

Nebraska VR and Your Pathway to Employment

Nebraska VR is an employment program for people who experience a disability. Everything Nebraska VR does and all of the services provided are for the purpose of helping people with disabilities prepare for, find, and keep a job. The program is voluntary and the services will be specific to your needs. Employment Specialists will work with you as long as you need to help you find a job. Here is what to expect along the road!

1

Referral

To begin the Nebraska VR process you start with a referral. We have partner relationships with many state agencies, community action agencies, schools, and employers that may begin the referral process with you. In this case you may be asked to fill out a short form with your name, address, and basic information to be shared with us. If you receive Social Security Disability, you may have received information about Nebraska VR through Social Security's Ticket to Work program. Clients may also refer themselves by contacting one of our eleven Service Office locations across the state.

2

Orientation and Application

Once information is received or we talk to you directly, an orientation or initial meeting with a Nebraska VR Employment Specialist is scheduled. This is when the application for services is typically completed.

3

Eligibility Determination

Next, eligibility is determined. This is a requirement where Nebraska VR must document your disability through medical or education records and how your disability affects your ability to work.

To qualify you must have the following:

- **Impairment:** You must have a diagnosed impairment. Another word for this is disability. This could be some type of physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.
- **Impediment to employment:** We must be able to show that the impairment has caused you some problems in past employment, current employment or would cause some problems preparing for and getting employment in the future.
- **Benefit:** We must be able to show that VR services would help you obtain or keep successful employment.
- **Require services:** We must show that VR services are needed for you to reach successful employment.

Eligibility requirements are applied without regard to gender, race, age, color, or national origin. There is no upper or lower age limit for any person who otherwise meets the basic eligibility criteria. You must be present in the State of Nebraska and have the legal right to work in the United States.

Benefits counseling is provided throughout the process to explain how working will affect your federal, state, and local benefits.





4

Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

After you have been determined eligible for VR services, your Employment Specialist will help you develop an individualized plan for employment or IPE.

The IPE includes:

- Your job goal.
- When you expect to reach it.
- All the services you need to reach your job goal.
- Who will provide those services.

Please know we encourage and expect your involvement in the planning process. We want to help you make informed decisions about your goals and the best way for you to achieve them.

5

Participate in Planned Services to Prepare for a Job

The goal of the services identified in your IPE is to prepare you for success in employment. Some services will be provided by your Employment Specialist. Other services may be provided by community partners.

Examples of Nebraska VR services include:

- Evaluation to determine job skills and interests through a variety of worksite experience such as job shadows or business tours
- Vocational counseling and help in setting a job goal
- Assistance with training or education if needed to obtain a job
- Supported employment
- Help with job seeking and job interview skills
- Special equipment or technology that may help you keep a job
- Working with employers to find a job match for your skills
- Connections with other community resources

Regular communication with Nebraska VR staff members, keeping appointments, and follow through with your responsibilities is also important. This will help us both to stay on track to help you find or keep a job.

6

Employment

Once you are ready to work, your Employment Specialist will help identify job openings matching your job goal. They will work with you in completing applications, creating resumes, interviewing, and advocating. Changes to the job site or assistive devices to be successful on the job will be addressed once you are hired.

7

After Employment

After you are hired and have worked for at least 90 days, you and your Employment Specialist will discuss successful closure of your case. Once your case is closed, if you run into any bumps on the job in the future, be sure to notify your Employment Specialist so issues can be addressed with you or your employer. A simple solution may be all that is needed to help you be successful.

Informed Choice

You have the right to take part in any decisions about your job goal, services, and service providers.

For more information or to find a Service Office, go to vr.nebraska.gov.

Nebraska VR - *Where your future begins*

