Military Assistance Program

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department
From the commissioner

The government and business community of South Carolina are dedicated to serving military personnel and their families as they re-enter civilian life.

Major career changes demand much consideration and planning. For families of persons with disabilities, such decisions are of even greater consequence.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has a long history of serving people with disabilities by preparing and placing them in gainful employment in the community. In doing so, the department has established a strong relationship with business and industry, which has expanded our ability to serve thousands more with disabilities.

I sincerely encourage you to contact the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department area office nearest your home.

Joe S. Dusenbury

State Office Building
1410 Boston Avenue
Post Office Box 15
West Columbia, South Carolina 29171-0015
In search of independence

For many people, the routine of daily life—holding a job, running a household, paying bills—is indeed routine. It’s second nature.

However, for thousands of people with disabilities, it’s a dream.

That dream can come true if they get the right help and the opportunity to prove themselves in the workplace.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides a variety of services to help people with disabilities become job ready.

Employers throughout the state give people with disabilities opportunity by hiring them.

The state’s communities gain productive, tax-paying citizens. But, more importantly, persons with disabilities gain the immeasurable benefits of independence.

Who is eligible?

Any person of or approaching working age, who lives in South Carolina, can apply for vocational rehabilitation services simply by calling or writing the nearest Vocational Rehabilitation Department area office for an appointment with a counselor.

To be eligible for services a person must have a physical or mental disability which impedes his or her ability to work and must require vocational rehabilitation services to overcome the impediment(s).

The person must also be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services as demonstrated in “employment outcome.”

A tailor-made program

Each applicant receives a complete evaluation, which can include medical, psychological and vocational assessments. The evaluation helps determine the person’s potential for employment and the nature and scope of the services needed to reach that goal. It reveals the kinds of jobs the applicant would succeed in and enjoy.
Once a person is eligible for services, a vocational rehabilitation counselor works with that person to develop and plan his or her rehabilitation.

This plan, called an “individualized written rehabilitation program,” is a program of services tailored specifically for the client.

Throughout the process, the client receives counseling and guidance.

The department considers no client rehabilitated until he or she begins working on a job suited to his or her abilities.

**Real work training**

Many people have trouble adjusting to the world of work. The 20 community-based work training centers the Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates allow staff members to provide personal, social and work adjustment training to clients who need it.

This training helps the client develop job-seeking skills, work habits and attitudes that employers expect from their employees.

The centers make contract agreements with local business and industry. Clients gain real work experience by performing tasks for these businesses in the work training center.

These contracts result in solid, mutually beneficial relationships with business and industry — relationships that benefit the client, the department and the business.

**Special comprehensive services**

Many clients with severe physical disabilities receive services at the department’s Center for Comprehensive Programs in West Columbia.

A team of rehabilitation specialists administers thorough client evaluations and provides services such as adaptive aquatics, independent living services, industrial rehabilitation, occupational therapy, pain management, physical therapy, psychological services, recreation therapy and rehabilitation engineering services.

Using these services the staff offers creative, realistic approaches to vocational rehabilitation.
We go where the needs are

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services:

- in the public schools;
- in the state’s correctional institutions;
- in hospital cardiac programs;
- in department-operated substance abuse/dependence treatment programs;
- for the deaf and hearing impaired;
- for individuals with mental illness; and
- through Employee Intervention Programs set up with business and industry.

Additional services

If a client needs a wheelchair, limb, brace, hearing aid or other kind of artificial appliance in order to perform satisfactorily on the job, the department may help provide these appliances.

The department sometimes sponsors training in colleges, technical schools, trade schools, or at employer training sites.

If necessary for a client's success, the department may help acquire occupational licenses, tools, equipment or supplies.

Job placement

The counselor helps the client in job placement, offering ideas and advice on conducting a job search. The counselor keeps current information on job openings in the community and a list of employers.

Once the client finds employment, the counselor provides follow-up services, making sure that the client and employer are satisfied.

The counselor remains available should any problems arise.

How to get started

For more information on the vocational rehabilitation program in your area, call the nearest area office, listed in this brochure. Ask to speak with the area supervisor.
South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Area Offices

Aiken:  
855 York Street, N.E  
(803) 641-7630 (Voice/TDD)

Anderson:  
3001 Mall Road  
(803) 224-6391 (Voice/TDD)

Beaufort:  
Highway #170  
(803) 522-1010

Berkeley-Dorchester:  
2954 South Live Oak Drive  
Moncks Corner  
(803) 761-6036 (Voice/TDD)

Camden:  
15 Battleship Road Ext.  
(803) 432-1068

Charleston:  
4360 Dorchester Road  
(803) 740-1600 (Voice/TDD)

Columbia:  
1330 Boston Avenue  
West Columbia  
(803) 822-5319 (Voice/TDD)

Conway:  
3009 4th Avenue  
(803) 248-2235 (Voice/TDD)

Florence:  
W. Darlington Street at jody  
(803) 662-8114 (Voice/TDD)

Greenville:  
105 Parkins Mill Road  
(803) 297-3066 (Voice/TDD)

Greenwood:  
2345 Laurens Highway  
(803) 229-5827 (Voice/TDD)

Lancaster:  
Roddey Drive  
(803) 285-6909 (Voice/TDD)

 Laurens:  
Laurens-Clinton Hwy. #76  
Clinton  
(803) 833-4121 (Voice/TDD)

Marlboro:  
Route 4, Box 66  
Bennettsville  
(803) 479-8318

Oconee-Pickens:  
2015 Wells Highway  
Seneca  
(803) 882-6669 (Voice/TDD)

Orangeburg:  
780 Joe S. Jeffords Hwy., S.E.  
(803) 534-4939

Rock Hill:  
1020 Heckle Boulevard  
(803) 327-7106 (Voice/TDD)

Spartanburg:  
353 South Church Street  
(803) 585-3693 (Voice/TDD)

Sumter:  
1760 North Main Street  
(803) 469-2960 (Voice/TDD)

Walterboro:  
521 Recold Road  
(803) 538-3116 (Voice/TDD)

Satellite offices are also located around the state.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department does not discriminate in the delivery of services or in employment.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to a person’s race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in accordance with federal and state law.