

Welcome Everyone

Tonight's Educational Forum: Voc Rehab Services will begin shortly

Thank you everyone for coming to tonight's virtual session on Vocational Rehabilitation Services. This is a continuation of Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection's ongoing sessions of Educational Forums. Tonight's forum will be recorded for our community members that couldn't attend. Please do not share any personal information that you aren't comfortable with being recorded. We'd like everyone to know this is a safe space to share and ask questions, so please respect others opinions and experiences. Please stay muted during all the presentations and you can put questions in the chat or save them till the end. Thank you.



Introduction to Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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Objectives of this presentation



Overview of VR



Services VR provides



How to contact us

History of VR in the United States

During World War I, Congress establishes a new system of Veterans benefits that includes vocational rehabilitation for soldiers returning from war with significant disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was the first law to provide equal access for people with disabilities.



1920

In 1920, Congress expanded its vocational rehabilitation program for veterans with disabilities to include anyone with a physical disability. This was the beginning of the federal public Vocational Rehabilitation program, or VR.

1973

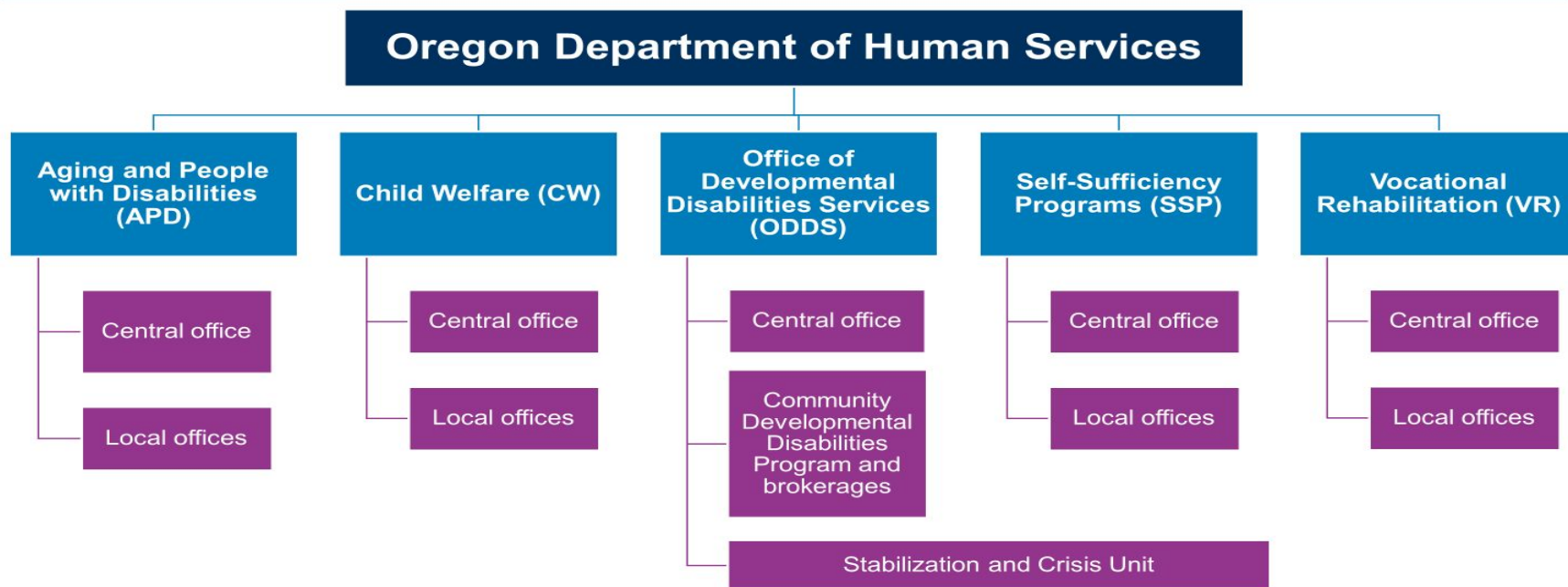
Our mission and vision

Our Mission: Assist Oregonians with disabilities to achieve, maintain and advance in employment and independence.

Our Vision: Every Oregonian with a disability who desires to work is given the means and opportunity.



How we're organized



How we're organized

Vocational Rehabilitation

Direct Services

30 VR offices around the state supported by:

- 14 Branch Managers
- 146 VR Counselors
- 70 Human Services Assistants

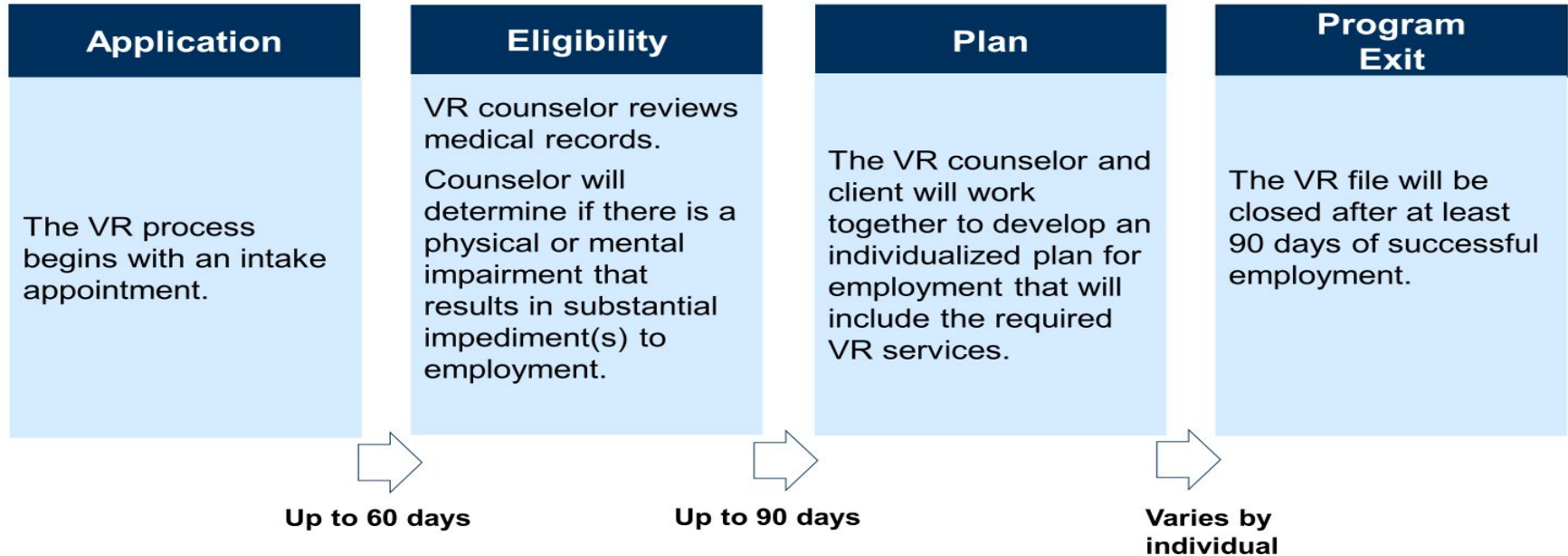
Programs

- Workforce and Business Relations
- Youth Transition Services
- Work Incentive Network
- State Independent Living Council

Central Services

- Business Operations
- Policy and Compliance
- Training
- Communications
- Service Equity

The VR process



Determining eligibility

The VR counselor considers a person's functional limitations when determining their barriers to work.

- Communication
- Interpersonal Skills
- Mobility
- Self-Care
- Self-Direction
- Work Skills
- Work Tolerance

Creating a plan

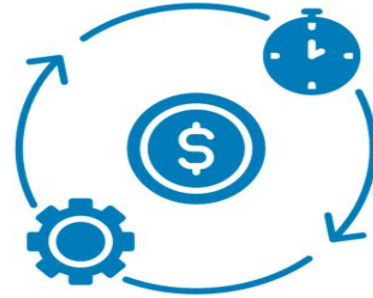
The VR Counselor and client work together to create and Individual Plan For Employment. The counselor will consider many factors:

- The client's interests, priorities, abilities, strengths and transferrable skills
- The client's personal supports and resources

- Training and skill-building needs
- Local labor market trends
- Services needed to address the client's barriers to employment

VR myth busting

- VR is not an emergency service. All services must be previously agreed upon by the counselor and connected to a disability related barrier.
- Each service is individualized. What is provided to one client may not be appropriate for another.
- VR does not provide housing, living expenses or general vehicle maintenance.



Key partners

Coordination with organizations that serve people with disabilities is essential in reaching all Oregonians with disabilities. We collaborate with:

- Private businesses
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Community-based organizations
- Local Workforce Development Boards
- Oregon Tribal Nations
- Oregon Department of Education
- Oregon Commission for the Blind
- State Independent Living Centers (SILC)
- Job Placement Services Contractors
- Non-profit organizations including OSCI
- WorkSource Oregon
- School districts



Contact us!

<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/Pages/office-finder.aspx?serviceid=27>

"Thank you very much, everyone, for participating in this educational forum. We hope it was useful to you and we are encouraged and grateful for your interest and time. We need to ask something of you... it would be extremely helpful to all of us who are involved in the ed forums to receive your candid and honest feedback on this particular event. Please do feel free to share openly, as any and all input will truly help us.

I am going to turn off the zoom recording now and then ask the feedback questions and note the responses. Thank you for staying online for a few minutes longer if you can."