

Department of Human Services  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
Non Discrimination Notice

DHS does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, age, religion or sex in acceptance for provision of services, employment or treatment in its educational and other programs and activities.

For further information about this policy, contact: The Community Relations Liaison Officer at (401) 462-2130 or TDD (hearing impaired) at (401) 462-6239.

---

Office of Rehabilitation Services  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program  
40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Voice: (401) 421-7005  
Fax: (401) 222-3583

[www.ors.ri.gov](http://www.ors.ri.gov)

**Mission of ORS**

"To empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and integration into society."

## For More Information

**Contact:**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
RI Relay - 711

Teresa O'Brien, Acting Supervisor  
401.462.7793  
[teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov](mailto:teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov)

Jennifer Pires  
401.462-7885  
[Jennifer.pires.ors.ri.gov](mailto:Jennifer.pires.ors.ri.gov)

Paul Hughett  
401.462-7820  
[Paul.hughett@ors.ri.gov](mailto:Paul.hughett@ors.ri.gov)



Rev. 2/2018

Rhode Island Department of  
Human Services

Office of Rehabilitation Services



# Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

401.421.7005 (v)  
RI Relay - 711

[www.ors.ri.gov](http://www.ors.ri.gov)

# Office of Rehabilitation Services

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program is the public and state federally funded program that assists Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to choose, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. Employment being the successful outcome of services provided through the public rehabilitation program. It is expected that individuals who apply for services are interested in becoming employed and understand that this is the focus of the VR program.

### The Employment Plan

The eligible individual and a Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE identifies the Employment goal that the individual has chosen, the time expected to reach the goal, and the services needed to reach the employment goal.

## Staff of the Program

Clear communication between the vocational rehabilitation counselor and the Deaf or Hard of Hearing individual is one of the keys to successful employment outcomes. ORS counselors use the individual's preferred communication method and understand the employment challenges of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. The staff serves as a resource to professionals, state agencies, community organizations, and the public providing information related to employment, training and accommodations for persons who are Deaf or have a hearing loss.

### Eligibility

Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals who have difficulty with work, getting or keeping a job, are eligible for this program.

## Services to Assist with Employment

- Assistance accessing assistive listening and communication devices
- Benefits counseling
- Career exploration and planning
- Consultation with employers and community agencies
- Counseling and guidance
- Interpreter services for the purpose of obtaining & maintaining employment
- Job training, placement and post employment assistance
- Job retention services
- Referral services
- Rehabilitation technology services and work-site assessments
- Resume development and interview skill building
- Transition services from school to career
- Vocational evaluation and appraisals
- Vocational training