



# Employment and Independence

For Georgians with Disabilities

*Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency*

# Mission and Vision

- GVRA Mission: Employment and independence for Georgians with disabilities
- Every Georgian with a disability can work and live independently if he or she chooses to do so



# Statutory Programs and Services

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
  - Local Offices
  - Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS)
  - Cave Spring Center (CSC)
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB)
- Disability Adjudication Services (DAS)

# Vocational Rehabilitation

- VR has 40 offices statewide to provide services to both the job seeker and the employer
- Website: [www.gvs.ga.gov](http://www.gvs.ga.gov)
- The Cumming VR Office serves Forsyth, Dawson, and Lumpkin Counties
- Location: 100 Colony Park Drive, Suite 204  
Cumming, GA 30040
- Phone: 770-781-6781

## Client Services at VR Offices

- GVRA has more than 40 office locations throughout the state to serve clients, where trained Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRCs) and other professional staff provide:
  - Work Readiness Training
  - Work Adjustment Training
  - Counseling and Guidance
  - Post-secondary Support
  - Supported & Customized Employment
  - Vocational Training
  - On-the-Job Training
  - Benefit Counseling Assistance
  - Assistive Work Technology

Work Incentives Navigator Services (WINs)

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

- **Mission:** To promote employment and increase self-sufficiency for SSA disability beneficiaries
- **Goal:** Enable beneficiaries with disabilities to make informed choices about work, and to support working beneficiaries to make successful transitions to self-sufficiency

## Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Students can be referred to VR after completion of a single form: The Parent Permission form. The school provides a copy of the IEP or 504.
- VR staff will consult with teachers and case workers to determine the student's needs.
- Targeting high school students 16 – 22 (14 and up and in high school can attend groups)
- Group Services will be offered either in school, after school or in the Community.

# Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Job Exploration- Exploring the world of work (Vocational Evaluations, job sampling, apprentice and internships)
- Career Exploration- Learning about careers and areas of interest, determining a vocational goal, learning about education and training after high school, counseling and guidance on Post-Secondary enrollment opportunities.
- Work Based Learning- Work experiences in the community. VR or Providers will set up the work site. The student may be paid.
- Work Readiness- Developing skills necessary for independent living and successful employment (Ex: O&M, job readiness training, PSAT on how to interact with employers and co-workers on work based learning sites).
- Self Advocacy- Providing instruction that promotes leadership, teamwork, assertiveness, communication, & decision-making



# Pre-Employment Transition Services

- VR must spend 15% of our Client Services Funds on Student's with Disabilities (WIOA)
- Services are provided by VR Vendors/Providers or VR staff.
- VR is currently planning groups for the spring and summer.
- Students with Disabilities may chose to open a VR case for individualized services.

# Application to VR

WHO can apply?

- Individuals with a permanent disability that interferes with their ability to work
- Individual will meet with VR staff member & complete an application
- VR Counselor will obtain disability documentation & determine if you qualify for VR services.

# After Pre-ETS – What if my student needs more services?

- VR Application
- Eligibility Determination
- Work Needs Assessment
- Work Plan Development
- Provision of Vocational Services
- Employment
- Case Closure
- You can re-apply for VR services at any time

## VR Services: Designed with the Individual in Mind



**College Training**



**On-the-Job Training**



**Vocational/Technical Training**

# Local Partner Agencies

These are some of the Vendors that provide services to VR clients:

- Goodwill Industries of North Georgia (GING) – Locations in Oakwood, Dawsonville, Duluth, and Woodstock. Provide work evaluations, work adjusting training, job readiness training, job coaching, supported employment, and other services. Pre-ETS groups.
- Rehabilitation Industries of North Georgia (RING) – Provides evaluation and training in Cumming, Dawsonville, and Dahlonega. Pre-ETS groups.
- Randy and Friends – Offering Work Training at The Place, provides job readiness training, personal and social adjustment training, and job coaching in the community. Pre-ETS groups.
- Creative Enterprises – Providing training and job placement in the Cumming community. Provides Supported and Customized Employment.

# Local Partner Agencies

## Additional Providers:

- LEAP – located in Roswell - Provides intensive social skills training and work sampling/coaching. After training, can provide Supported Employment for placement.
- PRISM – located in Roswell – provides intensive job skills training and coaching at a worksite. After training, can provide Supported Employment.
- Stinson & Associates – Provides individual services including Personal Social Adjustment Training, Job readiness training, Job Coaching, and Supported Employment in the community. Also provides Pre-ETS groups.
- Workplace Learning Solutions – Provides individual and group services including individualized CWAT, social skills training, JRT, and Job Coaching. Also provides Pre-ETS groups.
- AccessAbility – Provides social skills, communication, and organization training in a location near North Point Mall.

**For more information:**

**Website:**

**[gvs.ga.gov](http://gvs.ga.gov)**

**Customer Care:**

**1-844-367-4872**