ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (ACCES-VR)

ACCES-VR, which is part of the New York State Education Department, provides job search, educational, and independent living services and supports that help adults with disabilities find employment. ACCES-VR may provide:

- Money for college programs, job training programs, and supported employment programs
- Funds for accommodations and assistive technology related to job
- Assistance with college payments and accommodations
- Employment opportunities/placement

ELIGIBILITY

In order to receive services, you must work with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to determine eligibility based on the following criteria:

- Have a disability that interferes with getting or keeping a job
- Be able to benefit from VR services: can align abilities, interests, and career choice
- Require vocational rehabilitation to prepare for and secure employment
- Be able to travel
- Be 14 years old to apply (no age cut off)

You may be eligible for services regardless of whether or not you receive benefits (SSI/SSDI).

Presumed Eligibility: If you provide proof that you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) because of your disability, ACCES-VR will assume you are eligible for services.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you will work with ACCES-VR to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE will outline your work goal, the steps involved, and the services you will need to achieve that goal. ACCES-VR can pay for certain services, particularly those that are job training and college/vocational school-related. These may include:

- A physical and/or psychological examination to determine how your disability affects your employment potential
- Career counseling, guidance, planning, and referral
- Assistance with the job search process, such as:
  - Application forms
  - Resumes
  - Interviews
  - On-the-job training at a community college or vocational school
SERVICES AVAILABLE (CONT.)

• Services and supports that will help with training or assessment, such as:
  • Special transportation
  • Attendants, note-takers, and interpreters
  • Books, tools, and equipment
  • Rehabilitative and assistive technology
• Assistance with service costs related to employment, such as:
  • Worksite modification
  • Home, van, or other vehicle modification
• Job placement and retention
• Follow-up by ACCES-VR counselor to assess job satisfaction or additional needs
• Supplemental support in college: book vouchers, assistive technology, and other resources
• Short-term medical intervention not covered by other insurance

APPLICATION PROCESS

• If possible, start the process when student is two years away from leaving high school
• Every school should have an ACCES-VR liaison
• Persistence and self-advocacy are key. Student must verbally acknowledge that they have a disability
• Process for being placed in a job training program:
  • Compile documents and fill out application
  • Attend an information session
  • Interview with Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)
  • Take Diagnostic Vocational Evaluation (between 5 - 12 days)
  • Program placement
  • Program interview
  • Begin!
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DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY

- State identification (ID)
- Medical insurance card
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Evaluations (psychological, psycho-social)
- Medical documentation
- Copy of high school diploma/credential (if relevant)
- High school transcript
- Resume (if one has been made)
- Copy of social security card
- Proof of address (preferably a bill)
- Proof of income (pay stub, W2)

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