Our job is to help you prepare for, find and keep your job.

We're Connecticut's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, part of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), a division of the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).

We help individuals with physical and/or mental impairment(s), which affects their ability to enter or maintain employment.

If you are legally blind, you can obtain VR services from the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). Visit www.ct.gov/besb or call 860-602-4000.

BRS LOCAL OFFICES

Northern Region

Danielson 860-412-7070• East Hartford 959-200-4400; East Hartford VIDEO PH: 860-509-4417• Enfield 860-899-3567 Windsor 860-697-3550; Windsor VIDEO PH: 860-920-7172 • Manchester 860-647-5960 New Britain 860-612-3569

Southern Region

Ansonia 203-732-1667 • Middletown 860-740-1080 • New Haven 203-974-3000; New Haven VIDEO PH: 203-584-9840 New London 860-439-7686 • Norwich 860-859-5720, Norwich VIDEO PH: 860-237-3525

Western Region

Bridgeport 203-551-5500; VIDEO PH: 203-416-6761 •Danbury 203-207-8990 Stamford 203-251-9430 • Torrington 860-294-0013• Waterbury 203-578-4550; Waterbury VIDEO PH: 203-577-5319

Not sure of your local office location? Call 800-537-2549.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and offers its programs regardless of race, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex or marital status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this brochure is available upon request in large print, Braille or on audio cassette or computer diskette by calling 1-800-537-2549 (Voice) or 860-920-7163 (Video Phone).

DORS 15-01 April 2017

THE CONNECTICUT VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Navigating the job market is easier when you know how.

DORS

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Where do you start?

Contact the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) office nearest to your home to apply for services. If you are younger than 18 years old, your parent or guardian will have to be involved in the process.

You will be asked to provide information about your disability, your education and any work or volunteer opportunities you may have had. When necessary, you may be asked to participate in medical, psychiatric, psychological or other evaluations that will be paid for by BRS.

Talk to a professional.

A Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor will explain how our process works and answer any questions you may have. Once you make the decision to apply for services the counselor has up to 60 days to determine if you are eligible.

Our expertise, your plan.

If you are eligible for VR services, you will work with a BRS counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Your IPE will identify your vocational goal, what steps are needed to help you achieve your goal and who is responsible for each step. Both you and your counselor will reach an agreement on your IPE services and take actions toward completing each service of the IPE.

BRS @ work.

BRS provides individualized services to help you find employment that best matches your interests, values, personality and abilities. Services are provided based on the current job market and availability of funds. All services must be pre-authorized by your BRS counselor.

BRS may provide a full range of services, in any combination, that best fit your needs, including:

- Vocational counseling
- Benefits counseling
- Job search assistance
- School-to-work transition services
- Skills training and career education in college and/or vocational schools
- On-the-job training in business and industry
- Assistive technology services such as adaptive equipment for mobility, communication and work activities
- Vehicle and home modification
- Supported employment services
- Services to assist in restoring or improving a physical and/or mental impairment
- Nursing home transition services
- Help accessing other programs and services

Your counselor will explain when BRS will pay for part or all of a service. We will also help you find other resources including financial aid, medical insurance and your own finances.

Important factors that impact eligibility.

- If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), you may be presumed eligible for VR services. Our benefits specialists are here to help you understand how work can affect your benefits.
- Individuals with the most significant disabilities may receive services on a priority basis called the Order of Selection.
- If your disability is not found to be "significant," you may not be eligible for services. If this occurs, you may be added to a waiting list and be given other potential options for assistance.

More help if you need it.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) can provide advice, advocacy and legal information regarding BRS. CAP is located at:

The Office of Protection and Advocacy (P&A)
60-B Weston Street, Hartford, CT 06120
Phone: 1-800-842-7303 (toll-free) or 860-297-4326 (statewide).

Chart a new course to success. To learn more, please visit www.ct.gov/brs.

Or contact the local BRS office closest to you. You'll find that information listed on the back.