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, Supervisor
401.787.2984
teresa.obrien@ors.ri.gov

Jennifer Pires
401. 787-3749
Jennifer.pires.ors.ri.gov

Paul Hughett
401.871.1320
Paul.hughett@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.”
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.

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.

Staff of the Program

- 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

Services to Assist with Employment