

Section 4 – Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Guidance

In determining whether BRS can provide a particular *vocational rehabilitation service**, a determination needs to be made as to whether or not the service is actually necessary in order for the consumer to achieve the agreed-upon *employment outcome**.

*Vocational rehabilitation services** contained in an Employment Plan must be designed to achieve the outcome in an efficient and cost effective manner, and must be consistent with the consumer's *informed choice**. The services must also be consistent with any parameters set around the specific service, as described in this manual.

Legal Requirements

- A. *Vocational rehabilitation services** are those described in an Employment Plan which are necessary to a consumer in preparing for, securing, retaining, or regaining an *employment outcome** consistent with the strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and *informed choice** of the individual. In addition to those services specifically described in the sections in this Chapter (a-1), other vocational rehabilitation services include:
1. Vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance, including information and support services to assist an individual in exercising informed choice in the development of an Employment Plan.
 2. Referral and other services necessary to help applicants and eligible individuals secure needed services from other agencies including other components of the statewide workforce investment system, and to advise those clients about the client assistance program.
 3. Vocational rehabilitation services to a family member of an applicant or eligible individual if necessary to enable the individual to achieve an employment outcome. Family member means an individual who either is a relative or guardian of, or lives in the same household as, or has a substantial interest in the well-being of, an applicant or eligible individual, and whose receipt of vocational rehabilitation services is necessary to enable the applicant or eligible individual to achieve an employment outcome.

4. Interpreter services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and tactile interpreting for individuals who are deaf-blind provided by qualified personnel.
5. Job related services including job search and placement assistance, job retention services, follow-up services and follow-along services.
6. Occupational licenses, tools, equipment, initial stocks and supplies.
7. Other goods and services determined necessary for the individual with a disability to achieve an employment outcome.
8. Services to Groups – the Bureau may provide the following services to groups of individuals with disabilities, which promote integration and competitive employment. Services to groups are provided in accordance with bureau procedures for the provision of these services. All services to groups must have the approval of the Bureau Director.
 - a. Establishment, development, or improvement of a public or other nonprofit employment service provider.
 - b. Development and implementation of services that enhance the use of modes of communication or telecommunications for individuals with disabilities.
 - c. Technical assistance and support services, such as job site modification and other reasonable accommodations, for businesses not subject to title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that are seeking to employ individuals with disabilities.
 - d. Establishment of small business enterprises, operated by individuals with the most significant disabilities under supervision of the department, including, management services and supervision, and the acquisition of vending facilities, equipment, initial stocks, and supplies.
 - e. Consultation services to assist educational agencies in transition of students with disabilities to post-school activities, including employment.
 - f. Other services that promise to contribute substantially to the rehabilitation of a group of individuals, but that are not related directly to the individualized plan for employment of any one individual.

B. BRS policies may set limits regarding the length of services or the cost of services. However, these limitations cannot be rigidly applied, and must allow for individual exceptions to meet an individual consumer's needs.