

OVR: A History and Overview
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Overview

- My Background
- OVR Mission
- Eligibility
- Services/Funding
- Case Study

My Background

- Received OVR services after SCI in 2001
- Rehabilitation Counseling at Pitt
- Eight Years With OVR
- Liaison to CAT and UPMC Mercy
- Assistive Technology Specialist for PGH OVR

The History of VR Services

- Smith-Hughes Act of 1917
 - Established funds to start vocational education programs
- Soldiers Rehabilitation Act of 1918
 - Funds to rehabilitation disabled veterans
- Veterans Bureau established in 1921
- Disabled Veterans Act of 1943
 - Helped disabled veterans return to work

OVR's Mission

- Mission:
 - To help people with disabilities gain or maintain employment.
- Career Counseling and Guidance
 - Career Exploration, Service Options
 - Provide Options, not advice
- Job Placement Services
 - Resume, Interview Practice, Job Leads, Job Fairs, Employer Funding
- Public Sector
 - State and Federal Funding
 - Funded with Taxes
- Funding for Contracted Services

Application Process

- Referral
 - Self, Doctors, Teachers, Audiologists, Psychologists, OTs and PTs
 - Walk-in, Call-in, Liaison
- Application
 - Demographics, Work and Education, Medical, Goals, Services
- Records or Evaluations
 - Collect medical records or refer for evaluations if there are no records
- Eligibility
 - Write a justification for services based on records and evals and goals
- Individualized Plan for Employment
 - Goals, Services, Timeframes, Responsibilities of Counselor and Client

Eligibility

- Not an Entitlement Program
 - Referrals must be reviewed to determine eligibility
- Disability
 - Physical, Cognitive, Mental Health, Communication, Vision, etc
- Barriers to Employment
 - Mobility, Communication, Learning, Endurance, Self-Direction, etc
- Multiple Services
 - At least two services
- Prolonged Period
 - At least 6 months

Contracted Services

- Training and Education
 - Pitt, Duquesne, CCAC, Builder's Guild, Trade Schools, etc
 - Nationwide
- Job Coaching
 - Assistance finding and learning a job
- Durable Medical
 - Wheelchairs, Shower chairs, Prosthetics, etc
- Assistive Technology
 - Dragon Dictation Software, Hearing Aids
- Home and Vehicle Modifications
 - Stair Lifts, Hand Controls, Van Ramps, etc.

Eligibility: Funding

- Financial Need
 - Funding is based on income
 - Funding not based on debt or assets
- Funding For Contracted Services
 - Wheelchairs, Partial School Tuition, Hearing Aids, Prosthetics, etc
- Working Clients may have a "deductible."
 - Client may have to contribute X Dollars before OVR funding can be requested
- Clients receiving SSI or SSDI have no "deductible."
 - Approved funding is for maximum amount
- Waivers/appeals
 - Can be requested if "deductible" is a financial hardship

Case Study

- Spinal Cord Injury
 - T8 ASIAA
- Manual chair user
- Referred from rehabilitation facility
- High School Education
- SSI Recipient
- Goal
 - VR Counselor
- Services
 - Education, Durable Medical, Driver Training, Vehicle Mods

Case Study

- Meets MSD Criteria
 - Has a disability, has barriers to employment, requires multiple services for at least six months
 - Eligible for counseling and placement
- Driving Eval
 - Not Covered By Insurance
 - OVR covers Eval, Training, and Hand Controls
- Wheelchair
 - Frame Covered By Insurance
 - Natural Fits Handrims Covered By OVR

Case Study Services

- Vehicle Modifications
 - Client must purchase own vehicle
 - Minivan identified by client as best option
 - CDRS recommends hand controls
 - OVR pays for hand controls and installation.
- Education
 - \$2,500 per semester for 8 semesters
 - Client must cover remaining costs with loans and grants
- Job Placement
 - Assistance with resume
 - Hiring incentives offered to employers

What can you do?

- Connect with the local office where you practice
- Develops a working relationship with a liaison
- Actively refer patients for VR services
- VR services are in every state
- Offices are assigned by county

Questions

FAQ

Contact Information

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