ACCES-VR

Introduction to Vocational Rehabilitation Services
ACCES-VR is...

**Adult Career and Continuing Educational Services** --

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Funded by State and Federal dollars
- Provides vocational rehabilitation services mandated by Federal Law
- Local Offices are in Rochester, Geneva and Geneseo
Purpose Of The VR Program

Individuals with disabilities working in jobs consistent with their skills, abilities and interests

– that will allow them to achieve economic self-sufficiency and independence
– and to realize full inclusion and integration into society.
Rochester DISTRICT OFFICE

Serves Six Counties

Monroe      Livingston      Wayne
Ontario      Seneca         Yates

One of fifteen (15) District Offices
Approximately 4,087 open cases
585-238-2900 (Main number)
800 Number  1- 800 -462- 0178
www.acces.nysed.gov/vr
Who Can Be Referred to ACCES-VR?

Any individual who has a disability (impairment) which results in a substantial impediment to employment.
What Is A Substantial Impediment to Employment?

- A physical or mental impairment that prevents or significantly impedes the individual
  - from *preparing* for
  - *entering* into
  - *engaging* in
  - or *retaining* employment consistent with the individual's abilities and capabilities.
The Individual’s Disability

- Must be PERMANENT and/or progressive and cause functional limitations during the individual's life

- Functional Limitations
  - result of the physical or mental impairment
  - impedes the ability of the individual to perform one or more vocationally related major life activities - such as
Vocationally Related Major Life Activities

- Mobility
- Communication
- Self-care
- Self-direction
- Interpersonal skills
- Work tolerance, or
- Work skills
Impairments That Cause Substantial Impediments to Employment

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Hearing loss (moderate to severe)
- Deafness
- Convulsive Disorder
- Learning Disabilities (severe)
- Mental Illness
- Orthopedic problems
- Back injuries
- Allergies
- Drug addiction in remission
- Alcoholism in remission
- Cerebral Palsy
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Speech Impediments
- Vision Impairment
- and many others .....
Presumed Eligibility

Any person receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is presumed eligible if the person intends to get a job, and is not so disabled as to prevent success on the job.
After eligibility ... plan development

- Assess skills, interests, academics, job market
- Establish a viable vocational goal
- Determine what services are needed to achieve the goal
- Implement services
Services Provided By ACCES-VR at NO Cost To The Consumer

- Medical and Psychological Assessments for determining eligibility for services
- Vocational testing and interest inventories
- Rehabilitation Technology Evaluations
- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Supported Employment
- Job placement services
- Work Tryouts
- On-The-Job Training
- Support services required because of the disability
Some Services Provided By ACCES-VR
May Require Financial Participation of Consumer

ACCES-VR will review the consumer’s household income, assets and allowable expenses to determine the amount of financial participation

• **NOTE:** Any Training Program Used By ACCES-VR Must Have Appropriate Accreditation and Be A ACCES-VR Approved Vendor
Training Services

• Transferable skills are considered before training
• Training must be required to achieve the vocational goal
• Training can be: work readiness, short term skill training, on the job training, certificate programs, college degree, etc
• Training type depends on the vocational goal, background and skills of the consumer
Placement Services Include

- Variety of job search services, such as job developers, job club, placement programs or independent job search
- Work Tryout
- On the Job Training
- Tax Credits for the employer
- Tools and Equipment required of all employees by the employer
- Occupational Clothing
Vocational Rehab Counselors:

- Master’s level trained counselors
- Certified by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification as Certified Rehabilitation Counselors
- Counseling skills
- Rehab practice
- Disability issues, including adjustment to disability
- Vocational assessment and planning
- Ongoing continuing education: job market, job placement strategies, adaptive technology, changes in treatment protocols
ACCES-VR counselors have

Knowledge of:
- disability
- disability law
- informed choice
- accessibility
- assistive technology
- career development
- job modification
- community resources

Experience with:
- employers
- networking
- disability management
- youth with disabilities
- rehabilitation providers
- consumer groups
- workplace supports and accommodations
ACCES-VR Counselor’s Role

• To determine eligibility for services
• To work with the consumer to identify vocational goal
• To identify the steps and services required to achieve the goal
• To identify support services needed to implement the plan
• To implement all planned services, resolve issues, problem solve barriers to success
• To follow up and close case after 90 days of employment
Consider readiness for ACCES-VR services and work if:

- Symptoms are stable and/or managed
- Compliant with medication if prescribed
- Actively engaged in treatment process
- Stable in other life areas (housing, finances, child care, other medical issues, etc)
When to refer to ACCES-VR – Chemical Dependency

- ACCES-VR policy: maintain abstinence, not harm reduction
- Successful completion of intensive treatment (i.e. – end of phase 2)
- Mental health and substance abuse issues both need to be stable
- Without stability work readiness is compromised, consumer is unable to benefit from services and go to work
Community Services

- Consumers may need other community supports to successfully work.
- Consider what other referral the person may need before, or concurrent with, the ACCES-VR referral.
- Maintaining a strong therapy relationship can help the consumer adjust to changes related to working.
- Impact on time, family, routine.
Application Process

Application packet includes:

- ACCES-VR application
- Confidential health assessment
- Disability documentation
- ACCES-VR mental health and/or substance abuse forms
- Agency intake summary
- Agency treatment plan
Why does ACCES-VR need documentation?

- Required to document the presence of a disability
- Required to document the functional limitations of the disability for the consumer
- Show the stability and readiness of the person for work
- Responsible for use of tax dollars
ANY QUESTIONS?