



# Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

We are Title IV of WIOA (AKA WorkSource), however the Rehabilitation Act provides Federal funds to deliver DVR services. The VR program receives approximately 78% in Federal funds and a 22% match in State funds. Federal funding distributed to states via the Department of Education.

For detailed information on the dollar amount of Federal funds for the program, please visit <https://rsa.ed.gov/fiscal/grant-awards>

# DVR Overview

- DVR provides services to individuals who want to work but need assistance due to a physical, sensory, cognitive or mental health disability.
- A DVR counselor works with each individual one-on-one to design a customized, step-by-step plan to achieve the desired job goal.
- Self-employment or supported self-employment is an employment outcome in which an individual works for profit in their own business, profession or trade.
- DVR provides professional feasibility analysis, business planning, and startup monitoring and support to entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- Financial support is provided for startup costs. No repayment is required, nor the need to match with loans or personal resources.

# DVR Process

# Transforming Lives

## The Rehabilitation Process

### Application

- DVR will provide you with information about vocational rehabilitation services.
- You must complete an application with DVR before services can begin.
- Your application will be reviewed by a DVR counselor to determine if you are eligible for DVR services.



### Eligibility

- You are eligible for DVR services if you:
- Have a physical, mental, or sensory disability that results in a barrier to employment;
  - You require vocational rehabilitation services to get or keep a job; and
  - You are capable of working as a result of receiving DVR services.

Your DVR counseling team collects records to document your identity, disability, and work status. If no records about your disability exist, you may need to complete medical examinations or tests to verify or support eligibility.

### Waiting List

If DVR cannot serve every eligible individual because of funding limitations, it must establish a waiting list for services. By law, DVR must prioritize services to individuals with the most significant disabilities.

Individuals will be selected from the waiting list based on the significance of their disability and the date they applied for services. A DVR counselor will determine the significance of disability and priority category and notify you of this determination as part of the eligibility process.

### Vocational Assessment

You and your DVR counselor explore types of jobs that match your vocational assessment. You will review:

- Your strengths, abilities and interests;
- Your work history and skills; and
- Information about local job-market trends.

Or you may complete:

- Interests and/or aptitude tests; or
- Job tryouts.



### Plan for Employment

Your DVR counselor offers ongoing counseling and guidance to support you in the development of your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). This includes:

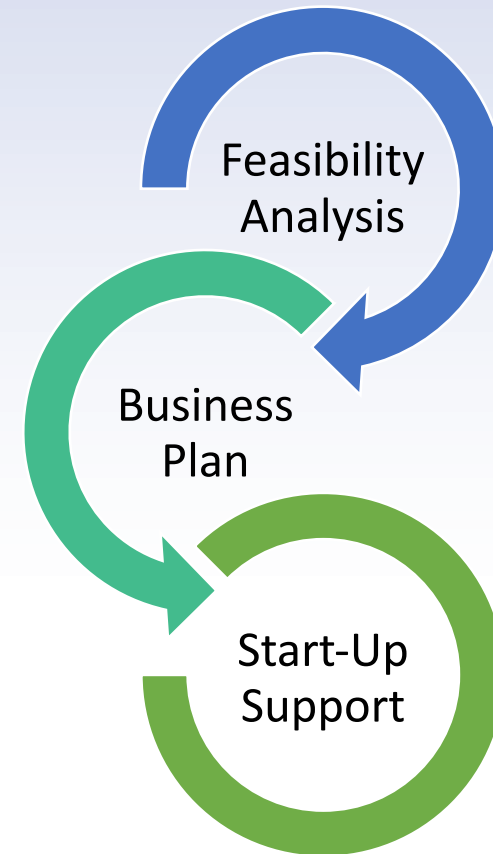
- Selecting a job goal;
- Outlining what steps and services you need to reach your job goal; and
- Working on the activities outlined in your plan. These may include:
  - Training and education
  - Conducting a job search
  - Researching job-related resources and referrals
  - Job-search training
  - Resume and interview techniques
  - Job-placement assistance
  - Support in keeping a job

### Successfully Employed

- After you get a job, DVR will maintain contact with you for at least 90 days to ensure the job is a good match.
- After 90 days, if you are doing well on the job and no other services are needed, you and your DVR counselor will decide when to close your case.

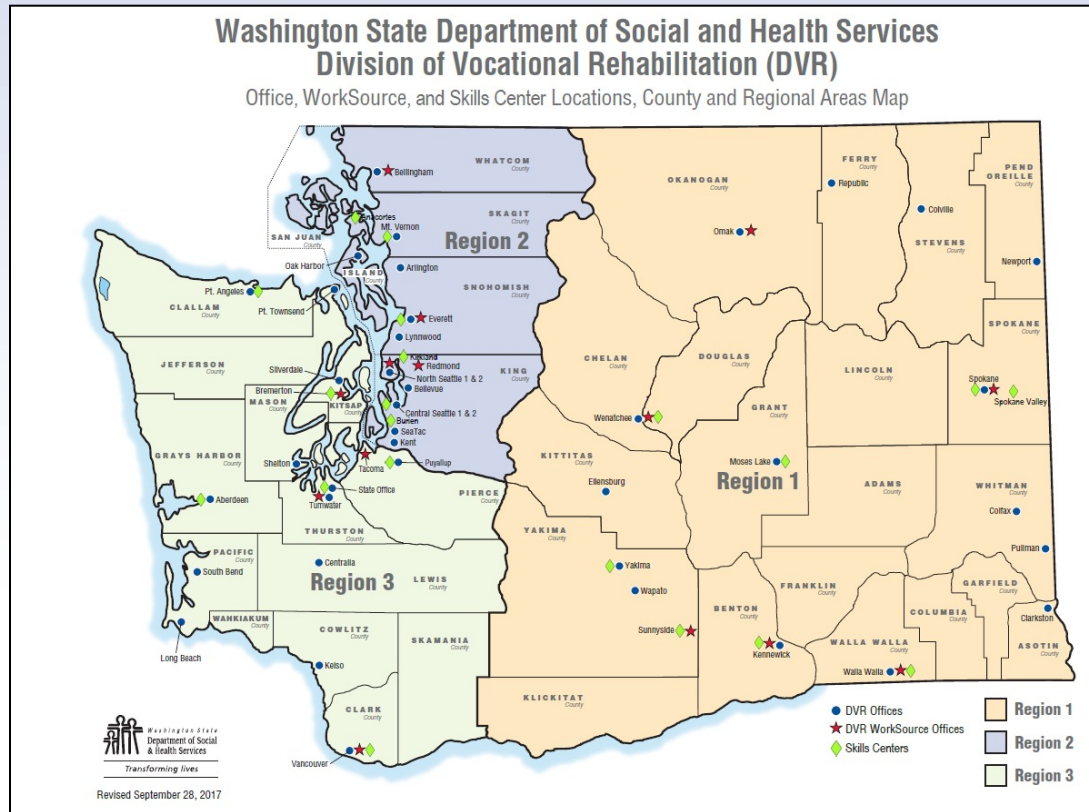
### Post Employment

- If you need help after your case has been closed and you are successfully employed, DVR can open your case again and provide assistance to help you keep your job.
- If you lose your job, DVR can assist you with applying for DVR services again and can help you find a similar job.



# Welcome

# Transforming Lives



- DVR Counselors use the services of an approved external self-employment consultant at the key points in the self-employment process.
- We value partnering with microenterprise programs to provide support resources to our customers.
- DVR Counselors are also available to provide consultation on disability-related accommodations.

Questions about today:

**James J. O'Brien, MA**

Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor

Supporting offices in King & Snohomish County;  
Statewide Self-employment program support.

(425) 530-0884

[james.obrien@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:james.obrien@dshs.wa.gov)

[www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr)

