

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Information

The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) assists Californians with disabilities to obtain and retain employment and maximize their ability to live independently in their communities. Working with individuals of every type and category of disability, DOR provides vocational rehabilitation services to eligible Californians. Vocational Rehabilitation services are designed to get Californians with disabilities prepared for employment and can include training, education, transportation and job placement.



There are  Ways to Apply:

1. Call your local DOR office (list of offices enclosed) and request an application, then mail in the completed form (*copies of application were provided in Voc. Rehab mailing*). Once the office receives the completed form they will contact the client to schedule an appointment.
2. Visit an office in person and complete an application on site. Client will then be scheduled for appointment.
3. Download an application from the following website: www.dor.ca.gov/eps/applicat.htm (*copies of application were provided in Voc. Rehab mailing*). Mail in the completed application to the DOR office nearest to the client's home and the DOR office will schedule an appointment with a rehabilitation counselor.
4. Fill out an online application on the following website: www.dor.ca.gov/eps/applicat.htm. The application will automatically be sent to the office nearest to the client's home and they will be contacted by a Rehabilitation Counselor to schedule an appointment.

What Happens Next?

1. Once the application has been submitted, client will be given an appointment with a counselor for an interview to begin the assessment process. They may also attend a DOR orientation meeting.
2. Eligibility – the client and counselor will carefully evaluate information about the client's disability and their employment situation/history. The counselor will determine the eligibility for the services.
 - Client will be notified of their eligibility determination, in writing, within 60 days. To extend the time period, client and counselor would need to discuss and agree on a specific extension date.
 - If the client is an SSI recipient or SSDI beneficiary, and wants to work, they are presumed to be eligible for DOR services (unless the disability is so severe that DOR services would not be helpful).
3. Significance of Disability – the level of significance for the disability will also be determined by assessing the client's capacity to function in employment. The significance of the disability will also be a factor in *Order of Selection*.
4. Vocational Rehabilitation Needs Assessment – the client and counselor work together to decide what the client will need in order to become employed.

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Order of Selection

What is Order of Selection?

When the department does not have enough funds to serve all applicants who are deemed eligible for DOR services, the federal government requires that they use an *Order of Selection* process. DOR must serve people with the most significant disabilities first. Placing clients in priority categories provides a fair way to serve all applicants in the correct order.

All those in the “most significantly disabled” category will be served first, followed by everyone in the “significantly disabled” category and then the “disabled category.”

Within each category, the DOR services people according to the date of their application. The person who applies first is served first, the person who applies second is served next, etc., until everyone in that category has been served.

Waiting List

Is There a Wait List?

If the DOR does not have enough funds to serve each category, they will place the client on a waiting list until their turn comes. If they are on the waiting list, the DOR will send them a letter every 90 days to tell them which category they are currently serving. As soon as they are able to serve the client’s category, they will be notified.

Network 18 **does not** accept applications, refer or place patients in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.