



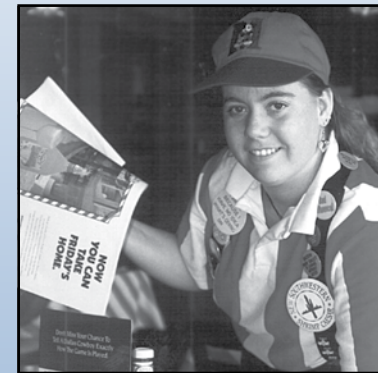
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Division for Rehabilitation Services
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751-2399

DARS
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Division for Rehabilitation Services

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

*Employment
means independence. With a job,
we can pay our bills...
purchase a house
or a car...
start a savings
account.*



The Vocational Rehabilitation Program of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) helps people who have physical or mental disabilities prepare for, find or keep employment. Gaining skills needed for a career, learning how to prepare for a job interview or getting the accommodations needed to stay employed are just a few of the ways this program helps people with disabilities increase productivity and independence.

The counselor and consumer work together to:

- decide on an employment goal and
- develop a program of vocational rehabilitation services to achieve the goal.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program serves people with a wide variety of disabilities, for example:

- mental illness,
- deaf and hard of hearing,
- impaired functioning of arms or legs,
- back injury,
- alcoholism or drug addiction,
- mental retardation,
- learning disability,
- traumatic brain injury and
- other physical or mental disabilities that prevent a person from finding or keeping a job.

Services are provided based on individual needs. Some of these services are:

- medical, psychological and vocational evaluation to determine the nature and degree of the disability and the consumer's job capabilities.
- counseling and guidance to help the consumer and family plan vocational goals and adjust to the working world.
- training to learn job skills in trade school, college, university, on the job or at home,
- hearing examinations, hearing aids and other communication equipment, aural rehabilitation and interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing,
- medical treatment and/or therapy to lessen or remove obstacles to employment,
- assistive devices such as artificial limbs, braces, and wheelchairs to stabilize or improve functioning on the job,
- rehabilitation technology devices and services to improve job functioning,
- training in appropriate work behaviors and other skills to meet employer expectations,

- job placement assistance to find jobs compatible with the person's physical and mental ability and
- follow-up after job placement to ensure job success.

Consistent with the primary purpose of the program, DARS' Vocational Rehabilitation services also contribute to the support of persons with disabilities in the community as well as support their movement from nursing homes and institutions to community-based settings.

A person is eligible if:

- the person has a physical or mental disability which results in substantial problems in obtaining or maintaining employment;
- vocational rehabilitation services from DARS are required by that person to prepare for, get or keep a job and
- the person is able to get or keep a job after receiving services.

Services will be determined through informed consumer choice, that is, after providing information about options and alternatives. Consumers of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services can be served by only one DARS program at a time.

There are several ways you can reach DARS to inquire about services. First, try calling your local DARS office. It is listed in the government section of your telephone directory. If there is no listing, please contact one of the DRS Regional Offices shown below to locate the office nearest you. You may also call the DARS Inquiry Line at 1-800-628-5115 to speak with a member of the DARS Inquiries Unit.

The DARS - Division for Rehabilitation Services contact numbers listed below have TTY capability.

Region I
Lubbock
(806) 783-2960
1-800-392-1929

Region II
Metroplex
(972) 949-2400
1-800-634-2616

Region III
Austin
(512) 407-1320
1-800-687-2676

Region IV
Houston
(713) 267-8510
1-866-281-1804

Region V
San Antonio
(210) 805-2200
1-800-410-7760

Or call our toll-free help line:
1-800-628-5115

Cover Photos: Former consumers obtained and kept jobs that provide for their independence.

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

www.dars.state.tx.us
