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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

## Our Mission

The **Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services**, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families.

The **Division of Rehabilitative Services** offers vocational rehabilitation to assist people with



disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. You may be eligible for these services if you have a physical, mental or emotional disability; this disability keeps you from working; you live, work or attend school in Virginia; and DRS certifies that there is a good chance that these services will result in your employment.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors may provide or assist with:

- Physical and mental restoration
- Vocational evaluation/career exploration
- Vocational/job training
- Job placement assistance
- Situational assessment
- Job development/job coaching



**Assistive technology** devices, services or accommodations may help consumers live and work independently. Services and supports are also available to businesses to improve workplace accessibility. DARS can help identify potential resources for obtaining equipment through the Virginia Assistive Technology System, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority and Centers for Independent Living.



DARS works with many **Community Partners** and businesses to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving their goals of employment and/or independence.

- Brain Injury Services
- Centers for Independent Living
- Employment Service Organizations
- Virginia Assistive Technology System
- ATLFA
- One-Stop Career Centers
- Ticket to Work/Employment Networks
- High schools and higher education



The **Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center** provides comprehensive, integrated medical and vocational rehabilitation services to enhance an individual's independence and employability. Its on-campus staff provide counseling, vocational evaluation and training, medical rehabilitation/clinical therapy services, driver education and life skills training.





The **Community Based Services Division** administers programs that support individuals with significant disabilities to maximize their independence, employment and inclusion into society. Services include:

- Brain Injury Services Coordination
- Community Rehabilitation Case Management Services
- Independent Living Services
- Personal Assistance Services
- Blueprint for Livable Communities

The **Adult Protective Services Division** oversees local programs that investigate reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults as well as incapacitated adults. A variety of health, housing, social and legal services may be arranged to stop or prevent mistreatment. Services may include home-based care, transportation, adult day services, adult foster care, nutrition services and legal intervention.

### **Disability Determination Services**

DDS processes claims for federal benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income Disability Programs. Virginia's DDS offices process approximately 85,000 in-state claims for benefits and about 15,000 claims for residents of other states each year.

The **Division for the Aging** serves the population of older Virginians. By the year 2030, 1 of every 4 Virginians will be 60 or older. DARS is committed to having livable communities for those who want to age in place or transition from facilities to community settings with long-term supports and services.

Programs and resources include:

- Information and referral (Virginia Easy Access/ No Wrong Door)
- Caregiver support
- Congregate and home-delivered meals
- Chronic disease self-management
- Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP)
- Virginia GrandDriver
- Councils on Aging, Alzheimer's Disease and Public Guardianship

The **Office of Community Integration** assists in developing and implementing the Commonwealth's cross-governmental strategic plan to assure continued community integration of Virginians with disabilities. The office promotes efforts to assist Virginians with disabilities to live in the most integrated community settings possible.

The **Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman** advocates for older persons receiving long-term care services. Local ombudsmen provide information, advocacy, complaint counseling and assistance in resolving care problems.



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