

## What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that works with people who have physical or mental disabilities to prepare for, gain or retain employment. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers.

## Who May be Eligible for VR Services?

You may be eligible for VR services if you have a goal to become employed and meet the following criteria:

- Your physical or mental disability interferes with your ability to become employed.
- VR's help is necessary for you to prepare for, gain or retain employment.

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 intend to become employed.

## What is Financial Participation?

VR will look at the income of eligible individuals to determine if they will be required to share in the cost of vocational rehabilitation services. Some individuals or services may be exempt, and a person will not be required to pay toward the cost of these services.

## What is Order of Selection?

Under order of selection, all eligible individuals are placed on a prioritized waiting list based on the significance of their disability. Federal law requires that individuals with the most significant disabilities be served first.



## General Information

## What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment is a unique employment service for individuals with the most significant disabilities who require ongoing support services to succeed in competitive employment.

VR funds Supported Employment in a variety of business environments for anyone requiring intensive employment supports, including initial placement and stabilization in the workplace.

Supported Employment offers continuing assistance from an employment specialist to maintain long-term employment for individuals who have previously been unable to succeed in traditional employment.

## Values of Supported Employment

The following are the values that a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor uses when considering an individual for supported employment:

- Inclusion in the community
- Presumption that the individual will be able to work
- Placement in competitive employment
- Individualized plan development
- The support of family members, friends or coworkers



## Supported Employment:

- Is work for pay at the same rate as other employees
- Promotes social integration, productivity, and maximum use of a person's skills and abilities
- Takes place in an integrated work setting
- Assists individuals with developmental disabilities, severe and persistent mental illnesses or other significant disabilities
- Includes job coaching that is often provided by an employment specialist after placement on the job
- Maintains support services to the worker for present and future employment needs
- Builds extended, ongoing supports with agencies and partners outside of VR to assist a person in maintaining employment

Supports may include arranging transportation, placement, training or retraining the supported worker, developing natural supports and assistive technology, if needed, to perform job duties.

**For More Information,  
Contact:**

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Tallahassee, Florida 32301-4862  
(850) 245-3399 (Voice and TTY)  
(800) 451-4327 (Voice and TTY)  
[www.Rehabworks.org](http://www.Rehabworks.org)  
[www.FLJobConnections.com](http://www.FLJobConnections.com)



An equal opportunity employer/program. It is against the law for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) of the Florida Department of Education, as a recipient of Federal financial assistance, to discriminate against any individual in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief.

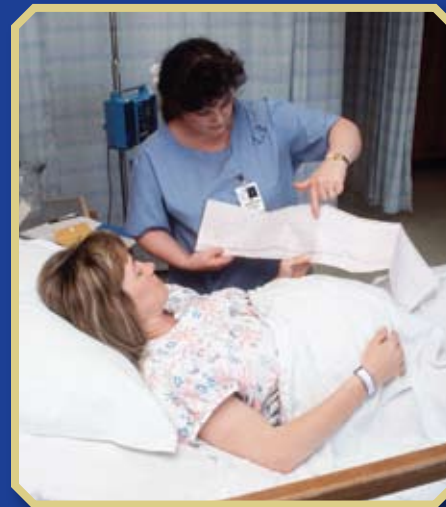
The application process used by VR to determine eligibility for services, any subsequent services, and the entire VR process are subject to these non-discrimination requirements. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment or via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

*The Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is a proud partner in Florida's Next Generation Strategic Plan for education.*

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## People in Supported Employment Can Become a:

- Banking Clerk
- Video Designer
- Veterinarian Technician
- Surgical Instrument Sterilizer
- Maintenance Associate
- Culinary Arts/Pastry Chef
- Cafeteria Dishwasher
- Nursing Assistant in Labor and Delivery



- Restaurant Wait Staff
- Hospital Patient Transporter
- Web Designer
- Retail Associate
- Teacher's Assistant
- Product Stocker
- Equipment Monitor at a Health & Fitness Center



# Supported Employment

## Helping People Succeed



**Vocational Rehabilitation**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION