

A Partnership with MRS Will Open the Door to Your Future

Chances Are... MRS Is the Right Place

Welcome to Michigan Rehabilitation Services, often just called MRS. If you, or someone you know, has a disability and wants to find a meaningful career, MRS is here to help. Each year, more than 7,000 Michigan citizens with disabilities are assisted into jobs through MRS services.

Who Should Go to MRS?

MRS works with people with a wide range of disabilities, such as:

- Amputation ■ Kidney disease
- Back disability ■ Learning disability
- Brain injury ■ Mental illness
- Cancer ■ Mental limitation
- Cerebral palsy ■ Multiple sclerosis
- Diabetes ■ Muscular dystrophy
- Epilepsy ■ Paraplegia
- Hearing loss ■ Quadriplegia
- Heart disease ■ Substance abuse

A person with a disability may be eligible for MRS services if the disability causes major problems in preparing for, finding, or keeping a job. The individual must also *require* MRS services in order to become employed. Individuals who are eligible for Supplementary Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) meet these requirements, if they want to work. It is taken for granted that all MRS applicants want to work and can work with the help of MRS

unless the applicant's disability is too serious to allow the applicant to work, and this includes SSI and SSDI recipients. People who are legally blind are served by the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB).

How Does MRS Work?

Each customer who comes to MRS for services is teamed up with a rehabilitation counselor. Once a person is found eligible, the customer and counselor follow these four steps:

1 Decide on an Employment Goal

The customer working with the counselor, chooses a job goal that matches his or her aptitudes and interests. The counselor helps to obtain needed information so the customer can make the best job goal choices. Sometimes this requires gathering information from other people or programs, or getting assessments. Assessments may include, medical exams, aptitude testing, work evaluations, and job try-outs.



2 Develop a Plan

The customer can choose to work with a counselor or others to develop a plan for employment. The plan will clearly identify services that will be needed. It will also state who will provide the services and how to determine if they are beneficial. Some services will be provided directly by the counselor or other MRS staff. Other services may be purchased or provided by other agencies. The counselor must approve the plan.

3 Follow the Plan

The customer completes activities and services outlined in his or her plan. The services are based on individual need. See some examples of services below. The plan is reviewed annually and can be changed as necessary.

- Job-seeking skills training
- Job placement assistance
- Accommodations/assistive technology
- Job coaches
- Tools, equipment, or licenses
- Job training
- Prostheses or other medical services
- Support services such as interpreters, readers, or transportation



4 Reach the Goal

The counselor and other service providers work with the customer to reach the final goal—finding the right job. Once the customer is on the job, MRS staff follow up for at least 90 days to make sure both the employer and new employee are satisfied. Sometimes additional services are needed. When this happens, MRS can begin working with the customer again to make sure he or she is able to stay on the job.

Who Pays for Services?

Many services are available to you at no cost. These include:

- Vocational counseling
- Disability assessment
- Vocational evaluation
- Placement services
- Cover letter and resume writing
- Some offices even have on-site job clubs with ongoing workshops and access to computers

MRS may help with the purchase of other services from public and private sources when they are identified in your IPE and are necessary for your employment success

To help thousands of individuals each year, MRS has an obligation to responsibly manage funds. As a result, you will be asked to contribute to the cost of services identified in your IPE to the extent you are able. If you are unable to contribute financially, those needed services will still be provided.



How Is a Referral to MRS Made?

Any person with a disability who is interested in receiving job rehabilitation services to become employed may call the nearest MRS office. Referrals also may be made by family members, hospitals, school counselors, mental health professionals, social workers, churches, and other community agencies.

For a listing of the MRS office locations across the state, call toll free 1-800-605-6722 (voice) or 1-888-605-6722 (TTY).



Mission:

MRS partners with individuals and employers to achieve quality employment outcomes and independence for individuals with disabilities.



Michigan Rehabilitation Services
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