

Preparing for a New Occupation

How Michigan Rehabilitation Services Assists with College and Other Training



If you are determined eligible for Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), you may receive assistance to prepare for a new occupation if you are not able to use existing skills or if you are entering the workforce for the first time and do not have specific job skills.

What Kind of Training Assistance is Available?

You may need only a brief training program such as those offered by:

- Adult education
- A certificate course, or
- On-the-job training.

Or, you may need a lengthier training program to achieve your job goal, such as a trade, technical, business, or college program.

What You Need to Know About Financial Aid

Government financial agencies believe students and their families have primary responsibility for postsecondary education and training costs. Government assistance is available only when the student and family cannot meet this obligation, either totally or in part.

Your MRS counselor can advise you on how to apply for state, federal and institutional financial aid to help you pay for your training costs. MRS works cooperatively with college financial aid officers throughout the state to assure the best possible financial aid package for each consumer.

MRS can help with training expenses for you

- If you attend full-time or more than half-time and
- If financial aid grants and your expected family contribution will not fully meet your needs.

You must apply for student financial aid grants with the college, vocational, technical, or business school you want to attend well in advance of the training start date. If you do not apply for or if you are ineligible for financial aid, MRS is unable to provide financial training assistance.

MRS financial training assistance is based on the least costly training program that leads to your job goal.

What Do I Need to Do to Get Started in a Training Program?

You and your counselor must identify a job goal that has a reasonable chance of leading to employment. You will then work together to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment that outlines the steps you will take to complete training and find a job.

What Assistance Is Available for Training-Related Costs?

In addition to the basic costs of training, such as tuition, fees and books, you may have other training-related costs because of your disability. Examples are personal assistance services, hearing aids and prostheses. MRS often can assist with these expenses if you do not have insurance and there are no other available resources. MRS can also help you coordinate accommodation services available through the school or college, such as note takers.

MRS maximum financial training aid is \$3,500 for the academic year and \$1,200 for the summer term, if there is sufficient unmet financial need as determined by the school. MRS may waive need-based loans or the \$3,500 maximum under special individual circumstances. You may discuss these with your counselor.

Individuals receiving benefits under Title II (SSDI) or Title XVI (SSI) of the Social Security Act whose training program is supported by MRS are exempt from these maximums.

What Training Follow-up Services are Available from MRS?

The goal of receiving training is to help you prepare for employment. Your MRS counselor will remain involved in your progress throughout the training program, reviewing your grades and progress at the end of each semester. Your counselor will work with you to ensure that you receive tutoring and disability support services if needed. Toward the end of your training, your counselor will work with you to help you identify resources for your job search once you have completed training.

If you have further questions regarding job training assistance from MRS, please contact your local MRS office.

If you continue to have questions you may also contact MRS as follows:

Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
PO Box 30010
Lansing, MI 48909
800-605-6722 (toll free, voice)*
MRS-CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov
www.michigan.gov/mrs

*TTY users may contact MRS by dialing 711 and providing the relay operator with the toll free number 800-605-6722.

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