

Achieving Employment Success



**South Carolina Vocational
Rehabilitation Department**

Putting potential to work

People with disabilities are one of the nation's most significant employee resources, but they represent its greatest unemployed minority.

Almost 350,000, or 14 percent, of South Carolina's citizens fall into this category—sidelined from the workforce because of a disability.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has been enabling South Carolinians with disabilities to prepare for, achieve and maintain competitive employment for more than 80 years. SCVRD places about 8,500 people with disabilities a year in jobs paying competitive wages.



These new workers become taxpaying citizens, proud of what they have achieved and building fulfilling lives for themselves and their families.

Eligibility for services

To be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services, a person must have a physical or mental impairment that hinders him or her from competitive employment. He or she also must require and be able to benefit from Vocational Rehabilitation services that would lead to gainful employment.

Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who apply and intend to enter employment are presumed eligible for VR services.

SCVRD services are available to all eligible South Carolinians with disabilities except the blind, who are served by the S.C. Commission for the Blind.

To apply, contact one of SCVRD's offices, located conveniently around the state. They are listed on the back of this brochure.



Tailoring an individual plan

Many of the individuals who come to SCVRD are highly motivated but need help keeping or getting a job due to their disability.

After eligibility is established, the client participates in an assessment to help determine the kinds of jobs he or she is best suited for and the services required to help that person achieve employment success.

Assessment services are provided to identify the employment outcome, service needs, aptitudes,

vocational skills, work habits, interests and goals of the client.

Community-based experiences are tools used in the vocational assessment process and may include:

- ◆ **Job shadowing**, which allows a client to learn about a real-work environment by shadowing an employee.
- ◆ **Mentoring**, which lets a client do the job under the guidance of a mentor.
- ◆ **Job tryouts**, which provide an opportunity for the employer to assess the person's potential to do the job without assistance.

All of these community-based experiences are conducted at no cost to the employer. The client is paid a stipend and is covered by Workers' Compensation.

Once a vocational goal has been established, the client works with the counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) tailored to the client's abilities and interests. The IPE spells out the services the client will need to

become successfully employed.

Clients participate fully in all decisions made during the course of their rehabilitation.

Services available in your local VR office

Each of SCVRD's local offices provide an array of services designed to help a client reach his or her vocational goal.

The individualized plan may include:

- ◆ **Vocational counseling and guidance services** to support a successful employment outcome.
- ◆ **Work-readiness training** for those who need to learn work skills and work behaviors before embarking on a job search. More than 400 businesses and industries provide contract work for SCVRD's work training centers. Clients receive a training stipend for tasks completed while participating. Businesses and industries have a reliable outsource partner for quality work.



- ◆ **Interpreter services** for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- ◆ **Supported employment** for persons with significant disabilities who need extra assistance getting started on the job.
- ◆ **Training** at trade schools, technical schools or colleges if further education is required to achieve a vocational goal.
- ◆ **Job search and job placement.** VR staff members keep current information on job openings in their communities and provide clients with ideas and advice on conducting job searches. Clients also get help to prepare for interviews and fill out job applications. In

some cases, the counselor may provide a direct placement in a job.

- ◆ **Job Retention Services** to help people whose jobs are in jeopardy because of disability-related factors.
- ◆ Services in collaboration with **cardiac rehabilitation** programs throughout the state.

Services available statewide

Persons with significant disabilities may spend some time at the Center for Comprehensive Programs, located on SCVRD's main campus in West Columbia.

- ◆ The staff at the program's **Evaluation Center** evaluates an individual's abilities and determines vocational needs. Physical therapists develop exercise programs to help clients increase their strength and stamina while occupational therapists teach clients *new ways* of caring for themselves so they are less dependent on others.

- ◆ The center offers a **Pain Management Program** for clients with chronic pain.
- ◆ The **Brain Injury Program** helps clients with brain injuries develop behavioral and compensatory strategies to improve their work-related performance.
- ◆ The **Muscular Development Center** features state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment, swimming and therapy pools and well-equipped exercise areas.
- ◆ The **Information Technology Training Center** prepares qualified clients for entry-level jobs in the computer field with classes in Programming, Computer Assisted Drawing and Design/GIS, Business Applications and Information Systems Support.
- ◆ An engineer with the **Rehabilitation Technology Program** can consult with a client and make recommendations for

technological adaptations that would help the client overcome cognitive and physical barriers and compete more successfully in the employment market.



- ◆ Clients with drug or alcohol problems may be referred to one of the department's residential **substance abuse treatment centers**, located in Florence and Greenville.
- ◆ **Diagnosis and treatment** of physical and mental disabilities may be provided to enhance a client's employment opportunities when health coverage is not available through health insurance or other benefits.



A successful outcome

Once a client is employed, the VR staff provides follow-up services to ensure that the client and the employer are satisfied. The staff remains available to the client should any problems arise.

SCVRD is a partner in South Carolina's coordinated workforce development and employment network.



S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department
1410 Boston Ave., P.O. Box 15
West Columbia, SC 29171-0015
(803) 896-6500
scvrd.net

Barbara G. Hollis, Commissioner

In accordance with federal and state laws, the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department does not discriminate against any race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in employment or in provision of services.

Revised July 2011

SCVRD locations

Aiken:

(803) 641-7630 (Voice/TDD)
(800) 861-9410 (Tollfree)
aiken@scvrd.state.sc.us

Anderson:

(864) 224-6391 (Voice/TDD)
anderson@scvrd.state.sc.us

Beaufort:

(843) 522-1010 (Voice/TDD)
beaufort@scvrd.state.sc.us

Berkeley-Dorchester:

(843) 761-6036 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 297-6808 (Tollfree)
berkeley-dorchester@scvrd.state.sc.us

Camden:

(803) 432-1068 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 206-5280 (Tollfree)
camden@scvrd.state.sc.us

Charleston:

(843) 740-1600 (Voice/TDD)
charleston@scvrd.state.sc.us

Cornway:

(843) 248-2235 (Voice/TDD)
cornway@scvrd.state.sc.us

Florence:

(843) 662-8114 (Voice/TDD)
florence@scvrd.state.sc.us

Gaffney:

(864) 489-9954 (Voice/TDD)
spartanburg@scvrd.state.sc.us

Greenville:

(864) 297-3066 (Voice/TDD)
greenville@scvrd.state.sc.us

Greenwood:

(864) 229-5827 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 443-0162 (Tollfree)
greenwood@scvrd.state.sc.us

Hartsville:

(843) 383-2662 (Voice/TDD)
marlboro@scvrd.state.sc.us

Kingstree:

(843) 354-5252 (Voice/TDD)
florence@scvrd.state.sc.us

Lancaster:

(803) 285-6909 (Voice/TDD)
rockhill@scvrd.state.sc.us

Laurens:

(864) 984-6563 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 443-0103 (Tollfree)
laurens@scvrd.state.sc.us

Lexington:

(803) 896-6333 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 206-5184 (Tollfree)
lexington@scvrd.state.sc.us

Lyman/The Bryant Center:

(864) 249-8030 (Voice/TDD)
(888) 322-9391 (Tollfree)
BryantCenter@scvrd.state.sc.us

Marlboro:

(843) 479-8318 (Voice/TDD)
(800) 849-4878 (Tollfree)
marlboro@scvrd.state.sc.us

Oconee-Pickens:

(864) 882-6669 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 313-0082 (Tollfree)
oconee-pickens@scvrd.state.sc.us

Orangeburg:

(803) 534-4939 (Voice/TDD)
orangeburg@scvrd.state.sc.us

Richland:

(803) 782-4239 (Voice/TDD)
richland@scvrd.state.sc.us

Rock Hill:

(803) 327-7106 (Voice/TDD)
rockhill@scvrd.state.sc.us

Spartanburg:

(864) 585-3693 (Voice/TDD)
(866) 451-1480 (Tollfree)
spartanburg@scvrd.state.sc.us

Sumter:

(803) 469-2960 (Voice/TDD)
sumter@scvrd.state.sc.us

Walterboro:

(843) 538-3116 (Voice/TDD)
(888) 577-3549 (Tollfree)
walterboro@scvrd.state.sc.us