

What Is OVR?

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) serves people with disabilities that present a substantial impediment to their employment. Services are provided to individuals who can benefit from and who need assistance to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation is a direct service program provided through 21 District Offices located throughout the Commonwealth.

The Federal and State Governments work in partnership to fund the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Since 1919, Pennsylvania has provided rehabilitation services to thousands of people with disabilities as a legal right and a public service.

Disabilities include but are not limited to:

- Alcoholism
- Amputation
- Diabetes
- Drug Addiction
- Epilepsy
- Head Trauma
- Heart Disease
- Mental Illness
- Muscular Disease
- Visual Impairments
- Developmental Disabilities
- Hearing Impairment
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Retardation
- Neurological Disease
- Respiratory Disease
- Skeletal & Joint Disease
- Speech Impairment
- Spinal Cord Injury

Who Is Eligible For Services?

Important factors determining eligibility are:

1. A physical or mental disability causes an impediment to employment and there exists an ability to benefit from services.
2. The need for services to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

Eligibility for services will be determined by a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor after gaining a thorough understanding of an individual's abilities, limitations, interests, and aptitudes. Services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

What Services Can OVR Offer?

Rehabilitation services are provided in an individualized manner. Eligible persons receive the particular services they need to become employable.

Services may include:

DIAGNOSIS - evaluating medical, psychological, occupational and educational abilities, and limitations.

COUNSELING & GUIDANCE - helping individuals select vocational goals and making plans to attain them.

RESTORATION - providing comprehensive medical, psychological, and allied services to minimize the effect of the impairment on a person's ability to work.

TRAINING - developing job skills through vocational and technical schools, universities, on-the-job training, or job coaching.

HIRAM G. ANDREWS CENTER - offering comprehensive rehabilitation services including: vocational assessment, training, and medical services on a residential or commuting basis.

PLACEMENT - developing job seeking skills and locating employment opportunities.

POST EMPLOYMENT SERVICES - aiding in job adjustment.

OVR Counselors are aware of many resources that might be of assistance to persons with impairments and will help customers in learning about other programs available to them. During the rehabilitation process, OVR can also be of assistance by providing attendant care, interpreters for the deaf, and similar support services.

The Rehabilitation Plan

Together, the customer and Counselor develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE states exactly what services will be provided and what is expected of both the customer and the agency, including responsibilities and costs.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program is an individualized process. Each individual has unique problems which require understanding, imagination, patience, and ingenuity for their solution. Services are offered with respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual.

Who Pays For Services?

There is no charge for diagnostic services, counseling, and job placement assistance. However, a customer may be required to share the cost of other services after a financial needs assessment is completed. Any financial obligations will be discussed with the customer before the initiation of services.

Confidentiality of Information

The information shared with the Counselor is confidential. A customer's written permission must be obtained before any information can be released to others.

How To Apply

Referrals to OVR can be made by agencies, schools, clergy, hospitals, families or any interested individuals. To apply for services, contact the District Office (listed on the back page) nearest you.

OVR's Non-Discrimination Policy

OVR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, ancestry, HIV/AIDS status and age. Any applicant or customer of OVR who believes he or she is being discriminated against may contact OVR at the following address:

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
1521 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-787-5244 (Voice), 717-787-4885 (TTY)
800-442-6351* (Voice), 866-830-7327* (TTY)
BBVS 717-787-6176 (Voice), 800-622-2842* (Voice)

* Toll free within Pennsylvania

ALLENTOWN BVRS

45 North Fourth Street, Allentown, PA 18102
610-821-6441 Voice | 800-922-9536 Voice*
610-821-6144 TTY | 888-377-9207 TTY*

ALTOONA BVRS

1130 12th Avenue, Suite 500, Altoona, PA 16601
814-946-7240 Voice | 800-442-6343 Voice*
814-949-7914 TTY | 866-320-7955 TTY*

ALTOONA BBVS

1130 12th Avenue, Suite 300, Altoona, PA 16601
814-946-7330 Voice | 866-695-7673 Voice*
814-949-7956 TTY | 866-320-7956 TTY*

DUBOIS BVRS

199 Beaver Drive, DuBois, PA 15801
814-371-7340 Voice | 800-922-4017 Voice/TTY*
814-371-7505 TTY

ERIE BVRS

3200 Lovell Place, Erie, PA 16503
814-871-4551 Voice | 800-541-0721 Voice*
814-871-4535 TTY | 888-217-1710 TTY*

ERIE BBVS

4200 Lovell Place, Erie, PA 16503
814-871-4401 Voice | 866-521-5073 Voice*
814-871-4599 TTY | 888-884-5513 TTY*

HARRISBURG BVRS

Forum Place, 555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-787-7834 Voice | 800-442-6352 Voice*
717-787-4013 TTY | 877-497-6545 TTY*

HARRISBURG BBVS

Forum Place, 555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-787-7500 Voice | 866-375-8264 Voice*
717-787-1733 TTY | 888-575-9420 TTY*

JOHNSTOWN BVRS

727 Goucher Street, Section 10, Johnstown, PA 15905
814-255-6771 Voice | 800-762-4223 Voice*
814-255-5510 TTY | 866-862-6891 TTY*

NEW CASTLE BVRS

100 Margaret Street, New Castle, PA 16101
724-656-3070 Voice | 800-442-6379 Voice*
724-656-3252 TTY | 888-870-4476 TTY*

NORRISTOWN BVRS

1875 New Hope Street, Norristown, PA 19401
484-250-4340 Voice | 800-221-1042 Voice*
484-250-4357 TTY | 888-616-0470 TTY*

PHILADELPHIA BVRS

444 North 3rd. St., 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-560-1900 Voice | 800-442-6381 Voice*
215-560-6144 TTY | 800-772-9031 TTY*

PHILADELPHIA BBVS

444 North 3rd St., 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-560-5700 Voice | 866-631-3892 Voice*
215-560-5725 TTY | 888-870-4473 TTY*

PITTSBURGH BVRS

531 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-392-4950 Voice | 800-442-6371 Voice*
412-392-5921 TTY | 888-870-4474 TTY*

PITTSBURGH BBVS

531 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-565-5240 Voice | 866-412-4072 Voice*
412-565-3678 TTY | 877-255-5082 TTY*

READING BVRS

3602 Kutztown Road, Suite 200, Reading, PA 19605
610-621-5800 Voice | 800-442-0949 Voice*
610-621-5820 TTY | 877-475-7326 TTY*

WASHINGTON BVRS

201 West Wheeling Street, Washington, PA 15301
724-223-4430 Voice | 800-442-6367 Voice*
724-223-4443 TTY | 866-752-6163 TTY*

WILKES-BARRE BVRS

300G Laird Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
570-826-2011 Voice | 800-634-2060 Voice*
570-826-2023 TTY | 888-651-6117 TTY*

WILKES-BARRE BBVS

300G Laird Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
570-826-2361 Voice | 866-227-4163 Voice*
570-826-2023 TTY | 888-651-6117 TTY*

WILLIAMSPORT BVRS

The Grit Building, Suite 102, 208 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-327-3600 Voice | 800-442-6359 Voice*
570-327-3620 TTY | 800-706-0884 TTY*

YORK BVRS

2550 Kingston Road, Suite 101, York, PA 17402
717-771-4407 Voice | 800-762-6306 Voice*
717-771-4433 TTY | 866-466-1404 TTY*

HIRAM G. ANDREWS CENTER

727 Goucher Street, Johnstown, PA 15905
814-255-8200 Voice | 800-762-4211 Voice/TTY*

OVR CENTRAL OFFICE

1521 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-787-5244 Voice | 800-442-6351 Voice*
717-787-4885 TTY | 866-830-7327 TTY*
BBVS 717-787-6176 Voice | 800-622-2842 Voice*

BVRS - Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
BBVS - Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

Employment Services for Persons with Disabilities

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Corbett, Governor

Department of Labor & Industry
Julia K. Hearthway, Secretary

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Stephen H. Suroviec, Executive Director



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

www.dli.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: OVR

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to
individuals with disabilities.*

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

