



GVRA Board Approves Plan for VR Services Beginning July 1, 2013

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June 28, 2013- In the final meeting during the first year of existence for Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), the GVRA Board approved the plan to open the Waiting List of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program and serve new clients during the new fiscal year.

The plan will be implemented in stages, beginning on July 1, 2013. VR will complete assessments and evaluations for existing applicants or clients and provide planned services that were delayed due to budget concerns. In addition, VR will implement services for clients with work plans not initiated prior to October 3, 2012.

Beginning August 1, 2013, VR will open cases for clients in the highest Priority Category who entered the Waiting List during the month of October 2012. "Our objective is to serve individuals with the most significant disabilities first, based on the date they were placed on the waiting list until all clients have been served," stated GVRA Executive Director Greg Schmieg.

"A tremendous amount of planning and preparation went into the Board's decision," cited VR Field Services Director Twyla Crump. "While July 1 is the initial focus, the process will unfold over the entire fiscal year."

Effective April 1, 2014, GVRA expects to implement the new system of Priority Categories that the Board has previously approved. The new Priority Category system will continue to first serve those with the most significant disabilities.

Throughout the implementation process, VR leadership will monitor the plan and financial data to determine the potential to expedite the process or the need for revisions to this plan.

About the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program

VR provides services to help eligible persons with disabilities prepare for, start, and maintain competitive employment, thus becoming productive and independent citizens in their communities. VR has 15 regional offices statewide, as well as more than 50 local offices with expert teams who work in the community and have in-depth knowledge of both the marketplace and the support services available. Customers are therefore able to benefit from 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.