

PA Federation of Injured Workers

PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation



An Injury To One,
Is An Injury To ALL



OVR MISSION STATEMENT:

To assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence.

OVR CENTRAL OFFICE

1521 N. 6th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-787-5244 Voice
800-442-6351 Voice*
717-787-4885 TTY
866-830-7327 TTY*

BLINDNESS & VISUAL SERVICES

1521 N. 6th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-787-6176 Voice
800-622-2842 Voice*

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provides individualized services to assist people with disabilities to pursue, obtain, and maintain satisfactory employment. An OVR counselor can help you select an employment goal and develop a comprehensive strategy so that you can find the type of job that meets your needs. OVR placement services are provided at no cost to eligible individuals with disabilities.

An OVR Counselor can assist you in planning your job search. You will receive ideas, practice, and advise on finding job leads, filling out job applications, getting interviews for a job, and how to interview for a job. Your counselor may also give you job leads or contact employers to explain available tax credits and other hiring incentives. The more contacts with employers you make, the better your chances are of finding a job. Your Counselor can help you explore employment trends, your capabilities, and possible job accommodations, so that you are better prepared to make informed vocational decisions and effectively look for a job.

You will be eligible for OVR services if: You have a disability that is, a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment, and you can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from services provided, and, Vocational Rehabilitation services are required for you to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

Many jobs require on-site training. Many people learn a job better and faster when they work in a real job situation. Depending on the job and the time it takes to train a new employee, OVR can reimburse employers for a percentage of the weekly wage for a specified period of time. Both the percentage and the time are negotiable. The employer is responsible for providing the trainer.

Job Coaching is also available for individuals needing intensive on site job training. Individuals needing this service require more extensive training time or assistance than an employer is able to provide. OVR can hire a Job Coach who does the actual skill training rather than the employer. The Coach works alongside the employee until the employee learns the job to the employer's and employee's satisfaction. Job Coaches provide follow-up support to both the employee and the employer.

These training programs enable employers to acquire trained skilled employees capable of satisfying the specific needs of their business. The employee has the added advantage of earning wages while undergoing training.

WOTC - The Work Opportunities Tax Credit Program:

This program provides a federal tax credit for up to one year for all private employers in trades or business who hire employees through OVR. The credit is equal to 25% of the first \$6,000 of pay after 120 hours of work, then at 400 hours, the credit jumps to 40%. For more detailed information about this valuable incentive, contact an OVR Employment Representative at the OVR District Office that serves you. Tax breaks are available for hiring persons with disabilities and for making improvements to facilities making them accessible to persons with disabilities. Incidentally, many of the accessibility changes make it easier for employees and customers with disabilities to do their job or conduct business. Consider these tax advantages:

Disabled Tax Credit (Title 26, IRS, Section 44)

The Disabled Tax Credit is specifically geared to eligible small business for meeting increased expenses incurred in complying with the ADA. To qualify, a business must have fewer than 30 employees or a gross yearly income of less than \$1 million. The allowable amount of tax credit is equal to 50 percent of the expenditures in excess of \$250, but not more than \$10,250. In other words, the

maximum that can be claimed in any tax year under this provision is \$5,125.

Eligible expenditures may include removing architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, providing qualified readers, taped texts, interpreters, the myriad of technical assistive devices, and offsetting the purchase or modification of equipment and devices for individuals with disabilities. **Architectural and Transportation Barrier Removal Tax Deduction (Title 26, IRS, Section 190)**

Any private business may claim up to \$15,000 in deductions per tax year for making its premises or public transportation vehicles more accessible to persons with disabilities or the elderly. Eligible expenditures may include installing ramps, widening doorways, modifying restrooms, or equipping a shuttle van with a lift.

OVR Counselors are knowledgeable about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They can provide valuable information regarding essential job functions, reasonable job accommodations, and work-site modifications that will result in greater worker productivity. Should you have a need for work-site modifications, adaptive equipment, or to overcome particular physical barriers, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation can work with you and employers to conduct work-site evaluations to determine the skills and abilities needed to perform a job and the most suitable technology or accessibility options.

OVR Directory

ALLENTOWN

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Richard Walters—Administrator
Edward Dunn—Asst. Administrator
45 N. Fourth Street
Allentown, PA 18102
610-821-6441 Voice
800-922-9536 Voice*
610-821-6144 TTY
888-377-9207 TTY*

DUBOIS

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Catherine Farr—Administrator
Ralph Serafini—Asst. Administrator
199 Beaver Drive
Dubois, PA 15801
814-371-7340 Voice
814-371-7505 TTY
800-922-4017 Voice/TTY*

HARRISBURG

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Charles Cavalovitch—Administrator
Belinda Crobak—Asst. Administrator
555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg PA 17101
717-787-7834 Voice
800-442-6352 Voice*
717-787-4013 TTY
877-497-6545 TTY*

NEW CASTLE

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Celeste Dute—Administrator
Gary Gay—Asst. Administrator
100 Margaret Street
New Castle, PA 16101
724-656-3070 Voice
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724-656-3252 TTY
888-870-4476 TTY*

ALTOONA

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Carl Pillar—Administrator
Pamela Montgomery—Asst. Admin.
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Altoona, PA 16601
814-946-7240 Voice/TTY
800-442-6343 Voice*
866-320-7955 TTY*

ERIE

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Bruce Best—Administrator
Jack Hewitt—Asst. Administrator
3200 Lovell Place
Erie, PA 16503
814-871-4551 Voice
800-541-0721 Voice*
814-871-4535 TTY
888-217-1710 TTY*

HARRISBURG

Blindness & Visual Services
Wilhelmenia Murry—Administrator
555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg PA 17101
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717-787-1733 TTY
888-575-9420 TTY*

NORRISTOWN

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Michael Wakefield—Administrator
1875 New Hope Street
Norristown, PA 19401-3146
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800-221-1042 Voice*
484-250-4357 TTY
888-616-0470 TTY*

ALTOONA

Blindness & Visual Services
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ERIE

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JOHNSTOWN

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
John Brown—Administrator
Tammy Burke—Asst. Administrator
727 Goucher Street, Section 10
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-255-6771 Voice
800-762-4223 Voice*
814-255-5510 TTY
866-862-6891 TTY*

PHILADELPHIA

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Rose Higby—Administrator
Barbara Shadell—Asst. Administrator
444 N. 3rd Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-560-1900 Voice
800-442-6381 Voice*
215-560-6144 TTY
800-772-9031 TTY*

PHILADELPHIA

Blindness & Visual Services

Merlyne Harvey—Administrator**Debra Smith**—Asst. Administrator

444. N. 3rd Street, 5th Floor

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READING

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Janell Shaffer-Yoder—Administrator**Lynn Zale**—Asst. Administrator

1090 Commons Boulevard

Reading, PA 19605-3332

610-916-2316 Voice

800-442-0949 Voice*

610-916-8965 TTY

877-475-7326 TTY*

WILKES-BARRE

Blindness & Visual Services

Stanley Swaintek—Administrator

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800-651-6117 TTY*

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PITTSBURGH

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Carol Kunic—Administrator**Gary Donatelli**—Asst. Administrator

217 State Office Building

300 Liberty Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-392-4950 Voice

800-442-6371 Voice*

412-392-5921 TTY

WASHINGTON

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Robert Laick—Administrator**Ronald Rudberg**—Asst. Administrator

201 W. Wheeling Street

Washington, PA 15301

724-223-4430 Voice/TTY

800-442-6367 Voice/TTY*

WILLIAMSPORT

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Susan Swartz—Administrator

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PITTSBURGH

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YORK

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