

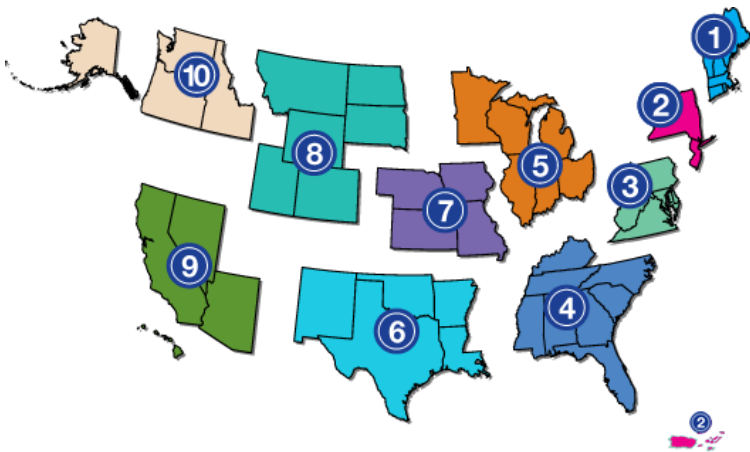
Audio Conference Series

Overview of Public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program: Eligibility, Services, and Career Planning for Job Seekers with Disabilities

January 17, 2023



The ADA National Network



The ADA National Network consists of 10 Regional ADA Centers.

- 800-949-4232
- www.adata.org




Funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).


Great Lakes Center
A Member of the ADA National Network

800-948-4232 (V/TTY)
www.adagreatlakes.org

Presenter



Stephen Wooderson
CEO
Council of State Administrators
of Vocational Rehabilitation




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THANK YOU!

- CSAVR
- Vocational Rehabilitation legislative history
- Partnerships
- Eligibility
- Services for customers - individual and business
- Tips and bits
- Resources
- Q&A



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Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Non-profit membership organization
- Governed by the State VR Directors
- Represent 20,000 employees of the federal/state vocational rehabilitation programs
- Provide legislative advocacy and education to membership
- Manage a national network of employers who have shown interest in hiring persons with disabilities
- Headquartered in Washington, DC
- We tell the story of the public VR program!



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CSAVR Operating Principles

VR is driven to deliver inclusive, culturally informed services and outcomes for people with disabilities and business in a system that is free of ableism, racism, discrimination, and institutional bias.



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Operating Principles

- **Principle #1: Innovating Solutions** to achieve greater access to and use of vocational rehabilitation services resulting in the most effective outcome for our customers.
- **Principle #2: Building careers and retaining talent** in America's workforce by investing expertise and resources to benefit our customers.
- **Principle #3: Customizing Services and Expertise** that provide flexible supports and services to meet the workforce goals of our customers.
- **Principle #4: Leading and Engaging in Collaborative Strategies** with our partners who are working with us to achieve greater collective impact at all system levels.
- **Principle #5: Committed to assuring the promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion** for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and all who are legally protected from discrimination.

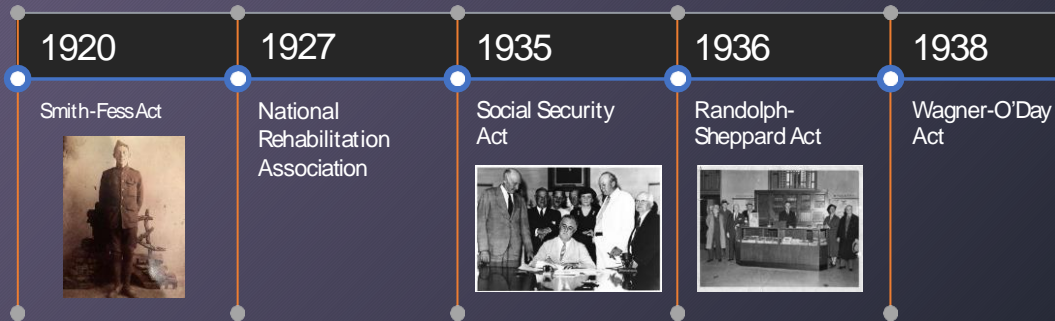
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WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE PUBLIC VR PROGRAM? COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

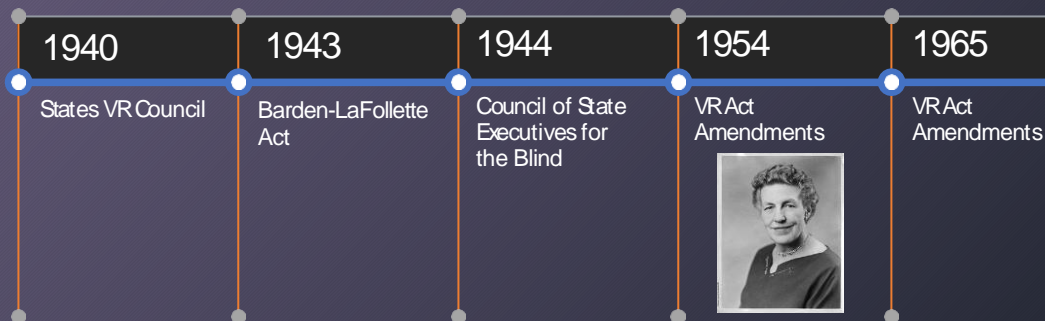
Increasing the workforce
participation rate of
persons with disabilities

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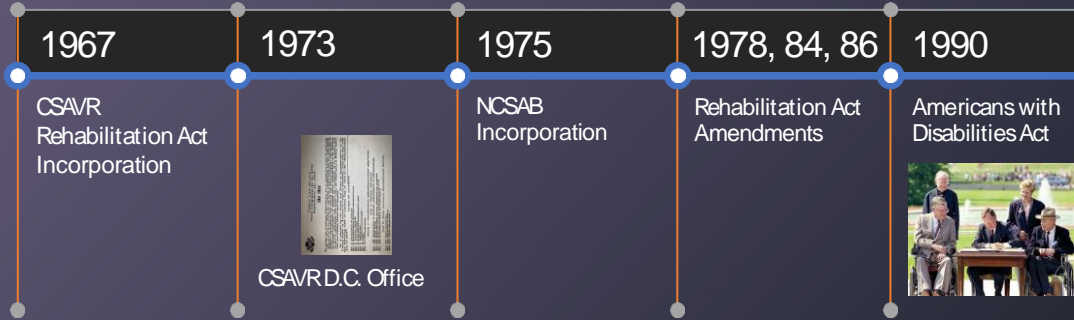
Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 1 of 4



Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 2 of 4

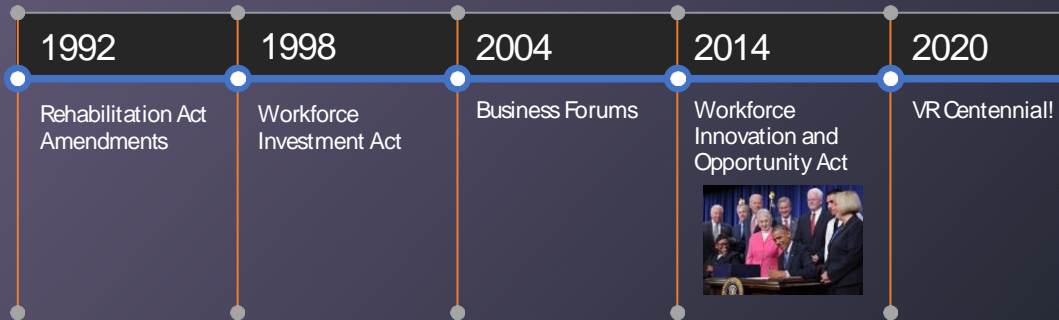


Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 3 of 4



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Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 4 of 4



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Partnerships

Core Partners

- US Department of Labor
 - Adult, Dislocated and Youth Services, Wagner-Peyser
- US Department of Education
 - Adult Education and Family Literacy, Vocational Rehabilitation

Additional partners

- HHS, USDA, DOL, HUD

Key Collaborators

- Centers for Independent Living
- State Rehabilitation Councils
- Community Rehabilitation Programs



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Partnerships Continued

What other disability employment programs are available?

- The [Ticket to Work Program](#) (TTW) helps people who receive Social Security due to a disability find work and keep their health coverage.
- If you are a veteran with a disability, check out [Veterans ReEmployment](#) for help with employment, training, and financial assistance.
- Independent Living Centers (ILCs) provide job coaching, training, and information on disability in the workplace to help people with disabilities maintain their independence.



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Eligibility

To qualify for VR services, an individual must:

1. Have a physical or mental impairment that presents a substantial barrier to employment; and be able to benefit from VR services to achieve employment.
2. Need VR services to prepare for a job, or to get, keep, or regain a job.

People who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits are considered eligible for VR, unless they are too disabled to benefit.

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Services for individual customers (Direct) 1 of 3

Career Preparation

- Career counseling and guidance
- Informational interviewing and career exploration
- Interest and ability testing
- Vocational evaluation and planning
- Self employment business planning

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Services for individual customers (Direct) 2 of 3

Find a career

- Support in searching and applying for jobs
- Job counseling
- Job placement
- Self employment

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Services for individual customers (Direct) 3 of 3

Support for keeping a career

- Job-site assessment and accommodations
- Assistive technology and devices

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Services for individual customers (Arranged/Purchased)

Additional VRS Services through Community Partners

- Medical and psychological testing
- Work experience while still in high school
- Training and education after high school
- Skills training. This may include:
 - On-the-job training
 - Formal classroom education
 - Job coaching
 - Supported employment

Services for individual customers (IPE) 1 of 2

Once you are eligible and ready to receive Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services, you and your counselor will develop your Individualized Plan for Employment, often called the IPE. This plan will outline and explain your employment goal as well as the services you will need to be successful in reaching your goal. You and your counselor must both agree to the plan and sign it in order for it to be effective.

Services for individual customers (IPE) 2 of 2

Your employment goal and IPE can be changed or modified with the approval of both you and your counselor. Your plan will be reviewed officially every year; at that time, you and your counselor will create a new plan (which may be the exact same as the old plan), discuss progress and make sure you're both in agreement, and sign to put it into effect for another year (or until you choose to modify it).

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Services for individual customers (CAP)

If you choose to obtain an advocate outside of VR, you have different options of who to work with, including the Client Assistance Program (CAP) or other disability rights advocates you identify.

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Services for business customers

- Access to talent - National Employment Team
- Disability Awareness Training - ADA
- Assistive Technology consultation
- Customized Training
- On the Job Training
- Apprenticeships
- Referral/collaboration with Core Partners

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Tips and Bits

- 78 State VR agencies - contact agency to complete an application
- Federal funds - State match - State administered
- Variability of available services and needs tests
- Priority of services
- Youth in transition and services for adults
- Appeals and disagreements
- YOUR VOICE

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Resources

- [VR agencies](#)
- [DOL CareerOneStop information](#)
- [Directory of Centers for Independent Living](#)
- [Great Lakes ADA Audio Webinar on Assistive Technology](#)
- [2023 National ADA Symposium](#)



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QUESTIONS



**You may type and submit questions in
the Q&A area of the Zoom Platform**

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Contact Information



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Still Have Questions?

Contact your Regional ADA Center



800-949-4232



www.adata.org



Audio Conference Series

Session Evaluation
Your feedback is important to us

You will receive an email following the session with a link to the on-line evaluation



Audio Conference Series

Next Session:

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

One State's Lessons Learned and Best Practices to Creating an Equitable Work Environment in State Government



Registration available at: www.ada-audio.org