

# Balancing Employment and Benefits



## **You can work and maintain your benefits**

If you receive benefits from the federal government or other forms of public assistance, choosing to go to work is a big decision. Maintaining some or all of your benefits and supplementing your income is possible with appropriate benefits counseling.

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) is a program that provides benefits counseling to recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) so you can better understand your benefits and the effect earnings may have on those benefits. To receive WIPA services, you must be receiving SSI/SSDI.

## **VR helps people with disabilities become employed**

If you are a person with a disability looking to find, maintain or advance in a career, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) may be able to help you. To be eligible for VR services, you must have a physical or mental disability that causes a significant barrier to employment and need VR services to achieve your employment goal.

If you receive SSI/SSDI for your disability and plan to become employed, you are presumed eligible for VR services.



## Based on what a customer needs to become employed, VR may provide the following services:

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

To apply, contact your local VR office to submit a referral form. You can find your local office at [RehabWorks.org](https://www.RehabWorks.org).

## Planning for your future & financial stability

In addition to benefits planning, VR customers who receive SSDI or SSI have access to assistance with developing and securing SSA approval for:

- An Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- An Employer Subsidy
- A Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)



## Contact Vocational Rehabilitation



850-245-3399  
800-451-4327

Video Relay and Florida Relay  
711 Services Available



850-245-3392



[www.RehabWorks.org](https://www.RehabWorks.org)



Florida Department of Education  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
325 W. Gaines St., Suite 1144  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

The Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an equal opportunity employer. It is against the law for VR 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. VR program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2021 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$176,521,122. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$47,775,094) were funded by Florida State Appropriations. Revised October 2022.