

All about VR FAQ



MIDWESTERN COLLABORATIVE

Every state has a federally funded Vocational Rehabilitation agency. VR is designed to help people with disabilities meet their employment goals. VR also assists people to prepare for, get, keep, or regain employment.

Q. What does VR stand for?

Vocational Rehabilitation

Q. Why are VR services important?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are available in each state to help assist students with their transition from high school to postsecondary services. If a student is eligible for services the role of VR is to help that student prepare for employment, job placement or assist in gaining independence.

VR services can assist students with disabilities transition from school into postsecondary education, training, or directly into employment with meaningful goal of inclusion in the adult community.

Q. How do I contact VR and or find my state VR plan?

Each state has a central office and contact information. <https://rsa.ed.gov/about/states>

Q. Is there only one VR office in the state?

Along with the state having a central location, there are typically several other locations around the state to help offer assistance.

Q. What age can a young adult start working with VR?

Although VR is considered an adult service program there are times that the VR counselors may join the IEP transition team meetings for students before they leave high school. Young adults may benefit from the programs and supports VR can offer as they leave high school and seek employment.

Q. When will a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team discuss VR services?

By age 16, if a student is on an IEP, the team must include a transition plan. The team must explain the student's transition needs and include possible needs and goals.

Q. Will every student on an IEP qualify for VR services?

No. Even if a student is on an IEP they must apply and qualify for VR services.

A student's mental or physical disability must interfere with their ability to gain employment or need help finding employment. In High School, a student who is entitled to receive special education services by law. In postsecondary a student must meet specific eligibility requirements to receive services.

Q. How does someone apply for VR services?

If an individual feels they have a qualifying disability and would benefit from VR services, they should reach out to their local VR office and they will assist in the process.

If an individual is on an IEP, their special education coordinator will have contact information and will refer them to VR.

Q. After applying for services, what is the timeline until information is received?

60 days after the application has been completed and submitted for review the eligibility determination should be received.

If unforeseen circumstances delay the eligibility determination 60 day timeline the counselor and individual should agree upon a specific time.

Q. What is an IPE?

IPE stands for Individualized Plan for Employment.

The IPE may be created by the applicant or with the assistance of the VR counselor.

The IPE should be developed as soon as possible after the determination of eligibility was made. No more than 90 days after the determination unless the client agrees to the timeline extension.

Q. What are some examples of services in an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)?

Everyone is unique and that creates the need for each IPE to be unique and fit the needs of the person receiving services. Working with a VR counselor, individuals will establish and identify the services that are felt necessary for a person to achieve their goals.

Some examples of services include but are not limited to:

- Counseling and Guidance from VR staff
- Placement for job assistance
- Specific skills training
- Transportation
- Interpreter services for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Referral services
- Job coaching
- Tutoring
- Assisting with transition from school to employment
- Follow-up services for a specified amount of time
- Support and Advocacy for individuals

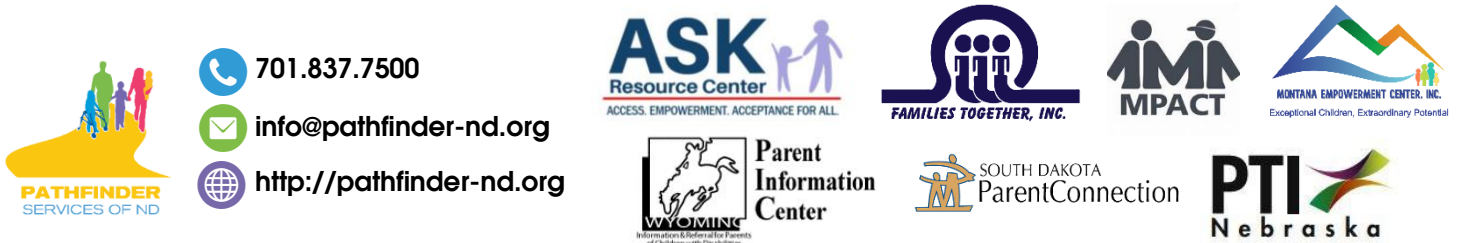
Q. What types of services are provided by VR?

While services may differ by state, services could include:

- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Job search, placement assistance and job-keeping services
- Referral to other agencies for needed services
- Interpreter services
- Job licenses, tools, equipment, and initial supplies
- Rehabilitation and/or assistive technology services
- Training – on-the-job or in school
- Hearing aids, artificial limbs, braces, and other health services
- Specific post-employment services needed to maintain and/or regain employment

Q. If a person is eligible for services what is the next step?

A plan will be created between the VR counselor and individual. Interest, skills and goals will be discussed and an IPE will be created.



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