State Coverage

VRS operates in all 92 Indiana counties

– 4 Regions
– 22 Area Offices (19 locations)
– Area Directory available at:

– http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2760.htm
The Program

• VRS provides quality, individualized services to enhance and support people with disabilities in preparing for, obtaining, retaining, and/or advancing in employment.

• Competitive, integrated employment

• Process
  1. Referral
  2. Application
  3. Eligibility determination
  4. Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
  5. Services begin
  6. Employment
  7. Closure
VRS Eligibility

• The individual must have a physical and/or mental impairment.
• This impairment must constitute or result in a substantial impediment(s) to employment.
• The individual must require services to help him or her prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.


Eligibility is generally presumed for those individuals who are SSDI beneficiaries or SSI recipients. Although eligibility may be presumed, the VRC will still need to obtain information in order to assess the appropriate level of service.
Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

- Determine a vocational goal
- Review impediment(s) to achieving voc. goal
- Identify necessary and required services to achieve the vocational goal
- Services are:
  - Individualized
  - Employment-driven
  - Time-limited
  - Flexible
VR Services

• Supported Employment
• Job Placement
• Training
• Physical and Medical Restoration
• Assistive Technology
• Accommodations/Modifications
• Counseling and Guidance
VRS Postsecondary Support

• VRS may provide assistance with post secondary costs, (tuition, books, fees, accommodations, AT, etc.)

• Amount of assistance is determined by looking at the costs of attendance as compared to the available resources

• VR considers those costs that are required to meet the goal

• Accommodations provided regardless of financial needs and resources
VRS Updates

• New Employment Services Model
  ➢ Implemented July 1, 2015
  ➢ Change in funding mechanism
  ➢ Emphasis on discovery including:
    • Job Shadows
    • Situational Assessments
    • Work Experiences
    • Vocational Testing
    • Vocational Counseling and Guidance
    • Other activities
  ➢ Purpose is to explore talents, interests, preferences, capabilities, etc. with the goal of determining an appropriate employment goal or vocational themes, or to gain insight into identification of appropriate employment goals or vocational themes.
VRS Updates

➢ WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- Emphasis on collaboration, including a unified state plan with other partners (i.e., Workforce Development) to improve coordination.
  - Increased presence and collaboration at Work One Centers.
  - Coordinating with DWD on core programs, including Youth Services & Adult Education, working on data sharing for joint performance measures.
- Increases services to youth with disabilities
  - Set aside 15% of federal VR program funds to provide pre-employment transition services (PETS) to students with disabilities.
  - PETS includes job exploration counseling; work-based learning experiences (including internships); counseling; work readiness; instruction in self-advocacy, including peer mentoring.
Feedback and Discussion

• Working with local VR – what works well?
• What could be improved?
• What are the major barriers to students accessing accommodations and supports needed?
• What involvement do you have with assisting individuals in obtaining employment?
• Other discussion items?
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