



<p>March 2013</p>	<p>What is Vocational Rehabilitation and Where to Begin?</p>
<p>Workforce Development Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Guide to Job Placement Services • Individualized Employment Plan (IPE) • NH Works Centers • Job Match System (JMS) • America's Job Bank • Job Fairs & Events • Job Search Assistance • Job Search Tools & Tips • Resume Building Tools • Creative Job Search Guide • Career One-Stop • U.S. DOL Occupational Outlook Handbook 	<p>The Free Dictionary defines Vocational Rehabilitation as "<i>providing training in a specific trade with the aim of gaining employment.</i>" It adds that rehabilitation is "<i>the restoration of someone to a useful place in society.</i>"</p> <p>From this perspective, vocational rehabilitation counseling may be described as a process of helping others to contribute value in a way that generates income and validates their worth to society. While this can be a complex undertaking, there is value to all involved when going about it one step at a time and from the perspective of the VR Customer. For example,</p> <p>Step 1: Why am I here?</p> <p>Helping VR Customers to understand what vocational rehabilitation is all about can be an enlightening and a useful first step. For many, their visit with you may be on the heels of visiting with other agencies that offer help in ways that do not require any further action on their part. At VR, however, the process is about helping others to "contribute value." This essentially means that you can offer the training, resources and related assistance, but they must "act" upon each service received in ways that demonstrate <i>purposeful commitment</i> to ultimately contributing value to generate income.</p> <p>Step 2: Where am I at?</p> <p>Once a VR Customer embraces the purpose of vocational rehabilitation, the next step is to benchmark where they are relative to where they want to be. Again, the focus is on "generating income." This means how much and under what conditions are they receiving income now, and what is the gap and potential conditions around their seeking to earn additional income going forward?</p>
<p>Business Development Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Business Ownership Right for Me? • Do I have a valid Business Idea? • What's involved in selling a product/service? • How can I figure out if I can sell enough to make enough? • Who can I talk to about my business ideas? • Who offers help with marketing? • Is Franchising an option for me? • Why plan? 	<p>Step 3: Where am I going?</p> <p>Once there is mutual agreement and understanding around additional income objectives, the next step is to take inventory of the capacity to earn the desired income. It is important that this be a facilitative process of self-assessment versus a subjective or directive one. There are a couple of tools that can help;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personality Profiling Exercise for insight regarding inherent strengths relative to career fit, and 2. Self-Assessment for insight regarding inherent strengths relative to pursuing self-employment <p>Step 4: How am I going to get there?</p> <p>With a shared understanding about the role that VR plays, the role the Customer plays, a specific income objective and assessment of the capacity to earn income, it is now possible to define some of the activities that need to occur to get Customers from where they're at to where they want to be. For help in this area, check out the links to the right.</p> <p>We welcome your contact and questions. And, for all you do, thank you.</p>

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