



Vocational Rehabilitation Program Welcomes Return of WIPA Services

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August 9, 2013- The GVRA Vocational Rehabilitation program is once again providing Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) services to our customers who receive Social Security disability benefits in the assigned counties below. We recently received funding from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide these services under our project name of GROUP (Georgia Rehabilitation and Outreach Project).

GROUP assists Georgians who receive Social Security disability benefits to transition from dependence on public benefits to paid employment and greater economic self-sufficiency. GROUP assists individuals between the ages of 14 and full retirement age with any type of disability who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or both and want to pursue work goals. GROUP coordinators provide information and analysis on how employment will impact individuals' Social Security disability and other state and federal benefits, as well as incentives available for these individuals to transition to work.

GROUP is committed to educating and empowering GVRA customers who receive SSA disability benefits to go to work and improve economic self sufficiency. If you are interested, please schedule a free benefits counseling session with a trained Community Work Incentive Coordinator.

Contact Information:

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Toll Free: 1-866-489-0001

Toll Free Georgia Relay: 711

Atl. Metro: 404-232-7800

Fax: (404) 232-1800

Website: <http://www.gvra.ga.gov>

GROUP provides services in these Georgia counties:

Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Banks, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Catoosa, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Clay, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Dade, Dawson, Decatur, Early, Echols, Effingham, Elbert, Emanuel, Evans, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Gilmer, Glynn, Gordon, Grady, Habersham, Haralson, Harris, Hart, Heard, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Lamar, Lanier, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, Lumpkin, Marion, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Montgomery, Murray, Muscogee, Pickens, Pierce, Pike, Polk, Quitman, Rabun, Randolph, Richmond, Schley, Seminole, Stephens, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Towns, Troup, Treutlen, Turner, Union, Upson, Walker, Ware, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, White, Whitfield, Wilcox, Wilkes and Worth.

About the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program

VR provides services to help eligible persons with disabilities prepare for, attain, and maintain competitive employment, thus becoming productive and independent citizens in their communities. VR has more than 50 local offices across the state with expert VR counselors and teams who work in the community and have in-depth knowledge of both the marketplace and the support services available. Customers are able to benefit from services and opportunities tailored to their specific needs.

About the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)

GVRA operates five integrated and interdependent statutory programs that share a primary goal - to help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment. The largest of the programs are Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program, Disability Adjudication Services, and the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation. Two other unique programs serve consumers with visual impairments: the Business Enterprise Program and Georgia Industries for the Blind.

To learn more about GVRA and its efforts to maximize employment opportunities and independence for Georgians with disabilities, visit www.gvra.georgia.gov.