

Common Goals

VR's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities in securing stable employment; a common goal with Job Corps.

VR and Job Corps has a very similar report card. Both agencies and their staff are tasked with getting their applicants employment. The programs are charged with showing that the dollars spent providing services/training will eventually be paid back into the system by having their client/student employed.

By working together, we can reach these common goals.

Your local VR office may not be familiar with the Job Corps program!



It's time to show off your center!



Discuss all that's provided and accomplished at your center!



Include students with disabilities as tour guides!



Point out our common goals!

Partnerships: Department of Rehabilitation Services (VR) and Job Corps

Background

As in any good relationship, it is important to understand why a partnership is a benefit to both parties. VR and Job Corps, both federally funded programs are part of the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA). With that being said, it is important to understand this piece of legislation and the expectations for WIOA partners to work together.

The federal Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), offers a comprehensive range of workforce development activities through statewide and local organizations in local communities to benefit job seekers, laid off workers, youth, incumbent workers,

new entrants to the workforce, veterans, persons with disabilities, and employers. The purpose of these activities is to promote an increase in the employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills improvement by participants.

Title I of the WIOA authorizes services for youth, adults, and laid-off workers. Eligible youth must be 14 to 21 years of age, low income, and meet at least one of six specific barriers to employment. The legislation emphasizes services for out-of-school youth. Each state has a State Workforce Investment Board (WIB) consisting primarily of representatives

from businesses, labor organizations, educational institutions, and community organizations who work to coordinate linkages between WIOA partners in order to assure coordination among the programs and activities.

Under the Rehabilitation Act as amended in Title IV of WIOA, linkages between the vocational rehabilitation programs and other components of the statewide workforce investment systems (Job Corps) are critical to ensure effective and meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities in workforce Investment Opportunity Activities (Section 100(a)(1)(G)).¹

VR has provided centers and students with:

- On center orientations and intakes
- Participation in Reasonable Accommodation Committee (RAC) meetings
- Student training
- Staff training
- Psycho education assessments
- Technology assessments
- Ergonomic/workstation assessments and modification
- Assistive technology (computers, scanners, reading devices
- Tutors for struggling students
- Advanced education/training for students completing the program
- Job coaching
- Day care assistance
- Interview Clothes
- Uniforms
- Tools
- And more...



¹http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=20



When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps. ~ Confucius ~



Why is Job Corps a Good Partner?

- The national average of students with disabilities on a center is over 26%; a large population with the majority needing additional services Job Corps does not provide.
 - When individuals sign up for VR, they move, change their phone numbers or disappear. Our students are all in one location. The VR counselor will not have to search for our students.
 - Although Job Corps provides job development services; our students with disabilities often need individualized job development, placement assistance and other services.
 - When an individual without skills applies for VR, the agency typically has to pay for training.
- Job Corps provides this training, which is an investment VR does not have to provide.
- Job Corps is a training referral source for VR. By getting to know our program well, VR counselors can refer appropriate students, which is good for both agencies.
 - Job Corps staff will assist with gathering documentation each student will need to enroll for services, including disability/health related documentation, copies of driver's licenses, social security cards, etc.
 - Job Corps will provide meeting/office space for the VR counselor.
 - It's worth repeating; we have a common goal...getting the student employed.

Why is VR a Good Partner?

- Several Job Corps centers have dedicated school-to-work VR counselors that regularly provide VR orientations and sign-up our students at the Job Corps Center vs. the center transporting students to the VR office.
 - There is no longer an "order of services" based on the reauthorization of WIOA.
 - One Job Corps center has a full-time dedicated VR counselor on their center with only Job Corps students as their case-load.
 - Some students need technology assessments to determine appropriate technology needs for independence. VR excels at evaluating and providing assistive technology.
- At times, student documentation is outdated which prevents them from obtaining GED and certification testing accommodations. VR has the ability to update evaluations and assist with securing these accommodations.
 - When staff suspect that a student clearly has a disability, but no documentation, VR may be able to have the student assessed.
 - VR counselors have participated in RAC meetings to assist with identifying appropriate accommodations and provide student/staff training.
 - Finally, VR provides job developers who can assist Career Transition Specialists in

Utilizing VR Services

Many Job Corps students will qualify for VR services. This includes students with IEPs who have learning and other disabilities. VR prioritizes services by providing assistance to the most severely disabled first. If there is a wait list, that's okay. Always sign up your students early in their program (during CPP). That way, they have a good chance of coming off the wait list prior to them leaving the center with services initiated while they are on center. When VR has funding, sometimes the wait list is not long and your students may begin receiving services right away. Finally, VR cannot impose residency requirements or prohibit out-of-state services; therefore VR can provide services to students who are from another state.

