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ACCESSING THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR)

WHAT DOES VR PROVIDE?

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (sometimes known as Vocational Rehabilitation) provides information and individualized support services that can remove or limit obstacles that may prevent a person from working. There are specialized programs, such as transition services for students who are finishing school; services to help those who are presently receiving public assistance become employed, and therefore able to provide for themselves.

These services are designed to enable a person to prepare for, get, keep or regain employment. Once eligibility has been established, a written Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) must be developed in order to activate the identified rehabilitation services. Services are provided and when they are completed, the client will get assistance with placement in a job.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- WHO? People who have a disability and want to work. He/she must require VR services to prepare for, enter into, engage in, or retain gainful employment consistent with the applicant's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and informed choice.
 - The applicant has a physical or mental impairment.
 - The impairment results in a substantial impediment to employment.
 - Any applicant who receives SSI or SSDI benefits is automatically presumed eligible. No further assessment is necessary for eligibility.
- PRIORITIES - There are four Priority Categories: I - Most Significantly Disabled; II - Significantly Disabled; III - Non-Significantly Disabled Needing Multiple Services and IV - Non-Significantly Disabled. See detailed information on page III-5 and III-6 of the ARS Policy & Procedure Manual <http://www.arsinfo.org/pdf/ARSPolicyProcedureManual.pdf>
- FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT - An individual's economic need is not used to determine eligibility for VR services. An economic needs assessment is used only to determine if the individual can pay any costs of VR services and if so, how much.
 - Applicants 24 years of age or under and unmarried, the parent(s) assets must be included. A copy of the parent(s) income tax forms must be provided for this purpose.
 - If the parent(s) do not support the individual, the individual must provide documentation of non-support and must sign a written statement of verification.

THE PROCESS – WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO SPEED IT UP

- GET STARTED - Get and complete an application.
- GATHER INFO - Before making an appointment, gather copies of recent IEP, educational tests, medical documents that describe your disability, income/assets and if you are on SSI bring
- TIME IT TAKES TO DECIDE - Determination is usually completed within 60 days.

SOURCE: Arkansas Vocational Rehabilitation Services: Helping People with Disabilities Go to Work <http://www.arsinfo.org/>

ARKANSAS TITLE V CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL recommends this Tip Sheet to help your family in transitioning your young adult.