

Freedom To Work

Everybody Works, Everybody Wins!

A Resource for the Job Seeker

South Dakota's Freedom to Work Project is working to strengthen the current service delivery system, which supports people with disabilities seeking employment. One way we're doing this is to provide information to people that we hope will assist them in accessing needed services.

If you are a person with a disability, who is actively seeking a career, the following services and/or agencies may be of assistance to you.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program that provides individualized vocational services to assist people with significant disabilities to get and keep jobs compatible with their disability. To be eligible for VR services, a person must have a physical or mental impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment. The types of services that may be a part of an eligible person's "Individualized Plan for Employment" are:

- vocational counseling
- work skills
- personal support services
- job site accommodations
- medical services
- job placement
- employment services

If you are a person with a disability and want to learn more about available Vocational Rehabilitation Services or to find an office in your area, you can call 1-800-265-9684 or you may go to the Division of Rehabilitation Services website at: <http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/drs>.

If you are a person with a significant visual impairment or blindness and want to learn more about available Vocational Rehabilitation Services, you can call 1-800-265-9684 or you may go to the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired website at: <http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/sbvi>.

Career Centers

SD Career Centers have many ways to help jobseekers find employment opportunities. Career Center representatives can help applicants identify their career interests, write a resume, locate possible jobs, complete the application process and prepare for a job interview. You may contact the Department of Labor to find out more about SD Career Centers by calling 605-773-3372 or going to the South Dakota Department of Labor website at <http://www.sdjobs.org>.

SD Benefits Specialists

There are six Benefits Specialists in South Dakota who are available to provide advice and support on managing your benefits. They can also assist you with advice on Social Security Work Incentives such as:

- PASS
- IRWE
- Subsidy
- SEIE
- Section 1619(b)

They can also assist with Food Stamps, public assistance, and other disability related benefits. To contact a Benefits Specialist, call 1-800-224-5336.

Career Learning Centers (CLC)

Career Learning Centers work closely with Career Centers to provide education and training services that meet the needs of local employers and job seekers. The centers enroll participants from a wide range of backgrounds. The curriculum in a career learning center is individualized, self-paced, and open entry/exit. Career specialists determine the individual person's interests, aptitudes, abilities and motivation. Then an employability plan is prepared to address that person's education and job training needs. Participants not only learn how to look for a job, they also learn job retention skills so they know what employers expect. To get more information, go to the Department of Labor website at <http://www.sdjobs.org>.

Personal Assistance Services (PAS)

Personal Assistance Services will allow an individual who is eligible for personal care services in the home to also access these services in the workplace. PAS are not to replace an employer's accommodation responsibilities as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information on PAS, contact the Coordinator of Attendant Services of the Division of Rehabilitation Services at 1-800-265-9684.

WorkWORLD

WorkWORLD is a computer software program designed to support people with disabilities and their advocates in making critical decisions about employment, wages, and the use of work incentives. This software assists people in navigating through the Social Security programs (Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance), including Medicaid and Medicare, as well as various state-funded programs such as Food Stamps, Unemployment Insurance and Section 8 rental assistance. To learn more about WorkWORLD or receive a copy of the software on disc, contact Freedom to Work Project staff at 1-800-210-0143 or by email at shellyp@sd-ccd.org.

Freedom To Work Project

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Social Security Online

website: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>

WorkWORLD

website: <http://www.workworld.org>

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