

Mission Statement

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB) Vocational Rehabilitation's (VR) mission is to assist American Indians with disabilities find and/or maintain gainful employment, learn skills necessary to live more independently, and give on-going support to those severely disabled in maintaining/obtaining employment.

Purpose and Goal

The purpose of PBPB VR is to provide culturally appropriate VR services to American Indians with disabilities who reside in Jackson, Atchison, Jefferson, Shawnee, Pottawatomie, Nemaha, Brown, and Doniphan counties. These services are consistent with individual strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and, most importantly, informed choice, so American Indians with disabilities may prepare for and engage in gainful employment, including self-employment, subsistence, and business ownership.

PBPB VR's continuing goal is to improve the number of American Indians receiving VR services.

The main objectives are:

- ◆ to maintain, expand, and improve on effective VR services for American Indians with disabilities;
- ◆ continue to increase the number American Indians with disabilities receiving comprehensive and successful VR services; and
- ◆ maintain and improve the cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between local, state, and federal services.

What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) helps people with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. VR was created out of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. VR Programs are designed to help people with disabilities get jobs, whether the person is born with a disability, develops a disability or becomes a person with a disability while working.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program serves people with a wide variety of disabilities, e.g.:

- ◆ mental illness,
- ◆ hearing impairment,
- ◆ impaired functioning of arms or legs,
- ◆ back injury,
- ◆ alcoholism or drug addiction,
- ◆ intellectual and developmental disabilities,
- ◆ learning disability,
- ◆ traumatic brain injury and
- ◆ other physical or mental disabilities that prevent the person from finding and keeping a job.

Unsure whether you qualify for VR, contact:

**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Social Service Department
Vocational Rehabilitation Program
11400 158th Road
Mayetta KS 66509
Toll Free: 1-888-966-2932
Phone: (785) 966-8330**

Prairie Band
Potawatomi
Nation
Social Service
Department
Social



Vocational
Rehabilitation
Program

Are you eligible for VR

Eligibility Criteria: an individual is eligible for VR if all of the following criteria are met:

1. Enrolled with a Federal or State Recognized Tribe;
2. Have a physical or mental impairment;
3. Physical or mental impairment causes a barrier to employment;
4. Applicant requires VR services to address their barrier to employment caused by their physical or mental impairment;
5. Live in Jackson, Atchison, Jefferson, Shawnee, Pottawatomie, Nemaha, Brown, and Doniphan counties.

How does the process work?

Before an application is accepted, an initial intake interview is conducted with each applicant. Once the application is approved, VR has 60 days to determine eligibility. Eligibility will be notified via mail.

Once eligible you are moved to a consumer status and are ready to proceed in developing an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE). Your counselor can assist you with developing your employment plan, career planning, choosing your vocational goal and services, and obtaining a job.

After your IPE is developed VR will offer services and assist you in finding and maintaining employment. VR will close your case once you have been successfully employed for 90 days.

What services are available?

The services available are based on what is needed to go to work. They may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Vocational assessment
- ◆ Vocational counseling and guidance
- ◆ Physical and mental restoration services
- ◆ Vocational training
- ◆ School-to-work transition
- ◆ Rehabilitation technology
- ◆ Supported employment
- ◆ Job search and job placement
- ◆ Referral to other agencies for needed services

Once the necessary vocational rehabilitation services are received and employment is achieved, a 90-day follow-up is provided to the individual and the employer to ensure that there are no problems and the job is a good fit. After the 90-day follow-up period the case is closed.

Remember that Vocational Rehabilitation does not provide permanent support but is available as needed for people with disabilities to seek, secure, and sustain employment.

Confidentiality

Beginning with your application VR will start a case file on your behalf. VR obtains various types of information for purposes directly related to your vocational rehabilitation. This information will be kept confidential in accordance with Federal Laws and Regulations. The information you provide is voluntary to the extent that withholding information does not interfere with the determination of eligibility or the development of the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Do All Eligible Individuals Receive VR Services?

No. The Rehab Act requires VR to serve individuals with the most significant disabilities first when there are not enough resources to serve everyone who is eligible for VR services. This means that individuals with the most significant disabilities are given a priority over those with less significant disabilities. This process is called an "order of selection."

What are Your Responsibilities?

- ◆ To make informed choices and to actively participate in your plan.
- ◆ To keep your Counselor informed of your plans, progress, problems and provide additional information as necessary.
- ◆ To apply for other sources of funding when required and to pay for your share of services if your income exceeds VR guidelines.

What Can You do if You Disagree with a Decision?

- ◆ Talk to your Rehabilitation Counselor.
- ◆ Ask to speak with the VR Manager.
- ◆ Contact the Client Assistance Program

*Disability Rights Center of Kansas
c/o Client Assistance Program
2114 SW 6th Street
Topeka KS 66603
(785) 266-8193
Toll free 1-800-432-2326 Voice or TDD*