

IDVR Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Training Series Overview, Key Values & Concepts

Welcome

Welcome to IDVR's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Training. This program is provided by the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Interwork Institute of San Diego State University. It is part of the Agency's effort to provide readily available training support to vocational rehabilitation counselors. For further information contact: shannon.wilcox@vr.idaho.gov

Two Essential Principles

Throughout the training, we emphasize two essential principles. They are 1.) the Principle of Informed Choice, and 2.) the Principle of Full Participation, as embodied in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

These principles in the context of a participant-centered service model are a part of our core values and philosophy and are reflected in all steps in the vocational rehabilitation process.

Vital Role of the VR Counselor

This training is part of the Agency's comprehensive effort to strengthen its vocational rehabilitation service delivery system in support of high-quality employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Accomplishing this goal requires a sustained effort on the part of everyone in this agency.

It also requires that we create an organizational culture that is deeply rooted in the rights and abilities of people with disabilities to achieve full integration into society.

Because of your direct contact with our most important partner, our customers, you as a VR counselor have a vital role in ensuring our success. It is our hope that you will use this information to deepen your understanding of the important role that you play in helping people with disabilities achieve greater independence and self-sufficiency.

Training Modules

This training series will examine the key aspects of the vocational rehabilitation process. The remaining module topics are as follows:

Module 2: Informed Choice,

Module 3: Decision Making and Ethics,

Module 4: Determination of Eligibility and Significance of Disability,

Module 5: Determining Disability Priority/Order of Selection,

Module 6: Assessment of Vocational Needs,

Module 7: The IPE and the Provision of Services,

Module 8: Job Readiness and Employment,

Module 9: Case Closure, and

Module 10: Case Management and Documentation

The training combines concepts and policies described in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Federal regulations, State guidelines, and the CRC Code of Ethics as well as research and best practices used in the profession today.

Your Values and Beliefs

It is essential in your role as counselor that you have a clear sense of your personal values and beliefs about persons with disabilities. Your values and beliefs are important for two reasons:

1. They define who you are as a VR professional and affect how you will carry out your responsibilities to your participants.
2. They will determine your effectiveness toward the achievement of the agency's mission.

The closer your values and beliefs align to those of the agency, the more you will be able to accomplish in serving your participants.

Vision and Mission

IDVR's vision statement is **"An Idaho where all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in the workforce and employers value their contributions."**

As Agency employees, we aspire to make this vision a reality.

IDVR's Mission Statement is: **To prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and career opportunities while meeting the needs of employers.**

Our mission statement describes our primary purpose to our customers and employers. Following our agency mission will help us achieve our agency vision.

Goals of the Training

As previously mentioned, this training series will help you increase your knowledge of regulations and policies that guide the administration of the VR program.

Beyond that, this information will deepen your understanding of the important role you play in assisting people with disabilities achieve independence and full integration into society.

Knowledge Check

To check your understanding of this lesson, click this [link](#) to access the knowledge check.

Conclusion

The principles of informed choice and full participation are emphasized throughout this training and are considered a fundamental part of the field of vocational rehabilitation.

It is our hope that you will use this training program to enhance your knowledge and skills and to deepen your understanding of the critical role you will play in helping individuals with disabilities achieve greater independence and self-sufficiency through high-quality employment outcomes.

Lesson Completed

You have now completed the lesson for this module.