

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Vocational Rehabilitation's mission is to assist Oregonians with disabilities to achieve, maintain, and advance in employment and independence.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) serves more than **20,000 Oregonians** with disabilities annually. VR also partners with more than **130 school districts** to prepare students with disabilities for their transition out of high school into employment and independence. VR also provides services to Oregon business that want to hire or retain talented employees.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. One of the oldest federal programs, VR was originally created to help returning soldiers find employment, but was expanded to include people with disabilities.

Services to people with disabilities include:

- Identifying disability-related barriers to employment
- Accommodations and other assistive technology that can help remove barriers
- Training and other advancement opportunities
- Labor market research to identify potential employment options
- Job development assistance

Pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities include:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences
- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in post-secondary education
- Work readiness skills
- Instruction in self-advocacy

Services to employers seeking to hire individuals with disabilities include:

- Diversity and inclusion education information and resources
- Recruit and refer qualified applicants to a business
- Provide help with accommodation needs
- Establish long-term business relations and supports
- Provide disability awareness, etiquette and other tailored trainings

Contact: Soren Metzger, Senior Legislative Policy Analyst  
503-277-9602; [SOREN.K.METZGER@dhs.oregon.gov](mailto:SOREN.K.METZGER@dhs.oregon.gov)