

VESID Makes a Difference!

- *“I was stressed out and very upset that I could no longer be a nurses aide due to my injury. My counselor assured me I would be able to complete a computer class. She was RIGHT! Her compassion was unbelievable. I am working now. Thank you so much for your program.”*

KM, Holbrook, NY

- *“For me to be out of work for over ten years and then to go back to school made me feel good. Work is great! With help from VESID, I DID SUCCEED.”*

SN, Amityville, NY

- *“Your organization does a great job of aiding people who need a little help to make positive changes in their lives. Thank you for all your help.”*

SF, West Islip, NY

- *“I still do not know how to thank my counselor. She has been, and still is there for me. I have a job paying \$12/hour plus benefits.”*

DI, Bronx, NY

- *“I cannot say enough good about my counselor’s professionalism, efficiency & effectiveness. She made it possible for me to be retrained for work that I love & that provides a good living.”*

JS, formerly of Ithaca, NY

How do I contact a VESID local office and start services?

- Go to <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov>
Scroll down the middle column to Vocational Rehabilitation District Offices - Click on the VESID District Office nearest you.
or
Go to <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/do/locations.htm>
- Call 1-800-222-JOBS and ask how to contact the office nearest you.

Contact the office and request an application or ask to participate in a VESID Orientation Session.

Eligibility will be determined, and then you and your counselor will start developing your plan.

An individual who applies for VESID services should be ready to participate in training or other intensive efforts that will lead to work. The person has to be motivated to work and overcome barriers that many people with disabilities face in the job market. VESID is about work.

If an individual is concerned about losing benefits by going to work, he/she should obtain information from the benefits counseling network in NYS: NY Statewide Work Incentives Technical Assistance Center (Toll-free: 1-888-224-3272) or <http://www.nls.org>.



1-800-222-JOBS

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V E S I D

Vocational and
Educational
Services for
Individuals
with Disabilities

... a basic guide

The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Office of Vocational
and Educational Services
for Individuals with Disabilities
Albany, NY 12234
<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov>



What is VESID?

VESID, Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities is part of the NY State Education Department.

What does VESID do?

VESID administers special education, vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs. VESID is the designated state agency for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998.

What is vocational rehabilitation?

Vocational rehabilitation is a professional field and a publicly-funded program to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. The “VR program” is the federal-state partnership establishing a system of services in all states — a state program with community rehabilitation programs that provide employment services to individuals with disabilities. It is funded by mostly federal dollars with a state match (approximately 80%/20%). The first rehabilitation law was passed in 1920. In 1998, the Rehabilitation Act was incorporated in its entirety as Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act.

Who is served by VESID - the VR program?

People with all types of disabilities — physical or mental impairments — who want to go to work.

Note: Individuals who are blind obtain VR services from the NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cbvh/>

How does the VR program work?

There are some set parameters for the program that are well-established in federal law and regulations. A few of the basics include:

- A person with a disability has to apply for services.
- The person must meet the eligibility requirements.
- The person must work with a qualified vocational rehabilitation counselor employed by VESID to determine eligibility.

The more information a person has to verify a physical or mental impairment and describe how that impairment affects the ability to work, the faster the process will go.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- A) Person has a physical or mental impairment.
- B) The impairment is an impediment to employment.
- C) Person can benefit from VR services to achieve employment.
- D) Person requires VR services to achieve employment.
- E) Person intends to work.

What's next?

Once found eligible, we will help you create your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). This plan outlines the work goal, the steps to achieve it and the necessary services.

How does VESID fit in the community?

We work with community rehabilitation programs, One-Stop centers, Independent Living Centers, community colleges and schools, and any other community resource that could provide goods and services that enable an individual with a disability to work.

What services does VESID provide?

- Assessment to help identify skills, abilities, interests and limitations.
- Career counseling and guidance.
- Rehabilitation and assistive technology.
- Training at a vocational school, community college, or on the job.
- Supported Employment, job placement and job retention.
- Other services necessary to achieve the employment goal.

VESID can pay for many services depending on the financial need of the individual and family. VESID must consider other benefits and services that are available to individuals. Certain services have reasonable spending or time limits.

When do VESID VR services end?

VESID services end when the individual enters and maintains competitive employment for at least 90 days. Sometimes, for a variety of reasons, we “close” services if it seems that the employment goal is not going to be reached. Sometimes people “drop out” of services and we close their individual program with VESID. A person who chooses to participate in VESID services has to be serious about going to work, whether it be part-time or full-time.