

"It has always been my dream to be more independent, and DOR is helping me to do just that."

# Have a Higher Quality of Life

- Be Employed: with training and support, an individual with a disability can access a wealth of opportunities to fully participate in and contribute to their community.
- Be Independent: with selfdetermination, equal access to a range of options, and a personal commitment to pursue them; one can choose how to live one's life.
- Be Equal: disability doesn't limit
   what one can accomplish. A
   person with a disability has the
   right to equal access to opportu nities to live, work, perform, and
   contribute on their own terms.

#### **Services**

We tailor our services to each person individually to ensure a greater chance for success. A vocational rehabilitation team works closely with each job seeker to establish the best combination of services, and resources necessary to prepare for, find and retain employment.

DOR services may include:

- · Career assessment and counseling
- Job search and interview skills
- Independent living skills
- Career education and training
- Assistive technology

To apply for services contact a local DOR office: www.dor.ca.gov



The Department of Rehabilitation works to develop programs and support services to benefit people with disabilities. And while we are always looking to improve, the best way to gauge the effectiveness of our services is when every Californian with a disability who desires to work is employed.

This publication is available in Braille, large print or online.

Requests should be made to:

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Sacramento, CA 95814
916-558-5874 Voice
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www.dor.ca.gov 916-324-1313



# **Employment, Independence**& Equality

A Guide to General Services









#### On a Mission

The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) works in partnership with consumers and other stakeholders to provide services and advocacy resulting in employment, independent living and equality for individuals with disabilities.

At DOR, we know that with guidance and support, individuals with disabilities can be fully integrated and highly productive community members, employees and colleagues.

"It was easy to apply for the program.

DOR's team has been there every step of the



way, helping me to find the right job."

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for services, an individual must:

- Have a physical or mental impairment that substantially impedes his or her ability to secure employment
- Require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment consistent with the applicant's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice
- Benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in an integrated employment setting

Program participants are expected to be available, responsible, active and dedicated contributors to their own success.

## **Additional Programs**

Assistive Technology Program: provides AT services to expand the accessibility of tools, resources, and technology

Blind Field Services: provides vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to blind and visually impaired consumers

**Business Enterprises Program:** provides individuals who are legally blind the opportunity

to become independent entrepreneurs through food service vendor training

Client Assistance Program: provides information, referral, and advocacy to applicants and consumers of DOR, independent living centers, and other Rehabilitation Act funded programs

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Section:
provides technical consultation and
assistance to staff, community
rehabilitation programs, and other
stakeholders on the provision of
vocational rehabilitation services to
individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing,
late deafened and deaf-blind

**Disability Access Services:** provides technical consultation and assistance on employment of persons with disabilities, accessibility requirements, and digital accessibility

Independent Living Program: supports California's Independent Living Centers that promote full participation of persons with disabilities to achieve social and economic independence

Mental Health Cooperative Programs: partners with County Mental Health Agencies to assist persons with mental health disabilities to obtain employment Older Individuals who are Blind: provides services and resources to individuals 55 and older who are blind or visually impaired to enable them to remain as independent as possible

Orientation Center for the Blind:
provides classes and experiences to
assist adults in adjusting to new vision
disabilities by immersion in a residential
environment

Supported Employment Program: provides on-the-job support (e.g. job coaching) to individuals with the most significant disabilities

Transition Partnership Program:
partners with local education agencies to
assist in the successful transition of high
school students into employment and/or
secondary education

Traumatic Brain Injury Program: provides vocational rehabilitation and independent living services in a supportive environment to meet the growing needs of Californians with TBI

Workforce Development Section: provides employment information, resource materials, consultation, training, and technical assistance to private and public sector employers