



Utah Parent Center
Special needs, extraordinary potential

Resources Related to Employment

Utah Parent Center

230 West 200 South
Suite 1101
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801.272.1051
1.800.468.1160
info@utahparentcenter.org
www.utahparentcenter.org

Resources Related to Employment

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

Employment and Independence

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation's mission is to assist eligible individuals (with disabilities) in obtaining employment and increasing their independence. Below are several USOR Services that help with employment.

USOR Administrative Office may be contacted at Voice/TTY 801-538-7530 or Toll Free 1-800-473-7530.

Division of Rehabilitation Services, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, Division of Rehabilitation Services otherwise known as Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), provides a wide variety of individualized services to people with disabilities who need assistance to become employable. The mission of the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR), Rehabilitation Services is to assist eligible individuals [with disabilities] in obtaining employment and increasing their independence.

In our society, you are what you do for a living. Work is not only a major part of your personal identity; it is also therapeutic. Being employed places you in social contact with others where you make friends and feel the satisfaction of contributing to something larger than yourself. You also get a paycheck which gives you a sense of control and independence.

Although VR is considered an adult service agency, VR counselors can join the transition team and attend Individualized Education Program (IEP) planning meetings before a student leaves high school. State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies offer important programs that can be of service to students with disabilities who may be leaving high school without employment skills, or who are already out of school and finding it difficult to find or keep a job without additional training.

VR counselors first assess a student's eligibility for VR services. Once it is determined that a young person is eligible to receive VR services, a counselor is assigned to work with them.

Together, students and their counselors will develop an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) that identifies needed VR services. Family members can participate in this process - although youth who have reached their state's legal age of adulthood must give their written permission for parents to be involved.

Through VR, you may receive many different types of services. The services are based on your individual job goals and personal needs. All services provided must be included in your Individualized Plan for Employment and approved in advance through your partnership with your VR Counselor.

Some examples of possible services include: career assessment to determine the extent of your son's or daughter's disability; vocational evaluation Counseling and Guidance, Medical Services and Treatment, Assistive Technology, Training and Education, Job Placement, and other services.

Vocational Rehabilitation Resources

USOR Office

Phone: Voice/TTY 801-538-7530 Toll-Free 1-800-473-7530.

Website: <http://www.usor.utah.gov/>

VR Welcome Videos

A good way to get started is by watching one of VR's Welcome Videos on our Youtube site.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/USORVideos>

Rehabilitation Act, U.S. Department of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/reg/narrative.html>

Utah State Office of Education, Special Education Services, Transition

Transition Action Guides: A Work In Progress –

A list of key participants in transition planning and their roles

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/DOCS/resources/taguide.aspx>

Adult Service Agency Resource Information

Different agencies, what services they provide, eligibility requirements, contact information

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/DOCS/transition/asaresources.aspx>

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) – Vocational Rehabilitation

<http://nichcy.org/schoolage/transitionadult/adultservices#vr>

PACER Center – Vocational Rehabilitation

<http://www.pacer.org/tatra/resources/vr.asp>

Vocational Rehabilitation Services: Can It Help You? | An online module @ the HEATH Resource Center

http://www.heath.gwu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1059&Itemid=65

Client Assistance Program (CAP), Utah Disability Law Center

CAP provides information and assistance to individuals seeking or receiving vocational rehabilitation services under the Rehabilitation Act.

Disabilitylawcenter.org

<http://disabilitylawcenter.org/contact-us>

Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

The Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) has developed programs to help meet the needs of Utah citizens who are blind or have significant visual impairments. In addition to providing vocational rehabilitation services, DSBVI offers a multitude of training and adjustment services. These services include computer evaluation and training, orientation and mobility services, daily living skills, home repair courses, low vision screening, magnification and other assistive aids, and a variety of adjustment-to-blindness classes and services. These services are provided to individuals at the Center for the Blind and in the community statewide.

The DSBVI also provides preschool vision screening, services to individuals who are both deaf and blind, and Independent Living services to older blind Utahans.

To learn more go to <http://www.usor.utah.gov/division-of-services-for-the-blind-and-visually-impaired>. Contact the main office at (801) 323-4343 or Toll-Free at 1 (800) 284-1823.

Services for the Deaf and Hard-Of-Hearing

The Division was created under the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation in 1988 and provides services for people with hearing loss (both Deaf and Hard of Hearing). We provide services out of two locations; the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center in Taylorsville, and from our satellite office in St. George. There are four programs under the Division: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs, Utah Interpreter Program, Outreach and Technology Program, and the Individualized Services Program.

To learn more go to <http://deafservices.utah.gov/> . Contact the main office by calling 801-263-4860, TTY 801-263-4862.

Choose to Work

Choose to Work Utah is a project created from a partnership between the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Utah Department of Workforce Services. The purpose of this project is to meet the expanding needs of Utah employers by providing them with qualified and job ready individuals. Choose to Work Utah Employment Specialists provide statewide job development and placement services to Utah job seekers with disabilities, offering employers a constant source of job applicants. Applicants' are individuals with disabilities who's skills range from entry level to professional in virtually all job categories. Services include: Job Development, Job Placement Services, Employer Assistance on topics such as ADA, accommodations and barriers; Employment Preparation, On-The-Job Training; employment Support Services.

To learn more about the services offered by Choose to Work go to <http://www.usor.utah.gov/choose-to-work> click on "What is Choose to Work" For more information call (801) 538-7590.

Supported Employment

This program administered through the Division of Rehabilitation Services, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) assists individuals with the most significant disabilities to obtain and maintain competitive employment in integrated employment settings by providing extended services.

A Community Service Broker (CSB) will contact you and explain the program. The CSB will refer you to a support services and assist you in selecting a supported employment provider or job coach to overcome barriers. The two state agencies, VR and DSPD coordinate to serve you.

For more information you can contact one of the following:

- If you are on the DSPD waiting list, contact your coordinator. DSPD Intake line at 1-877-568-0084
- If you are a VR client, ask your counselor for a referral. VR phone at 1-800-473-7530.

Utah Work Incentive Planning Services

The Utah Work Incentive Planning Services (UWIPS) help people on Social Security disability understand how working impacts their Social Security and other benefits (including Medicaid, Medicare, food, stamps, housing, and many others). The Social Security disability and other public benefit programs can often be complex and hard to understand and navigate. The Benefits Specialist or Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) can:

- Help people on Social Security understand Social Security and other benefit systems, what to expect and what they need to do when there are changes in their employment status.
- Help people learn about various work incentives, and which ones they may be eligible for.

For more information go to <http://www.usor.utah.gov/specialized-services/employer-resource-center/utah-benefits-planning-assistance-and-outreach-program-bpao-work-incentive-planning-and-assistance-program-wipa/> and fill out a form or call 801-887-9389.

Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) strengthens Utah's economy by providing services that connect an individual to employment. DWS provides employment services to all individuals not just individuals with disabilities. They provide job training. The website includes information on job training, finding jobs by career, hiring events and job listings.

For more information go to <http://jobs.utah.gov/>