Helping Iowans with Disabilities Achieve Meaningful Employment

Vocational Rehabilitation is here to help you navigate your journey into the workforce. If you are an eligible Iowan with a disability, Vocational Rehabilitation Services will work closely with you to develop a personalized plan to obtain your employment goal. Whether you are a student, seasoned professional, or someone looking to learn new skills, Vocational Rehabilitation is your valued partner in finding solutions and generating success.

How do I apply?

Referral or application for Vocational Rehabilitation Services can occur by contacting any of the area offices located throughout the state or by visiting the Vocational Rehabilitation website. Vocational Rehabilitation Services serves all Iowa high schools and can receive referrals or applications from school staff.

Am I eligible?

Are you having difficulty getting or keeping a job due to a disability? Our professional counselors and staff are qualified to assess your eligibility for services and help you identify occupations, community organizations and resources you need to meet your employment goals.

Contact Us

Phone: (800) 532-1486
Website: workforce.iowa.gov/vr

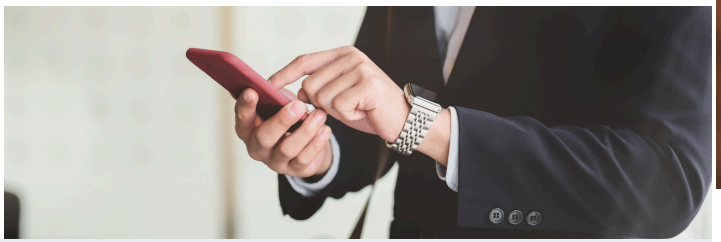
Or scan the QR code using your phone's camera to locate your nearest VR office:

If I am in high school, can I participate in services?

If you are a high school student with a disability, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, in collaboration with high school teachers and community partners, can provide you with Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Pre-ETS provides opportunities for students to learn about career and training options as well as build work and self-advocacy skills. Pre-ETS can be provided prior to application. If you need individualized rehabilitation services in order to transition to job training and/or work, you will be encouraged to apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Scan the QR code using your phone's camera to view the staff directory and locate the appropriate VR team member.

Scan the QR code using your phone's camera to view the Pathways to VR Transition Services document.



For TTY, call Iowa Relay at 711 or 1-800-735-2942, and ask for the number you wish to contact.

In-office or virtual appointments are available as well as appointments in a public place closer to your residence.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services is a division under Iowa Workforce Development.

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Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Our staff of professionals are focused on your success

Employment is the objective for each individual served by Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Eligible Iowans receive counseling and guidance in choosing a vocational goal consistent with their interests and abilities. An employment plan is jointly developed by the individual and the rehabilitation counselor that summarizes the individual's job goal, services needed to achieve employment, how they will be obtained, and ultimately how progress will be measured.

A network of resources to support your efforts

By partnering with your Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, you'll be connected with various public and private services and resources that can help you reach your employment goal. These include:

- Secondary and post-secondary institutions to coordinate academic and vocational training opportunities.
- A network of community rehabilitation programs that may assist you with employment preparation, job search, job placement and on-the-job support.
- Various workforce programs that will support your pathway.
- Employers to ensure a solid employee/employer relationship once you find a job.

Each individual requires various resources to be successfully employed. That is why Vocational Rehabilitation develops strong relationships with organizations across Iowa that can assist us in delivering on our mission—finding solutions and generating successful employment.

What services are available?

- Assessments that support your employment pathway
- Counseling and guidance
- Benefits planning
- Physical and/or mental restoration services
- Rehabilitation technology
- Self-employment services
- Post-secondary education
- Occupational/vocational training
- On-the-job supports
- Work-based learning experiences
- Supported employment services
- Occupational tools, equipment or licenses funding
- Personal assistance
- Pre-Employment Transition Services for students
- Job search and placement services
- Follow-up after placement to assist with work and employer satisfaction



Employment First

IVRS supports the philosophy that employment is the first priority and preferred outcome for people with disabilities and the belief that all Iowans, including individuals with significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in integrated employment and community life.

Iowa Workforce Development Business Engagement Partnership

Vocational Rehabilitation Services is a division of Iowa Workforce Development. Vocational Rehabilitation works closely with Iowa Workforce Development's Business Engagement Division to learn the needs of disability-friendly employers to fully support you on the job. Some of the services provided by the Business Engagement Division include:

- ADA consultation
- Disability awareness sensitivity training
- Job analysis
- Training on tax incentives
- Reasonable accommodations
- Retention services

For more information, visit workforce.iowa.gov/employers or contact iaworks@iwd.iowa.gov.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income

If you receive Social Security disability benefits and want to work, your Vocational Rehabilitation counselor will help you understand how work income will impact your benefits and guide you in developing a strategic approach to managing changes to your disability benefits.

Iowa's Vocational Rehabilitation program is supported by the U.S. Department of Education. 78.7% of the program is traditionally provided by federal funds. For Federal Fiscal Year 2025, a total of $34,060,986, of the program is financed with federal funds, and $6,245,238 is funded by the State of Iowa.