Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services: An Overview

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS)

• Mission:
  • The mission of the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to work for and with individuals who have disabilities to achieve their employment, independence and economic goals.
  • IVRS provides expert, individualized services to Iowans with disabilities to achieve their independence through successful employment and economic support.
IVRS

- Federally and state funded program to help individuals with disabilities find, retain, regain and advance in employment
- Both IVRS and the Iowa Department for the Blind are voluntary programs (not entitlement) with rights and responsibilities for participation
- IVRS works with a variety of community partners, agencies, businesses disability groups and other stakeholders

IVRS

- Assists eligible individuals with disabilities to become employed.
- Persons who receive VR services have a wide range of disabilities.
- *Vocational Rehabilitation is a State-Federal program. The Federal share is 78.7%; the State share is 21.3%. The Rehabilitation Services Bureau has 13 area offices and 25 service units across the state.*
Eligibility for IVRS is based on the significance of a disability

- A person has to have a disability,
- The disability must affect the person’s ability to be employed,
- The person must need VR services in order to work,
- A person can be referred to IVRS via phone, email, in-person, or the IVRS referral or application form.
Typical services include:

- Vocational Counseling
- Skill/Academic Training
- Assistive Technology
- Job Placement
- Specialized Services
- Tool/Work Equipment
- Consultation to employers regarding accommodations

Coordination with Workforce & Employers

- IVRS has prioritized business engagement to expand access to the trades industry and apprenticeships.

- The Iowa Workforce Center is a leader in the country with their emphasis on quality apprenticeship programs. IVRS collaborated with IWC during the past two years in training and outreach for apprenticeship programs.
Partnering

• WIOA provides IVRS and partners the opportunity to work collaboratively without duplicating services while expanding capacity to provide statewide services.

• Both IVRS and Workforce Centers are mandated to provide comprehensive services; however not everyone with a disability requires intensive services.

• IVRS provides guidance and technical assistance, which allows for a continuum of services based on each individual’s need. This continuum of service model propels “disability” into the community-wide experience requiring all organizations and entities to create systems that work to achieve outcomes for all individuals as a result.

GOALS

• GOAL 1: IVRS should maintain a close link to the Future Ready Iowa goals to ensure all of Iowa’s workforce will represent a continuum of the most advanced, diverse, skilled and future-ready workers in the nation. Iowa’s employers will have access to these workers and the supports they may need to employ them.

• GOAL 2: All Iowa youth will be afforded the best educational and career opportunities in the nation. Iowans will be provided access to high quality education, training and career opportunities.

• GOAL 3: Iowa will improve the structure, accessibility and administration of workforce delivery systems across the state. Iowa’s workforce delivery system will align all programs and services in an accessible, seamless and integrated manner.
Why Partner with IVRS?

- IVRS can provide valuable insight into the person’s disability and how that can affect employment.
- IVRS can assist with goal setting and identifying needs

Transition Services

- IVRS works with students ages 14 and up that have an IEP, 504, or documented disability.
- Students can receive job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, work readiness training, counseling on opportunities, and self-advocacy training.
Pre-Ets Agreement Form

- Pre-Ets Agreement
  - The form is needed for any student to receive services from IVRS.

Referrals

- Referral form is available on the IVRS website
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