

612:10-7-6. Assessment for determining eligibility [AMENDED]

(a) To determine whether an individual is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services :

(1) the counselor will use to the maximum extent possible and appropriate existing information that is current as of the date of the determination of eligibility or of the development of the IPE (for the purposes of this Section, current means that there has been no appreciable change in the individual's condition as described in the obtained documentation); and

(2) to the extent necessary provide appropriate assessments, including provision of goods and services during the assessment, to obtain additional documentation necessary to make the determination of eligibility and priority group assignment. The counselor will carefully evaluate the need to provide assistive technology devices and services or worksite assessments.

(b) The counselor will determine whether an individual is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 60 days after the individual has submitted an application for services. This time period may be extended only when unforeseen and exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the Department preclude completing the determination of eligibility within the 60 days and the individual agrees a specific extension of time is warranted as documented on the Need for Extension of Time to Determine Eligibility form; or a trial work period or an extended evaluation is needed to determine the individual's ability to benefit from VR services.

(c) The counselor must carefully assess the usefulness of any records obtained based upon the nature of the disability; the relevance and completeness of information contained in the records; and the nature and outcome of treatment, or other services, received by the client.

(d) Documentation that the individual has a disability which constitutes or results in an impediment to employment must come from professionals qualified in accordance with State law to diagnose the reported disability, except as provided in 612:10-7-4(b).

(e) Diagnosis and evaluation are to be provided only for determination of eligibility for VR services, priority group placement, and determination of VR service needs. DVR and DVS funds are not to be used to assist an individual in establishing eligibility for other programs.

(f) When necessary, diagnostic evaluations may be purchased at any time during the life of the case. ~~Diagnostic procedures that require hospitalization must be approved by the program manager.~~

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47 (g) If an individual is determined eligible, the VR counselor will notify the individual
48 in writing. If the individual is determined to be ineligible, counselor will close the
49 case.

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51 (h) A qualified rehabilitation professional can proceed with an assessment of
52 eligibility if there is an obvious and/or observable disability. An interim decision
53 based on an observable disability must be followed up with medical records.