

**Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Assistive Work Technology - Employer Services**

The Assistive Technology unit of the GVRA Vocational Rehabilitation program includes a one of a kind team of assistive work technology (AWT) specialists built around the Regional and Tri-Regional organization of VR. Each Tri-Region has a Rehabilitation Engineer, an Occupational Therapist, and a Rehabilitation Technician; each Region has a Rehabilitation Technologist.

The AWT staff begins employer services after receiving a referral from either a VR Counselor or a Rehabilitation Employment Specialist. A comprehensive cost-free assessment of each client's unique work site needs for assistive technology, including job analysis, is made of employer facilities, job/work requirements, work schedules, tools and equipment, work area, required work skills, mobility inside the work area and ADA concerns. Recommendations are provided to assist the VR counselor and employer in successful placement of persons with disabilities in the work force.

The assessment may include recommendations to purchase assistive device(s), modify tools and equipment, or fabricate an assistive device(s). Expanding employment needs may require development of short-term training courses or ongoing training needs. In all cases the assessment will provide information to allow the VR Counselor and the employer to develop a plan to obtain the Assistive Work Technology required for employment of persons with disabilities. Costs to the employer are determined on a case-by-case basis.

AWT staff is also available, through referral by VR Counselors or Rehabilitation Employment Specialists, to make assessments of the work place, to provide job analyses, or to reduce the occurrence of work place injuries for VR clientele. In this type of assessment, recommendations for new equipment, or modification(s) of equipment and/or schedules, including possible therapeutic exercise plans, may be part of the report. It is important for the employer to understand that staff only provides recommendations and should not be considered an ADA enforcement group.