Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

DSB/ARS
DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND (DSB)
ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES (ARS)

PURPOSE
To enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities.

ARS
Our mission is to prepare a job-ready, career-bound workforce to meet the needs of Arkansas employers. We provide a comprehensive system of education and workforce programs and services to individuals with disabilities.

DSB
To enhance the personal and economic independence of blind and visually impaired persons of all ages in Arkansas.
• Our Vocational Rehabilitation program, is designed to prepare individuals with visual disabilities to secure, retain, advance in or regain employment.

• Individuals must have a goal of entering competitive integrated employment at the end of their vocational rehabilitation process.

• VR services can start as early as age 14.
Individuals with blindness and low vision have successful employment in fields of their choice.
CAREER FIELDS

- Computer Network Engineer
- Software Developer
- Business Operations Specialist
- Physical and Occupational Therapist
- Writers and Journalist
- Massage Therapist
- Accessible Website Developer
- Counselors and Social Workers
- Customer Service
- Attorney
- Management/CEO
- Teachers / Instructors
- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Retail Employees
- Healthcare Provider
- Correctional Officer
Orientation and Mobility Training

• Training a person with vision loss to travel efficiently, safely, and independently

• Enables them to learn to get to work safely and on time

• Be able to navigate their working environment

• Utilize additional GPS technology
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- **VIDEO MAGNIFIER** – reads hard copy printed materials

- **SMARTPHONE APP** – takes a picture of written text and reads it out loud

- **SCREEN READING SOFTWARE** – emails, documents, spreadsheets, and more

- **OPENBOOK** – Scan, read, edit and save documents in different format

- **BRAILLE NOTE TAKER** – create documents, calendar, laptop w/o screen
JOB ACCOMMODATIONS

• Glare reduction and adjusted lighting

• Computer with screen reading, screen magnification or optical character recognition software

• Digital cameras, larger computer monitors, braille devices

• Large print, talking devices
DSB: VOCATIONAL TRAINING AREAS

1. Credit Counseling
2. Certified Medical Billing Program
3. Customer Service
4. Information and Technology for the Blind
5. Massage Therapy
6. Culinary Arts
7. Construction / Maintenance
8. Licensed Practical Nurse
DSB: EMPLOYERS

1. Amazon
2. Arkansas Department of Human Services
3. Ben E Keith
4. Blue Cross Blue Shield
5. CHI St. Vincent
6. Home Depot
7. Kroger
8. Pulaski County School District
9. Simmons Bank
10. State Farm
11. Tyson
12. UAMS
13. Wal-Mart
DSB: EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

- Travel IT Supervisor for hospital group
- Non-profit Director
- Registered Nurse
- Accountant
- Walmart Marketing Manager
- Social Worker
- Business Owner
- Call Center Representative
- Elementary School Teacher
- Attorney
- Massage Therapist
- Phlebotomist
- Carpenter
- Training & Development Specialist
ARS: WHO DO WE SERVE?

**RETURN TO WORK**

Individuals with a physical or mental disability.

**ADULTS**

Students ages 16 or older are potentially eligible for services.

**YOUTH**

**OBTAIN/MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT**
HOW TO APPLY?

19 FIELD OFFICES

SERVING ALL 75 COUNTIES
HOW TO APPLY?

ARS Online Referral Form

Directions: If the individual answers 'Yes' to the questions, complete this brief form and forward to ARS using the link provided.

Initial Information

Do you have a physical, mental, or learning condition that makes it difficult to work or complete training for work? *

- Yes
- No
WHO ARE OUR EXPERTS?

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS

• BACHELORS OR MASTERS LEVEL PROFESSIONAL

• HOLD OR SUPERVISED BY MASTERS LEVEL COUNSELORS

• HOLD OR PURSUING A CERTIFICATION IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING (CRC)
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
ARS: ELIGIBILITY

- Presence of physical or mental impairment.
- Substantial impediment to employment exist.
- Can benefit from services.
- Preparation needed to prepare, enter, engage in, or retain employment.
- Presumed Eligible: SSI/SSDI.
• Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor collaborates with the client and his/her interprofessional team to develop IPE.
• IPE will be developed within 90 days.
• IPE will identify employment outcome, objectives, criteria to measure the client’s success, and the SERVICES.
SERVICES

Tools & Equipment

Diagnosis and evaluation of capacities/limitations

Guidance and counseling services

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Post-Secondary Education Assistance

Career and technical education

Job placement

Physical and cognitive restorative services

On-the-job training

Assistive technology
EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

2211

1. Nursing Assistant
2. Cosmetologist
3. Janitorial Service Providers
4. Registered Nurse
5. Customer Services Representative
6. Production Workers
7. Retail Salesperson
8. Cashier
9. Truck Driver
10. Barber
COLLABORATION

• When your family members, coworkers, associates with disabilities needing employment assistance Refer to DSB or ARS....

• When there are employment opportunities....Refer to DSB or ARS

• You have individuals with disabilities needing training and/or if you are offering apprenticeships opportunities... Refer to DSB or ARS

• If you have applicants needing accommodations to obtain or maintain employment..... Refer to DSB or ARS....

• When you are looking for qualified applicants.....Refer to DSB or ARS
LET’S PARTNER

https://arcareereducation.org

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QUESTIONS