



Applying for Vocational Rehabilitation Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Vocational Rehabilitation helps individuals with disabilities to achieve their employment goals. This might include exploring interests and skills, finding your first job, assistive technology or other services to help you keep your job, re-enter the workforce or services needed for career advancement. We are taking steps to help VR participants, new applicants, staff and community partners to remain safe and healthy during the current public health situation. This includes providing services in different ways, but please be assured that **VR services are still available during this time.**

What can I expect when applying for VR services?

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all VR offices are currently closed to the public. While offices are closed, **VR staff will be providing services remotely and will continue to accept new applicants.** VR staff are able to connect with you by phone or email if you need help with employment. Find your local office phone number by [clicking here](#).
- After calling your office, you will be scheduled for an intake appointment with a VR counselor. This will be held by phone or video call. If you receive a call from an unknown number at the time of your appointment, that may be your VR counselor.
- Your intake will include a discussion of your disability, barriers to employment and services you might need from VR to help address those barriers. You may also sign consent forms to allow us to obtain more information from your doctor, case manager or others about your disability and barriers to employment. All of this information will help us to see if you are eligible for VR services. Your intake meeting will also help you to learn more about VR Services.
- The documents you need will be sent through email or U.S. mail, and will need to be signed by you or your guardian (if necessary). If you are unable to sign or return the documents electronically, please let your VR counselor know so we can find an easier solution.
- Once VR receives your documents, your application is complete. The next step is for VR to determine your eligibility for VR services, and you will learn more about this process during your intake meeting. If you are eligible, VR will contact you to discuss next steps and determine how to best communicate with you going forward, such as phone, video call, email or mail.
- It may take up to 60 days from the date of your application to determine your eligibility for VR services, however due to COVID-19, it may be more difficult to get medical records from some hospitals and medical offices. If you have access to medical records or any documentation regarding your disability, providing this documentation to your VR Counselor will be very helpful. If you have a parent or guardian who helps you make decisions, please make sure you let us know so we can be sure to involve them in your VR process.

To learn more about VR, watch this [video](#) (Spanish version [here](#)), or visit us on social media

