



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**THE DIVISION OF REHABILITATIVE
SERVICES**

**How Our Services May Assist You in
Your Quest for Employment**

WHO IS DARS?

- DARS is a division of the Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services that provides comprehensive programs and services that prepare individuals with disabilities to enter the job market with job-ready skills and training.



**You May Apply for the DARS
Vocational Rehabilitation Program if:**

- You have a physical, mental, substance abuse or emotional disability,
- The disability keeps you from finding or keeping a job,
- You reside within the State of Virginia (living in, working in, or moving to Virginia).
- If you receive Social Security Disability (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and you want to receive our services, you already meet the first three criteria. However, you do not have to be receiving SSDI or SSI to apply.

DARS Support to Consumers & Employers

- A Team of DARS Professionals work with area businesses to obtain gainful employment for people with disabilities.
- ✓ Rehabilitation Counselor
- ✓ Vocational Evaluator
- ✓ Job Placement Counselor
- ✓ Employment Services Specialist
- ✓ Rehabilitation Engineer

DARS CONSUMER SERVICES


- ❖ Vocational Counseling
- ❖ Vocational Evaluations/Career Exploration
- ❖ Career Development & Direct Job Placement Assistance
- ❖ Situational Assessments
- ❖ Supported Employment
- ❖ Job Coaching
- ❖ Skill Training/Higher Education
- ❖ School to Work Transition Services
- ❖ Reasonable Accommodations On the Job

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

The VRC is the first and most important contact when applying for Vocational Services. *ALL SERVICE AVENUES LEAD FROM AND TO YOUR COUNSELOR, NO SERVICE HAPPENS WITHOUT THEM FIRST APPROVING AND REFERRING.*

Your Counselor may ask you to secure certain records to determine eligibility such as:

- Medical Records
- Health Insurance Information
- Mental Health Records
- Special Education or IEP Records (needed for Transition Services)
- Social Security Benefit (SSI/SSDI) Award Letters
- Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment Programs
- Tax Information/Wage Verification (*Some services are income based*)
- Other Supporting Documentation as requested by your Counselor



Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center
 Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation
 for Virginians with Disabilities

Carpentry/Woodworking	Materials Handling	Forklift Operator
Masonry	Information Technology	Welding
Buildings and Grounds	Health Care	Food Service
Building Mechanic	Child Care	Cosmetology
Drafting	Electronics	Cleaning
Customer Service/Retail	Production	Unarmed Security Guard
Business Support	Small Engine Mechanic	Horticulture

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
COUNSELOR**

PROVIDES:

- ❖ Job/Career Guidance & Support
- ❖ Help Creating an Employment Plan
- ❖ Assures that you have chosen the Employment Goal that *Best Suits* Your Vocational Needs for Successful Outcomes
- ❖ Assistance Getting You Connected with In-house and Community Based Job Placement Services (such as *Supported Employment/Job Coaching or Job Placement Counselor*)

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
COUNSELOR**

When working with your DARS Counselor, please:

- Be honest about your disability, your needs and your feelings.
- Keep appointments and be on time -- you should call your counselor if you cannot keep an appointment.
- Ask questions if you do not understand something so you can make informed decisions.
- Do your part: don't expect your counselor to do everything for you.
- Call your counselor right away if you have trouble doing anything you are asked to do.



VOCATIONAL EVALUATION

- Vocational Evaluation is a way of measuring your work strengths and abilities. This is done by matching your scores on certain tasks, inventories and tests, with various job requirements, and by using information related to your work and school background.
- Using these resources, and individual counseling, the Vocational Evaluator can assist in obtaining a result in a realistic career path and possible job placement for those who need assistance.

JOB PLACEMENT COUNSELOR

is an important tool for individual's who are "Job Ready"; meaning the individual is ready to hit the ground running, they do not require Job Training Assistance and can benefit from Direct Job Placement Services such as:

- ✓ Community Job Development
- ✓ Assistance with Submitting Job Applications and Resumes to Potential Employers
- ✓ Job Seeking Skills Club



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SPECIALIST PROVIDE

- RESUME WRITING
- MOCK INTERVIEWING
- ACCOMPANY YOU TO JOB INTERVIEWS
- SOME BASIC SKILLS ASSESSMENTS
- JOB READINESS CLASS
- THE ESS IS HERE TO SUPPORT THE COUNSELOR & CONSUMER FOR SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.




REHABILITATION ENGINEER & ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Sometimes employees need an adjustment or modification in the workplace to perform their job productively. DARS' Assistive Technology Specialists and skilled Rehabilitation Engineers can assess your workplace and develop accommodations needed.
- In many cases, an accommodation is a simple, inexpensive fix that DARS engineers can build and install such as an ergonomic keyboard or a software application designed for needed tasks or a modified work schedule.

DARS Working Toward Successful Employment Outcomes for You



Still have questions about our services?

- Visit our website at: <http://www.vdars.org/services.htm>
- Follow us on:  <https://www.facebook.com/vadars>

A staff person will work with you to answer any Questions/ Discussion you may have at this time.