

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Division for Rehabilitation Services

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*Employment
means independence. With a job,
we can pay our bills...
purchase a house
or a car...
start a savings
account.*



Washington, D.C. (DARS), Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) helps people who have physical or mental disabilities prepare for, find or keep employment. Gaining skills needed for a career, learning how to prepare for a job interview or getting the accommodations needed to stay employed are just a few of the ways this program helps people with disabilities increase productivity and independence.

- decide on an employment goal and
- develop a program of vocational rehabilitation services to achieve the goal.

Washington, D.C. serves people with a wide variety of disabilities, for example:

- mental illness,
- deaf and hard of hearing,
- impaired functioning of arms or legs,
- back injury,
- alcoholism or drug addiction,
- mental retardation,
- learning disability,
- traumatic brain injury and
- other physical or mental disabilities that prevent a person from finding or keeping a job.

- medical, psychological and vocational evaluation to determine the nature and degree of the disability and the consumer's job capabilities.
- counseling and guidance to help the consumer and family plan vocational goals and adjust to the working world.
- training to learn job skills in trade school, college, university, on the job or at home,
- hearing examinations, hearing aids and other communication equipment, aural rehabilitation and interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing,
- medical treatment and/or therapy to lessen or remove obstacles to employment,
- assistive devices such as artificial limbs, braces, and wheelchairs to stabilize or improve functioning on the job,
- rehabilitation technology devices and services to improve job functioning,
- training in appropriate work behaviors and other skills to meet employer expectations,

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- job placement assistance to find jobs compatible with the person's physical and mental ability and
 - follow-up after job placement to ensure job success.

Consistent with the primary purpose of the program, DARS' Vocational Rehabilitation services also contribute to the support of persons with disabilities. In addition, other services also contribute to the support of persons with disabilities.