

OVR Services



Diagnostics

Medical, psychological, and audiological exams and tests used to better understand a disability and assist with vocational planning.

Vocational Evaluation

Testing such as aptitude, interests, general ability, academic exams, work tolerance, and hands-on job experiences used to understand vocational potential and interest.

Counseling and Guidance

A continually ongoing service that provides individuals with disabilities with the opportunity to understand their potential, set realistic vocational goals, change their goals when necessary, develop successful work habits, and begin a satisfying career.

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OVR's Mission



The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) assists Pennsylvanians with disabilities in securing and maintaining employment and independence.

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Training

Education to prepare for employment, including but not limited to basic academic, vocational/technical, college, on-the-job, independent living skills, and personal and work adjustment training.

Restoration

Various types of medical services and equipment such as physical and occupational therapy, wheelchairs, automobile hand controls, and other types of rehabilitation technology that may be provided to enable an individual to pursue a career and achieve independence.

Placement Assistance

Vocational counseling, job seeking programs, job clubs and job development, as well as assistance in identifying potential employers, all designed to increase a customer's ability to obtain a job.

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Assistive Technology

Access to computers, cognitive technology, and mobility devices, as well as devices for visual and auditory impairments.

Support Services

Occupational tools, licenses, equipment, job site modification, transportation costs, home modifications, vehicle modifications, driver training, and other services as identified.

Employer Services

Community outreach and networking with employers, business partners, and CareerLinks, to promote the hiring of OVR customers.

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OVR Services



Services are provided on a case by case basis, as every individual presents unique goals, skills, barriers, resources, etc.

Evaluation, counseling, and placement services are offered at no cost to the individual. However, all other services may require a financial contribution from the individual depending on his or her income.

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Who Should Seek OVR Services?



Customers should seek OVR services if they:

- Have a disability that causes a substantial impediment to employment
- Are able to benefit from VR services
- Have the need for multiple VR services over a period of at least 6 months or on an ongoing basis; and
- Have the desire to gain or maintain competitive employment

* OVR services are not necessarily appropriate for all individuals with a disability. All relevant Workforce Development programs should be considered.

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Get Started - How To Start A Referral



Call the local district office or an OVR counselor assigned to your local agency.



Ask to see an OVR counselor at the local Careerlink or the local OVR District Office.



Submit a referral through CWDS



Commonwealth Workforce
Development System

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Getting Started - Referral



Official documentation or consultation is not needed to start the referral process; however, provision of case records [current ISP (Level of Care Determination), Physician's Certification, medical records, psychological evaluations, etc.] will help to expedite the application and eligibility processes.

Individuals under the age of 18 should receive help from a parent, legal guardian, or representative throughout the referral process.

OVR works with individuals who have any kind of impairment caused by a disability, even if the customer is not sure what their disability is or how it affects them.

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Getting Started - Referral

When a referral is made, an OVR representative will contact the individual within 15 days to setup an appointment.



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Getting Started - Application



A counselor will meet with the individual to:

- Explain OVR
- Complete the application
- Gather necessary information; and
- Set up any evaluations that may be needed to help determine eligibility.

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Getting Started - Application

Once the application is completed, the OVR counselor is required to determine the individual's eligibility and order of selection *within 60 days*.

* Applications can also be completed online.
<https://www.cwds.pa.gov/>



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Order of Selection



The functional limitation factors that are examined are:

- Mobility
- Self-Care
- Work Tolerance

- Interpersonal Skills
- Work Skills
- Communication
- Self-Direction

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Individualized Plan for Employment

- Individualized plans are developed jointly by the customer and counselor.
- Needs, strengths, abilities, and services are evaluated to help obtain successful employment.
- Plans are completed within 90 days after an individual is determined eligible.



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Individualized Plan for Employment

- Individualized plans outline:
 - Services needed to reach the job goal
 - Criteria surrounding the services; and
 - Responsibilities of the customer.
- Plans can be amended at any time to change the job goal, services, providers, etc.



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The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

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- Competitive, Integrated Employment
 - Expanded Supported Employment Services
 - Introduction of Customized Employment
- Employer Engagement/Business Services
- Interagency Collaboration
- Use of Assistive Technology
- Pre-Employment Transition Services

The days of students with disabilities leaving school poorly educated with no employment experience, no job prospects, living lives of poverty and too often ending up in segregated day programs need to come to an end.



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Introduces the new term Pre-Employment Transition Services

- This significantly expands the role of the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency in the transition process
- Requires State VR agencies to set aside at least **15 percent** of their Federal VR program funds to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services to assist students with disabilities make the transition from secondary school to postsecondary education programs and competitive integrated employment
- Allows State VR agencies to prioritize serving students with disabilities

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OVR also provides additional services for students with a disability aged 14-21, who are currently enrolled in high school, and who receive services under an IPE or a Section 504 plan. Those additional services include:

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Job Exploration Counseling

Counseling and guidance, administration of interest inventories, and psychological assessments.

Work-based Learning Experiences

These may be provided through personal work adjustment training, community based assessments, school to work programs (e.g., SOS, Berks CTC), vocational training programs, and Project SEARCH.

Counseling on Opportunities for Post-Secondary Education

These may be provided through Project PAS, college or business, technical, or trades training tours, and assistive technology assessments.

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Workplace Readiness Training

Efforts to provide students with employability skills, Disability Mentoring Day, curriculums on soft skills training (e.g., Skills to Pay the Bills), and Interviewing skills.

Self-Advocacy Skills

Financial Literacy, travel training, independent living skills, and Summer Academy (BBVS).

The above services may be provided to groups of students with disabilities who may be potentially eligible for OVR services, but who do not yet have an open case with OVR.

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Questions?



OVR is glad to answer any questions you may have about our program!

Please contact:

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Or visit us on

Facebook: Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Twitter: PA_OVR

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