VR Vocational Rehabilitation

Let’s go to work

Helping people with disabilities become and stay employed.

Helping businesses find and keep talent.

scvrd.net
As we expand the agency’s focus on innovation and positive change, our core mission remains the same, helping individuals with barriers achieve employment success and helping businesses find and keep talented employees.

Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act we are able to combine our strengths with those of our workforce partners. These partnerships help us to ensure that individuals encountering barriers to employment receive coordinated and complementary services. These services help them acquire the skills, training and credentials they need to meet the workforce requirements of employers throughout our state. In turn, employers gain access to qualified, dedicated candidates for employment in areas such as construction, manufacturing, transportation, information technology, health care, hospitality and the service industry.

VR strives for exceptional results, while meeting the individual needs of consumers and their families through world-class services. Through demand driven, customized training with businesses, and partnerships with technical colleges, we help our consumers gain employable skills and industry-recognized credentials. Our consumers benefit by having better career opportunities, better wages, better job stability, and increased self-worth.

As we look to the opportunities and challenges of the future, we remain dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities in achieving and maintaining success. We will continue to assist businesses by providing a strong and talented workforce. Together we will make the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department one of the best VR programs in the Nation!

Let’s go to work!

Felicia W. Johnson, Commissioner

For more than 90 years, VR has been bringing South Carolinians with disabilities and employers together

People with disabilities want to be employed, educated and participate in their communities. More than 20 million Americans, ages 18-64, have a disability. That’s almost 10% of the population. More than 13 million of them are unemployed. In South Carolina we have more than 360,000 citizens, ages 18-64, with a disability, more than 250,000 of whom are unemployed.

Many of these individuals would like to go to work, but need assistance to prepare for and achieve that goal. They represent one of our nation’s most significant resources, and each year we help thousands find jobs paying competitive wages. These new workers become taxpaying citizens, proud of what they are achieving: building fulfilling lives for themselves and their families.
Helping South Carolinians with disabilities become employed

If you have a disability, we can help you understand the options available in becoming or staying employed through individualized services provided at offices around the state.

If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Benefits Specialists are on hand to counsel you on work incentives and other benefits of working while educating you on the effects of earnings as you plan for employment.

Your Vocational Goal

Once eligibility is established, and depending on your need, services are available to assist you in preparing for, obtaining, retaining, or regaining employment. You participate fully in your rehabilitation, with your counselor serving as a guide to help you navigate all of the services we offer.

Assessment is the first step. Your strengths, abilities, interests, and the types of jobs you are best suited for are evaluated. This may involve job shadowing, working with a mentor, or a work experience. This process identifies a specific vocational goal and the services needed to help you achieve it.

Although most assessments are done in your local office, you may be referred for comprehensive evaluation services for a more in-depth assessment if needed.

To be eligible for VR services, you must have a physical or mental barrier to employment, need help to overcome it, and be able to benefit from VR services.

Recovery leads to success

“The most important thing I got was a plan,” says Leanne Taylor. “I didn’t know how to function anymore. Addiction took that away. I didn’t know how to make it better and I didn’t want to be the way I was.”

VR’s residential substance abuse treatment services offer help for people who are unable to get or keep a job because of drugs or alcohol. Consumers are referred by VR counselors at any of our offices.

Leanne worked closely with the treatment staff to build the foundation for her recovery, which included exploring career opportunities and setting goals for her future.

“What I learned in those 28 days will help me for the rest of my life,” she says.

After completing the program, consumers continue to receive support from their VR counselor and local VR office.

Currently employed by an optometrist, Leanne continues to achieve her personal and career goals.

“I’m excited for my future. The possibilities are endless for what I can do.”

treatment.scvrd.net
Your Individualized Plan

Your plan will list the services you need to help you prepare for your chosen vocation. The specific services provided are based on your individual financial and employment needs and may include:

**Disability management** through speech, hearing, physical, occupational, muscular or aquatic therapy; diagnosis and treatment for mental or emotional disorders like substance abuse; prosthetics, orthotics, podiatry or dentistry; or rehabilitation technology, such as worksite assessment, assistive devices, technological adaptations and aids for daily living.

**Training** to enhance and increase professional skills, including job preparedness instruction and hands-on job readiness training; business or information technology training; community based training (on-the-job training, registered apprenticeships and customized training); or post secondary training through vocational schools, technical colleges, or four-year colleges and universities.

**Job search assistance** to help you identify and secure competitive integrated employment. In some cases, you may receive on-site job coaching to help get started on the job.

**Follow-up, post-employment, and job retention services** help once you have been hired, or if your job is jeopardized because of disability-related factors.

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**Pre-Employment Transition Services** are for students, ages 13-21, with a 504 or Individual Education Plan (IEP), and include the following individual or group activities:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences
- Counseling on post-secondary education
- Workplace readiness training
- Instruction in self-advocacy

**Group Transition Services** are for youth with disabilities, ages 14-24, in or out of school, and may include:

- Tours of colleges and technical schools
- Employer or business site visits
- Career fairs coordinated with employers

**Individualized Transition Services** are for youth eligible for VR services who have an Individualized Plan for Employment, and may include:

- Counseling and guidance
- Post-secondary, continuing and adult education
- Vocational and work-based training
- Supported employment

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**VR helps youth with barriers to education or employment**

build self-esteem, learn teamwork, gain communication and leadership skills, prepare for employment success, and achieve independence.

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I’m proud to be a part of VR, knowing that I’m not out there alone. That’s a scary thing for somebody with a disability: to not have a support system.

—Brian Denny, former VR consumer

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youthservices.scvrd.net
As a workforce development partner, VR can help your business achieve its competitive advantage by developing qualified job candidates who are trained in a wide variety of skills and have the good work habits that you value.

Employers from multiple job sectors, including federal contractors, indicate that hiring VR consumers helps them reduce training costs and increase job retention rates, while improving workforce diversity.

Through individualized assessment, we get to know our consumers so that we can assist you in finding the right person for your position.

Planning

VR staff meet with business and industry leaders to learn more about their workforce needs, then provide information and support to help them create a strategic plan to meet those needs. Services include:

- employer site visits
- informational presentations
- educational training sessions
- tours of our offices and training centers
- community resource referrals

Recruiting

We work with employers to help them build a strong, diverse workforce through job fairs and vocationally-focused talent fairs. These events give them access to untapped talent pools of professionals to meet their needs.

When a position becomes available, we assist employers with services such as:

- task analysis
- pre-screening
- candidate referral
- interview scheduling

Many skills are best learned in a hands-on environment.

Our statewide network of training centers are a unique system for training VR consumers while providing you with a flexible outsource alternative.

While meeting your business needs, our consumers learn skills through tasks such as:

- assembly
- fabrication
- inspection
- building
- packaging
- recycling

Many consumers also earn industry recognized certifications.

We are committed to:

- quality
- cost-efficiency
- flexibility
- quick turnaround time

Together we prepare skilled employees for your workforce.

trainingcenters.scvrd.net

This is one of the best programs I’ve ever seen. VR is changing people’s lives and helping businesses thrive in the community.

—Jeff Mang, Plant Manager, HBD Thermoid
Training

Through job preparedness instruction and hands-on job readiness training, our consumers learn the foundational soft skills and industry-specific job skills needed to succeed in employment.

We partner with businesses to provide work-based training to meet employers’ specific needs, including:

• on-the-job training
• registered apprenticeships
• customized training

Retention

Retention Services are available to businesses that wish to keep valuable employees who need help due to a disability that might be jeopardizing their employment.

Whether it’s anxiety, depression, alcohol or other substance abuse, or physical impairments, our goal is to help a person minimize or eliminate what is interfering with their job performance.

These confidential services may include:

• comprehensive evaluation
• rehabilitation technology
• substance abuse treatment

Business Development

Each of our Business Development Specialists collaborates with local businesses to understand their specific workforce development needs. As a result, they are able to provide customized solutions to meet those needs.

Businesses that partner with VR:

• find qualified, trained and dependable employees
• help shape foundational, customized and demand-driven training
• are recognized as a leader in community workforce development
• have the opportunity to teach classes on fundamental life and job skills
• network with other businesses
• share best practices

Find your local BDS at bds.scvrd.net

Business Partnerships

Some of the business partners who hire our consumers and provide projects to our training centers include:

3D Systems
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina
Boeing South Carolina
BPO American
Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC
Eaton Corporation
Electrolux Home Products
Embassy Suites
Freightliner Custom Chassis
INA Bearings
LeCreuset of America
Lowe’s
Michelin North America
North American Rescue
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc.
TD Bank
TE Connectivity
Verizon Wireless
Walgreens

Working with VR has opened a great door of opportunity for a labor force that I need.

—Charlie Weston, Owner, Guardian Fence Suppliers

Tax credits and other financial incentives are available to help with training, orientation and accommodation during the hiring process.
The ManuFirst SC credential is recognized by the industry as the equivalent to one year's manufacturing experience, which is what many manufacturers require for an entry-level job. During the training, students learn about safety, quality practices and measurement, manufacturing processes and production, maintenance awareness, and OSHA-10. ManuFirst SC training was held recently at the Southeastern Institute for Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) located on the Florence-Darlington Technical College Campus. Tommy Pruitt, Human Resources Manager at Ruiz Foods, recently discussed the opportunities available and the importance of the ManuFirst SC credential with VR consumers. After completing the training and earning the ManuFirst SC credential, VR consumers Harry Scott and Michael Brooks (pictured left) have been employed by Ruiz Foods.

VR consumers jump-start manufacturing careers with ManuFirst SC credential

VR consumers become taxpayers instead of tax consumers when they become employed, reducing their reliance on government disability benefits. Many receive health insurance coverage through their new jobs and no longer rely on Medicaid. Competitively employed consumers pay back about $4.49 in taxes for every $1 spent on their rehabilitation. Employed consumers repay the cost of their vocational rehabilitation in an average of 3.9 years. South Carolina taxpayers receive a 25% annual rate of return on their investment.

A great return on investment

New customized training opportunity

VR’s West Columbia Office has partnered with Schneider Electric to create a customized training opportunity for VR consumers who are participating in job readiness training.
Due to the high workforce demand in the manufacturing industry in the Midlands, many manufacturers have expressed that finding qualified individuals to fulfill their workforce needs has become extremely competitive.

Through this comprehensive training program – held on-site at one of five Schneider Electric locations in South Carolina (Seneca, Hopkins, Greenville, Charleston, and Columbia) - VR consumers will gain skills in manufacturing, advanced materials handling, and production.

Some consumers will also train in an office environment where they will learn shipping and receiving, inventory control, and customer service skills. All participants will have the opportunity to cross train in different areas of the manufacturing facility.

Consumers participating in the program have already been interviewed by Schneider. Once training is successfully completed, Schneider will utilize this pool of candidates to fill needed positions within their company.

The experience and skills gained from this program will also benefit consumers who seek employment with other manufacturers.

The Inaugural class of trainees will consist of twelve consumers selected by Schneider Electric.

Schneider Electric is a global company that specializes in energy management and automation, helping their customers manage energy and processes in ways that are safe, reliable, efficient and sustainable.
VR’s Disability Determination Services (DDS) unit processes Social Security Disability Insurance claims as well as Supplemental Security Income claims for the Social Security Administration.

You may be eligible to receive benefits from these programs when a physical or mental impairment prevents you from performing any type of work for a sustained period of time. Highly-trained DDS employees carefully and objectively evaluate medical and vocational factors in making the decision whether documentation meets Social Security guidelines for allowance of benefits.

SC DDS’s decisional accuracy surpassed regional and national averages last year. With offices in West Columbia, Charleston and Greenville, the unit handled more than 76,000 claims for SSA.

DDS also processes disability retirement claims for the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority and Medicaid disability claims.

Find out more or apply for SSI or SSDI at your local Social Security Administration office, or at ssa.gov.

Quality and timely decisions

“DDS employees realize that each of the many thousands of claims received by our offices is of vital importance in the life of the person who submitted it. We are proud of the conscientious and dedicated efforts of our staff to get it right.”

—Shirley Jarrett, DDS Director
Aiken *
855 York St. N.E.
Aiken, SC 29801
803-641-7630 (Office/TDD)
800-961-9410 (Toll free)

Anderson *
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Anderson, SC 29625
864-224-6391 (Office/TDD)

Beaufort *
747 Robert Small Parkwy
Beaufort, SC 29906
843-522-1010 (Office/TDD)

Bennettsville *
1029 SC-9
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-479-8318 (Office/TDD)
800-849-4878 (Toll free)

Camden *
15 Battleship Road Ext.
Camden, SC 29020
803-432-1068 (Office/TDD)
866-206-5280 (Toll free)

Clinton *
22861 Highway 76 E
Clinton, SC 29325
864-984-6563 (Office/TTY)
866-443-0103 (Toll free)

Columbia (main office)
516 Percival Road
Columbia, SC 29020
803-782-4239 (Office/TDD)
866-206-5280 (Toll free)

Columbia (downtown)
1430-A Confederate Avenue
Columbia, SC 29020
803-898-8866 (Office)

Columbia (training center) *
201 Corporate Park Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29223
803-691-8284 (Office)

Conway *
3009 Fourth Avenue
Conway, SC 29527
843-248-2235 (Office/TTY)

Dillon
309 North First Avenue
Dillon, SC 29536
843-774-3691 (Office)

Florence *
1947 West Darlington Street
Florence, SC 29501
843-662-8114 (Office/TTY)

Gaffney *
364 Huntington Road
Gaffney, SC 29341
864-489-9954 (Office/TTY)
866-451-1481 (Toll free)

Georgetown
1777 N. Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
843-546-2595 (Office/TTY)

Greenville *
105 Parkins Mill Road
Greenville, SC 29607
843-297-3066 (Office/TDD)

Greenwood *
2345 Highway 72/221 E
Greenwood, SC 29649
864-229-5827 (Office/TDD)
866-443-0162 (Toll free)

Hartsville *
2413 Stadium Road
Hartsville, SC 29550
843-332-2262 (Office/TTY)

Jonesville
131 North Main Street
Jonesville, SC 29353
864-475-5000 (Office/TTY)

Kingstree *
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Kingstree, SC 29556
843-354-5252 (Office)

Lancaster *
1150 Roddey Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
803-285-6909 (Office/TDD)

Lyman *
180 Groce Road
Lyman, SC 29355
864-249-8030 (Office/TDD)
888-322-9391 (Toll free)

Moncks Corner *
2954 S. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-761-6036 (Office/TDD)
866-297-6808 (Toll free)

Newberry
2601 Evans Street
Newberry, SC 29108
803-276-8438 (Office/TTY)

North Charleston *
4260 Dorchester Road
North Charleston, SC 29405
843-740-1600 (Office/TDD)

Orangeburg *
1661 Joe S. Jeffords Hwy S.E.
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-534-4939 (Office/TDD)

Rock Hill *
1020 Heckle Blvd.
Rock Hill, SC 29732
803-327-7106 (Office/TDD)

Seneca *
1951 Wells Highway
Seneca, SC 29678
864-882-6669 (Office/TDD)
866-313-0082 (Toll free)

Spartanburg *
353 S. Church Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
864-585-3693 (Office/TTY)
866-451-1480 (Toll free)

Sumter *
1760 North Main Street
Sumter, SC 29153
803-469-2960 (Office/TTY)

Warbler *
919 Thunderbolt Drive
Warbler, SC 29488
843-538-3116 (Office/TDD)
888-577-3549 (Toll free)

West Columbia *
1330 Boston Ave.
West Columbia, SC 29170
803-896-6333 (Office/TDD)
866-206-5184 (Toll free)

* Office with training center

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