

# **VR** Helping People with Hearing Loss

## **What is Vocational Rehabilitation?**

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job. VR wants to help people with disabilities find meaningful careers.

## **What is Financial Participation?**

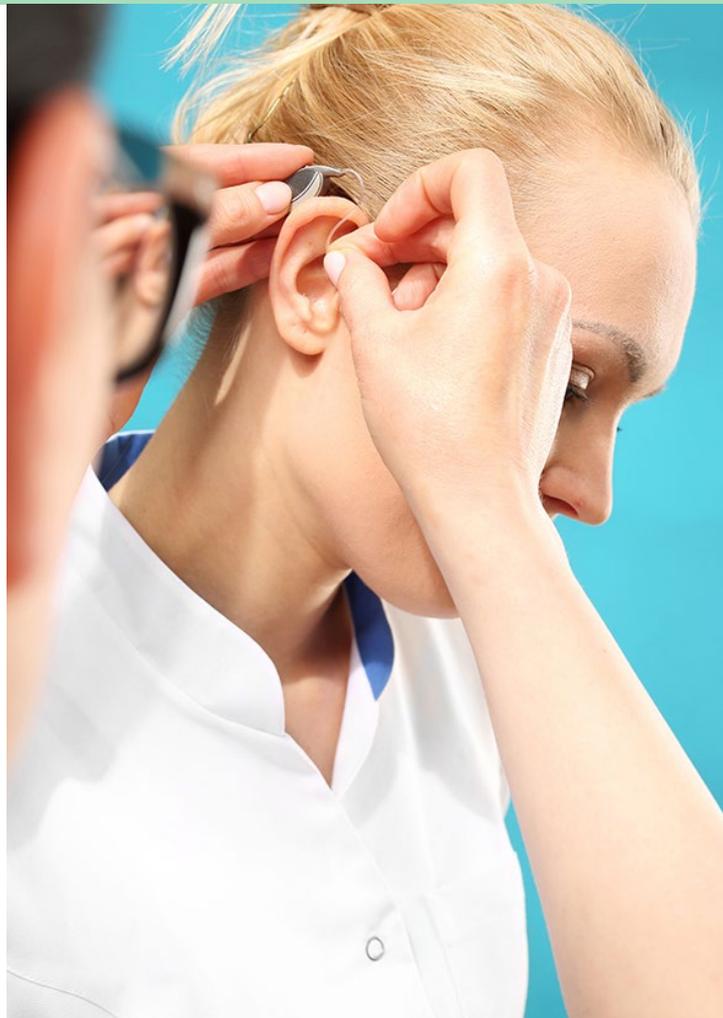
VR will look at the income of eligible individuals to determine if they have to share the cost of VR services. Some individuals or services may be exempt, so you may not be required to pay for VR services.

## **Who May be Eligible for VR Services?**

You may be eligible for VR services if your goal is to become employed and:

- Your physical or mental disability interferes with your ability to become employed, and
- You need VR's help to find or keep a job

If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for your disability, you are presumed eligible for VR services, if you want to become employed.



## **What is Order of Selection?**

Under order of selection, all eligible individuals are placed on a waiting list based on the significance of their disability. Federal law requires that individuals with the most significant disabilities be served first.

## **How can VR help an Individual with Hearing Loss?**

Individuals who are Hard of Hearing or who experience hearing loss over time may have difficulty adjusting to their hearing loss and maintaining their jobs. VR counselors are trained to help individuals who are Hard of Hearing by providing services to address hearing loss issues in the workplace, as well as guidance and counseling on how to cope with their hearing loss.

## **How can VR help an Individual who is Deaf?**

While some counselors know American Sign Language, most use staff or community interpreters to communicate with you. In addition, VR can provide interpreting services for job interviews, and may provide basic sign language classes to new employers and co-workers or training on how to communicate with those who are Deaf.

## **Deaf-Blind Services**

Individuals who are Deaf-Blind may receive services through not only VR but also the Division of Blind Services (DBS) as “dual-cases”, depending on what services are needed. VR and DBS work together to ensure that individuals who are Deaf-Blind receive needed services.

# Examples of VR Services:

- **Medical and Psychological Assessment**
- **Vocational Evaluation and Planning**
- **Career Counseling and Guidance**
- **Training and Education After High School**
- **Job-Site Assessment & Accommodations**
- **Job Placement**
- **Job Coaching**
- **On-the-Job Training**
- **Supported Employment**
- **Assistive Technology and Devices**
- **Time-Limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment**

# Resources

**The Florida Coordinating Council for  
the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

[www.fccdhh.org](http://www.fccdhh.org)

**Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc.**

[www.ftri.org](http://www.ftri.org)

**Florida Association of the Deaf**

[www.fadcentral.org](http://www.fadcentral.org)

**Florida School for the Deaf  
and the Blind**

[www.fsdb.k12.fl.us](http://www.fsdb.k12.fl.us)

**Hearing Loss Association of America**

[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

**Association of Late-Deafened Adults**

[www.alda.org](http://www.alda.org)

**Helen Keller National Center**

[www.hknc.org](http://www.hknc.org)

**National Association of the Deaf**

[www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org)

## For More Information, Contact:

**(850) 245-3399**

**(800) 451-4327**

**[www.Rehabworks.org](http://www.Rehabworks.org)**

TTY users dial 711 to connect with the telecommunications relay service (TRS). Video phone users can call through video relay service (VRS).

An equal opportunity employer/program. It is against the law for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) of the Florida Department of Education, as a recipient of Federal financial assistance, to discriminate against any individual in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief.

The application process used by VR to determine eligibility for services, any subsequent services, and the entire VR process are subject to these non-discrimination requirements. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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The Florida Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal Fiscal year 2018, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$161,765,853. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$43,781,610) were funded by Florida State Appropriations.

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