Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Helping talent meet industry demand

VR Service Program Overview
Governor’s Working Group
August 24, 2017
Eligibility Criteria

- Physical or mental impairment documented by an appropriate specialist, such as M.D., Psychologist, Orthopedist, Neurologist, etc.
- Impairment must result in a substantial impediment to employment.
- Reasonably expected that the individual would be able to obtain and maintain employment as a result of VR services.
- Individuals on SSI/SSDI are presumed to be eligible; still would have to be determined that VR services are required for the individual to become successfully employed.
- Eligibility decision within 60 days; 90 days to be in a plan of services.
Financial Eligibility

- Financial needs waived for SSI/SSDI recipients; presumed eligibility. (still need to determine if VR is proper service)
- Net income of family unit.
- Allowed exemptions such as medical expenses, mortgage, car payments, etc.
- Excess financial resources result in contribution toward certain VR sponsored (cost) services; not a denial of services.
- Examples of services subject to financial need include training (educational), vehicle modifications, assistive technology, small business operations, etc.
- Services exempt from financial needs testing: any and all assessments, interpreters, supported employment, job development and placement, internships, etc.
Possible VR Services

- Vocational/supportive counseling
- Rehabilitation engineering – internal Rehab Engineers
- Personal assistance
- Interpreter services – sign language & foreign languages
- Supported employment (SE)
- Work adjustment training – training to develop skills such as soft skills and work speed
- Brain Injury Support Services – limited to Raleigh, Greenville, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte areas
- Individual Placement & Supports (IPS) – Mental Health Fidelity model
- Vocational/college training
- Transportation - limited
VR Services cont’d.

- Maintenance – limited assistance with living expenses.
- Work clothes and uniforms.
- Surgery and other medical services – limited in eligibility & scope.
- Psychotherapy – limited to 24 sessions outpatient.
- Assistive technology.
- Home and vehicle modifications.
- Medications.
- Tools and equipment.
- Small business development assistance.
- Job seeking skills classes – Job Clubs.
- Social Security Work Incentives assistance.
VR Service Issues Resolution

1. Full Appeal Rights.
2. First try to resolve it with your VR counselor.
3. Informal discussion with unit manager.
5. Formal appeal through Regional Director requesting administrative review and/or appeals hearing with an independent hearing officer.
Accessing NC DVR

https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs - Website

- Link available to contact information for each VR office across the state (copy link to browser)

- Every county in the state has VR coverage

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