

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) helps individuals with disabilities prepare for, find, advance in or keep a job. When you apply for services, you agree that you want to become employed.

You likely will have many questions about your rights and responsibilities if you choose to work with MRS toward your job goal. This brochure should answer most of these questions. If you have additional questions, please ask an MRS counselor.

How do I become eligible to receive services from MRS?

First, you must have a physical or mental impairment that interferes with you becoming employed. Second, you must require services from MRS to prepare for or advance in a job – or to keep a job you already have or to reenter the job market. Individuals who are eligible for Social Security disability programs (SSDI, SSI) meet these requirements if they want to work.

How will my eligibility be decided?

To determine if you are eligible for services, MRS will need information to verify that you have a disability. This information can come from you, members of your family, physicians, therapists or others who know about your disability. MRS will presume you can become employed unless there is convincing evidence otherwise. You will be notified of the eligibility decision.

Once you become eligible, your eligibility will be continually reevaluated. Services to you may be discontinued if it appears they will not help you to become employed.

If I become eligible for services, who will decide the kinds of services I'll receive?

You will be asked to prepare a written plan of action to help you reach your employment goal. This plan is called an Individualized Plan for Employment, or IPE for short. You can ask an MRS counselor, or others, to help you prepare your IPE. You have the right and MRS encourages you to make informed choices about your employment goal, the services that will be provided to you, and who will provide them. Therefore, you have the right to obtain written information from MRS about services options available to you. Your IPE cannot begin until it is agreed to and signed by you and your MRS counselor.

You have the right to an annual review of your IPE to see if any changes are needed.

Do I have a right to review my case file?

You may review information in your case file if you make this request in writing. However, there are two circumstances when more than your written request will be required: (1) information that has been provided by other agencies may be disclosed only with their permission, and (2) certain information – such as technical, medical or psychological reports – may have to be provided through a health professional or other representative.

Will my case file and conversations with my MRS counselor be kept confidential?

All discussions with your counselor are kept confidential. Your counselor will release information in your case file only to those agencies directly involved in your rehabilitation program. MRS will not release information in your case file to other agencies or individuals unless you give your permission in writing.

MRS will release information in your case file *without your written consent* **only** (1) if required by federal law or regulation; (2) if required by judicial order; (3) in response to investigations for law enforcement, fraud or abuse; or (4) in situations involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, or safety to protect you or others.

Do I have a right to appeal a MRS decision that I disagree with?

Yes. You have the right to appeal any MRS decision related to your rehabilitation program. To request an appeal of an MRS decision about services that have been provided or denied to you, you may write to the MRS director within 30 days to request a formal hearing. You have the right to have someone of your choice assist you in these proceedings. (Please ask for a copy of the brochure *How to Appeal Decisions Made by Michigan Rehabilitation Services*.)

However, you are encouraged to try first to resolve your disagreement by discussing it with your counselor or the district manager. Once you have requested a hearing, you also have the right to ask for mediation by an impartial mediator. This is a voluntary process that uses a trained, neutral person to help you and MRS explore possible solutions to your disagreement.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP), administered by Michigan Protection and Advocacy, Inc., is also available to help you understand your rights and responsibilities as an applicant or eligible customer of MRS. For more information on eligibility, services, rights and responsibilities, you can call a CAP advocate toll free at 800-288-5923 (voice/TTY). (Please ask for a copy of the brochure *Client Assistance Program*.)

What will I be responsible for if I become an MRS customer?

The success of your rehabilitation program depends on your accepting the following responsibilities:

- You have a responsibility to provide information MRS may need to determine your eligibility and develop your rehabilitation program. If you do not make needed information available, MRS will be unable to provide services to you.
- You have a responsibility to be an active partner in your rehabilitation program. Being an active partner means that you will be called on to make informed choices throughout your program.
- You have a responsibility to notify your counselor of any change in your address or telephone number. You should also notify your counselor of any other changes in your circumstances that could affect your rehabilitation program.
- You have a responsibility to use other community services and benefits in your rehabilitation program. For example, if you are eligible for Medicaid benefits, you will be expected to use these toward the medical costs of your rehabilitation program.
- You have a responsibility to keep all appointments scheduled with your counselor and other persons involved in your rehabilitation program. If you cannot keep an appointment, you should notify the person as soon as possible and reschedule your appointment.
- You have a responsibility to perform satisfactorily in training or in any other activity related to your rehabilitation. This includes regular attendance.

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

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