outreach Materials



**GVRA**

YOU CAN ACHIEVE  
**SUCCESS**  
WITH OUR HELP

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency provides support for students with disabilities ready to explore career and education opportunities after graduation. For more information, visit our website or call us at the number given below.

[www.gvs.georgia.gov](http://www.gvs.georgia.gov) (844) 367-4872




**GVRA**  
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

GVRA provides support for students with disabilities ready to explore career and educational opportunities after high school.

**Contact Us!**

(844) 367-4872

[gvs.georgia.gov](http://gvs.georgia.gov)




**GVRA**

YOU CAN ACHIEVE  
**SUCCESS**  
WITH OUR HELP

**Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency**

GVRA provides support for students with disabilities ready to explore career and educational opportunities after graduation. For more information, visit our website or call us.

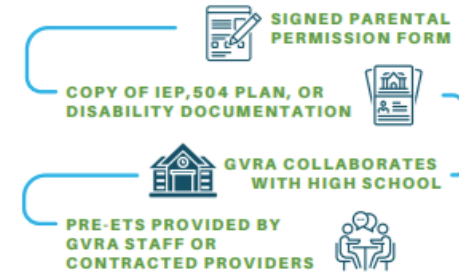
[www.gvs.georgia.gov](http://www.gvs.georgia.gov) (844) 367-4872

### PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

- Self-Advocacy Instruction
- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning
- Counseling on Education/Training Options
- Workplace Readiness Training



### PROCESS TO RECEIVE PRE-ETS



### TRANSITION OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>LOCAL/RESIDENTIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING</b>   | <b>INCLUSIVE POST SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roosevelt Warm Springs</li> <li>• Cave Spring Center</li> <li>• Disability Specific Centers</li> <li>• GVRA Local Training Providers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colleges</li> <li>• Universities</li> <li>• Technical Colleges</li> </ul> |
- WORK** 

### CONTACT US

For more information about our Pre-Employment Services, contact your Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor or call us at 844-367-4872. You also may scan the QR Code or visit our website at [gvs.ga.gov](http://gvs.ga.gov).



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Bud McCall Outreach Materials

## Postcard



Introducing the  
**BUD MCCALL  
GRANT**

Up to \$17,725 a year for eligible students

GVRA is offering the Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant to students with disabilities seeking post-secondary opportunities.

### Contact Us Today!

[www.gvs.georgia.gov](http://www.gvs.georgia.gov)  
844-367-4872



GVRA presents the

## Bud McCall Grant

Up to \$17,725 a year

### About the Grant

The Bud McCall Grant is awarded to students with disabilities who are seeking post-secondary and other Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. Undergraduate students and students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan may be candidates for the grant and GVRA services. The total annual grant is \$17,725 for up to 5 years.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must have a permanent disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment
- Must apply for services and become a GVRA client
- Must provide an acceptance letter and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for an accredited college or university
- Must apply all comparable benefits for which the individual is eligible, including Pell grants, before applying the Bud McCall Grant to their balance
- Must submit updates to include grades, student account details, and class schedule each semester to their counselor to maintain eligibility

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## Poster



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# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Bud McCall Rack Cards



### **Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant**

Up to **\$17,725** a year for eligible students

GVRA is offering the Bud McCall Grant to students with disabilities who are seeking post-secondary opportunities.

**Contact Us Today!**

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### Introducing the **Bud McCall Grant**

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# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Outreach Materials (Spanish)



**GVRA**  
AGENCIA DE REHABILITACIÓN VOCACIONAL DE GEORGIA

**ESTAMOS PARA AYUDARLE A ALCANZAR EL ÉXITO**

La GVRA brinda servicios a personas con discapacidades en Georgia con el objetivo de empoderarlas para que trabajen y vivan de manera independiente.

[www.gvs.georgia.gov](http://www.gvs.georgia.gov) (844) 367-4872



**GVRA**  
AGENCIA DE REHABILITACIÓN VOCACIONAL DE GEORGIA

**¿Quiénes somos?**  
La Agencia de Rehabilitación Vocacional de Georgia (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, GVRA) es una agencia estatal que ayuda a las personas con discapacidades a trabajar y vivir una vida independiente.


**Nuestras divisiones**

- **Rehabilitación vocacional (VR)**  
Brinda servicios para personas con discapacidades que desean trabajar o mantener sus empleos actuales.
- **Roosevelt Warm Springs (RW3)/Cave Spring**  
Ofrece apoyo académico, capacitación laboral y oportunidades profesionales a los estudiantes en un entorno residencial similar a una universidad.
- **Servicios de adjudicación de discapacidad (Disability Adjudication Services, DAS)**  
Tramita solicitudes y determina la elegibilidad para los beneficios del Seguro Social de las personas que no pueden trabajar debido a una discapacidad.
- **Programa de desarrollo empresarial (Business Enterprise Program, BEP)**  
Ayuda a las personas con discapacidad visual de Georgia a convertirse en propietarios de negocios independientes en la industria de servicios de alimentos.
- **Industrias de Georgia para ciegos (Georgia Industries for the Blind, GIB)**  
Crea oportunidades laborales para personas ciegas o con discapacidad visual.

**Elegibilidad**  
Para calificar para nuestros servicios, su discapacidad debe ser permanente y afectar su capacidad para trabajar. Los servicios se basarán en sus necesidades individuales con el fin de trabajar.

**Póngase en contacto con nosotros**

(844) 367-4872  
[gvs.georgia.gov](http://gvs.georgia.gov)

**GVRA**

**PUEDA ALCANZAR EL ÉXITO CON NUESTRA AYUDA**

**Agencia de Rehabilitación Vocacional de Georgia**

La Agencia de Rehabilitación Vocacional de Georgia (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, GVRA) brinda apoyo a estudiantes con discapacidades listos para explorar oportunidades profesionales y educativas después de graduarse. Para obtener más información visite nuestro sitio web o llámenos.

[www.gvs.georgia.gov](http://www.gvs.georgia.gov) (844) 367-4872



**GVRA**  
Agencia de Rehabilitación Vocacional de Georgia

La GVRA presenta la **Subvención Bud McCall**

Hasta \$17,725 al año

**Acerca de la subvención**  
La subvención Bud McCall se otorga a estudiantes con discapacidades que buscan oportunidades postsecundarias y otros servicios de rehabilitación vocacional (Vocational Rehabilitation, VR). Los estudiantes de pregrado y los estudiantes con un plan de educación individualizado (Individualized Education Plan, IEP) o un plan 504 pueden ser candidatos para la subvención y los servicios de la Agencia de Rehabilitación Vocacional de Georgia (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, GVRA). La subvención total anual total es de \$17,725 por hasta 5 años.

**Requisitos de elegibilidad**

- Debe tener una discapacidad permanente que resulte en un impedimento sustancial para el empleo.
- Debe solicitar servicios y convertirse en cliente de la GVRA.
- Debe proporcionar una carta de aceptación y completar la solicitud gratuita de ayuda federal para estudiantes (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA) para un colegio o universidad acreditada.
- Debe aplicar todos los beneficios comparables para los cuales el individuo es elegible, incluidas las subvenciones Pell, antes de aplicar la subvención Bud McCall a su saldo.
- Debe enviar información actualizada que incluya calificaciones, detalles de la cuenta del estudiante y horario de clases cada semestre a su consejero para mantener la elegibilidad.

**¡Póngase en contacto con nosotros hoy!**

Visite [referral.gvs.ga.gov](http://referral.gvs.ga.gov) para presentar su solicitud en línea o llámenos al (844)367-4872. Para obtener más información, visite [gvs.ga.gov](http://gvs.ga.gov) o escanee el código QR.




# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Sensory Brochures (Large Print & Braille)

## Sensory Brochures for Blind/Low Vision and Deaf, DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing Georgians



**GVRA**  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION AGENCY

# Sensory Services

Resources for Blind or Visually-Impaired Individuals and Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing Individuals

The brochure features a circular inset image of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, looking slightly to her right with a neutral expression. The background is a solid blue color.



**GVRA**  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION AGENCY

# Sensory Services

Resources for Blind or Low Vision Individuals and Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing Individuals

The brochure features a circular inset image of a woman with curly hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt, smiling and gesturing with her hands as if speaking. The background is a solid blue color.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Outreach Materials Request Form



GVRA-Agency Portal

+ New ▾

⚙ Page details

📊 Analytics

**Outreach Materials Request Form**

Attending an event and need materials promoting GVRA services and opportunities? Complete an online request form and the items will be shipped directly to you!

[Click here for a complete list and to order materials!](#)

Questions?

**GVRA**



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## External Outreach

### **Outreach activities include the following:**

- Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education Rural Learning Network Quarterly Meetings
- Clarke County Schools, Fulton County Schools, Greene County Schools, Cobb County Schools/Marietta City School, Atlanta Public Schools Transition Fairs
- National Federation for the Blind Monthly Meetings and Annual Conference in Macon
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities Wellness Fair
- Northwest Georgia Housing Authority Annual Meeting
- Statewide campaign (Bud McCall) to local districts (email marketing)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Internal Newsletters

Carla Murphy, Public Affairs/Communications Director

[Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Internal Newsletters

## GVRA On Target Newsletter



The newsletter cover features a large circular image of the Georgia State Capitol building. The main title "GVRA On Target" is prominently displayed, with "Official Employee Newsletter of GVRA" below it. A grid of six smaller images highlights key content: VR Orientation, CRC Credits, EAP Resources, a new PowerPoint template, and a staff member.

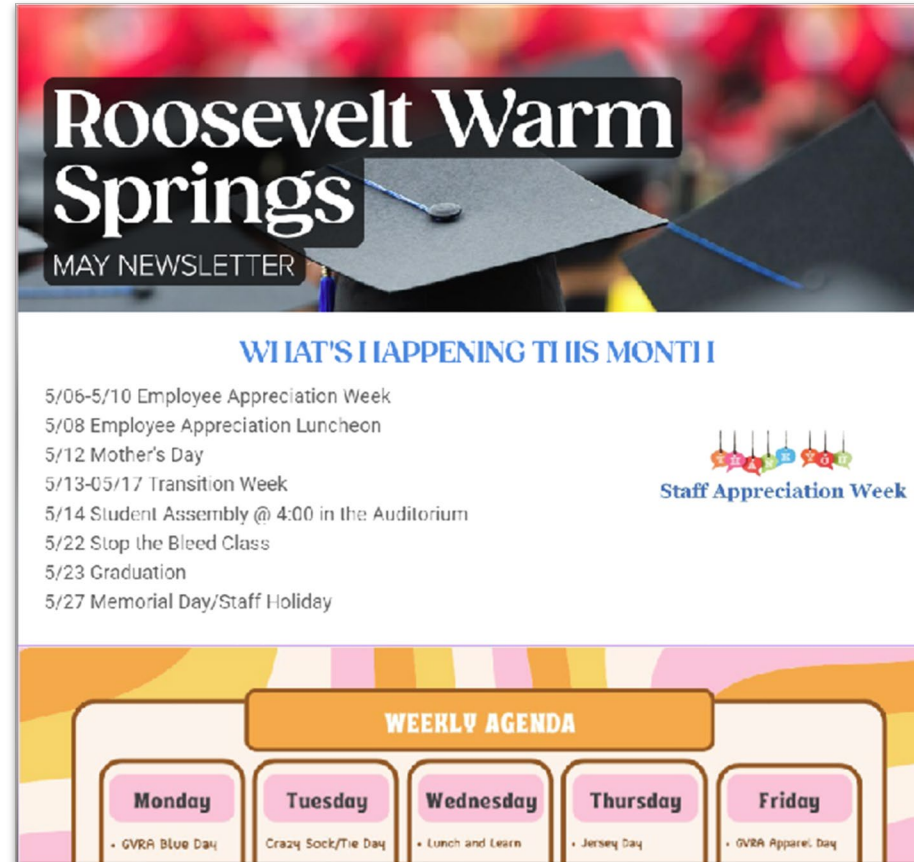
**GVRA**  
**On Target**  
Official Employee Newsletter of GVRA

VR Orientation      CRC Credits      EAP Resources

New GVRA PowerPoint Template Now Available!



## Roosevelt Warm Springs Newsletter



The newsletter cover features a background image of graduation caps. The title "Roosevelt Warm Springs" is in a large, white, serif font, with "MAY NEWSLETTER" below it. The main content area lists monthly events and includes a "Staff Appreciation Week" graphic. At the bottom, a "WEEKLY AGENDA" table lists activities for each day of the week.

**Roosevelt Warm Springs**  
MAY NEWSLETTER

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH**

- 5/06-5/10 Employee Appreciation Week
- 5/08 Employee Appreciation Luncheon
- 5/12 Mother's Day
- 5/13-05/17 Transition Week
- 5/14 Student Assembly @ 4:00 in the Auditorium
- 5/22 Stop the Bleed Class
- 5/23 Graduation
- 5/27 Memorial Day/Staff Holiday

**Staff Appreciation Week**

**WEEKLY AGENDA**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
• GVRA Blue Day	Crazy Sock/Tie Day	• Lunch and Learn	• Jersey Day	• GVRA Apparel Day

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Public Affairs & Communications Update

Carla Murphy, Public Affairs/Communications Director

[Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov)

**QUESTIONS?**



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## GVR Board New Business & Old Business

Tom Wilson, Chairman  
[GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov)





# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## Annual Election of Board Officers

- ❖ Chairman – Tom Wilson (Incumbent)
- ❖ Vice Chairman – Faye Perdue (Incumbent)
- ❖ Secretary – Sandy Adams (Incumbent)

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## GVR Board Public Comments & Adjournment

Tom Wilson, Chairman  
[GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov)

