



## **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Financial Support Fact Sheet**

What is Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)?

- VR Programs assist individuals with disabilities obtain, maintain, and advance in employment in the competitive labor market.
- The two agencies that fall under this umbrella are the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI).
- The VR program is authorized by Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, later amended by Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

What is The Rehabilitation Act of 1973?

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (Rehab Act) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies and in programs receiving federal financial assistance.

What is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)?

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.
- WIOA strengthened the alignment of the VR program with other core workforce programs with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for all.

Who is eligible for VR?

- If you have a disability and the disability keeps you from getting or keeping a job, you may be eligible for VR services.

How Do I Apply?

- You may call or e-mail the local DARS or DBVI office nearest you for an appointment.

DARS contact information: Phone-1-800-552-5019 (TTY 1-800-464-9950)  
<https://dars.virginia.gov/>

DBVI contact information: Phone-1-800- 622-2155  
<https://www.dbvi.virginia.gov/>

Are VR services free?

- Not all services are free. When you apply for services, you are asked to complete a Client Financial Statement (RS-13) form.

What is the Client Financial Statement (RS-13) form?

- The Client Financial Statement (RS-13) form is used to determine financial support based on the most recent federal income tax return tax period (January 1 through December 31 of each year).
- The RS-13 form takes in account all family members listed on the federal income tax return during this tax period, regardless of whether the VR client resides with the family.
- The RS-13 form is completed annually. DARS can also update the RS-13 sooner if there has been a documented change in the client's or client's family's financial situation.

When is the RS-13 form needed or implemented?

- The RS-13 is required for all services that require DARS financial sponsorship.
- The RS-13 form is used for clients receiving services under a Trial Work Experiences Plan, Employment Plan, or Post Employment Services Plan.

What is taken into consideration while reviewing the Client Financial Statement (RS-13)?

- The VR client and family shall share in the annual cost of all VR services provided unless the VR service or the client is exempt. Your VR counselor will assist you in making this determination.
- Comparable Benefits are also considered.
  - Comparable benefits mean services and benefits that are provided or paid for, in whole or in part, by other federal, state, or local public agencies, by health insurance, or by employee benefits; available to the individual at the time needed under the Employment Plan.
- A VR counselor will look at lowest cost alternative that meets the client's VR needs.
- A Post-secondary client's Student Aid Index (SAI) for school training that participates in federal financial aid program must also be considered.

*Information in this document is compiled from Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) policies and procedures manual.*

*This fact sheet is paid for with funds from the Client Assistance Program (CAP) via the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).*

- All other VR funding policies will be considered as well.

Are there exemptions from client financial participation? Yes, exemptions include:

- VR clients who are a dependent of a family receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- VR clients who are a dependent of a family receiving General Relief (GR) cash benefits
- VR clients who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- VR clients who receive cash benefits from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) as the disabled worker claimant or as a disabled adult
- Family-member income from TANF, GR, SSI, and SSDI disabled worker Claimant and SSDI Adult Child Disability Benefits cash amounts are exempt

Would a VR client be denied services if they opt not to submit a Client Financial Statement (RS-13)?

- No, a VR client who does not wish to submit financial information may still receive those VR services that are exempt from consumer financial participation. However, other services may require a VR client to complete the RS-13 in order for the VR agency to financially support that service.

We Need Your Help!

Please assist dLCV with an evaluation to let us know if this factsheet is helpful! Complete the attached quick evaluation. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

**For more information about VR services and the financial cost services please contact the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) at:  
(800) 552-3962 or (804) 225-2042.**

**You may also contact us using our “Get Help” portal found on our website at:  
[www.dLCV.org/get-help](http://www.dLCV.org/get-help)**

**Office location:  
dLCV  
1512 Willow Lawn Drive  
Suite 100  
Richmond, VA 23230**

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