



A Path Forward: Applying for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Are you a part of the limb loss/limb difference community and aiming to regain your independence through employment or continued education? Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is here to support you every step of the way. Let's explore how VR can provide valuable assistance, focusing on your needs, and opportunities.

**Guide by
BI Medical**

For More Info

What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation is a Federal/State Program that assists individuals with disabilities who require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, regain, or retain employment. The rehabilitation process is based upon an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that is oriented toward achieving an employment outcome. It is essential that the individual with a disability participate totally in the process to accomplish his or her goals. Vocational Rehabilitation's mission is to help people with disabilities find and maintain employment, and enhance their independence.

What qualifies an individual for VR?

To qualify for federally funded vocational rehabilitation, you must: 1. have a physical or mental condition that causes a "substantial impediment" to your ability to work, and 2. be able to benefit from VR services so that you can get a job. Vocational Rehabilitation will either completely cover or partially cover the costs of the prosthetic device and other services (home modifications, vehicle modifications, hygiene supplies etc)..

Individuals who meet the following exemption status are not required to participate or make a contribution toward the cost of vocational rehabilitation services. a. Individuals who receive SSDI, SSI, public assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF]), SNAP [Food Stamps] and/or other General Assistance), or b. Any individual who has annual income less than 285% of the Federal Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines, or c. Individuals who were not legally required to file a U.S. Tax Return in the year prior to application. For more information access the IRS interview tool: <https://www.irs.gov/help/ita/do-i-need-tofile-a-tax-return>

Summary

1. You must have a physical or mental impairment that presents a substantial barrier to employment and be able to benefit from VR services to achieve employment.
2. You must need VR services to prepare for a job or to get, keep, or regain a job.
3. People who receive disability benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, are exempt from paying for programs and services under Vocational Rehabilitation.



How Do I apply for VR?

To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services, if you're part of the limb loss community, you can visit your local Vocational Rehabilitation office or the nearby American Job Center where vocational staff members are ready to help. To find these offices, check the QR code. Remember to bring medical documentation from your healthcare provider to proceed with the eligibility process. It's a simple step towards unlocking the support you need.

Once an individual submits a completed VR application, an eligibility determination must be made as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days from the application date.



How do I get The Liner Wand covered through VR?

The VR Counselors rely heavily on the recommendations of the clinician when determining products or services that are appropriate for your IPE. When submitting the referral, your Prosthetist would include the Liner Wand as a recommended product in your clinical notes under other recommendations or remarks. An example of the recommendation is as follows: (1) case of The Liner Wand by BI Medical, a hygiene kit to ensure the client is adequately cleaning their liner to prevent skin irritation and reduce odor to maintain acceptable workplace (school, social) hygiene standards and maximize functional capacity.



Additional Resources to help like The Liner Wand, Amputee Coalition and Amplitude

For additional assistance tailored to the limb loss community, valuable resources are available. Visit "[AmputeeCoalition.org](https://amputeecoalition.org)" [[Amputee Coalition](https://amputeecoalition.org)] to explore the Workforce Development Program, designed to help individuals within the limb loss and limb difference community, including youth, adults, and veterans. This program supports career exploration, transitioning back into the workforce, or starting a journey into employment. For a comprehensive listing of amputee resources, check out Amplitude and The Liner Wand's Community Resource Directory [[Amputee Community Resource Directory](#)]. This database lists hundreds of organizations providing various types of support for amputees, from prosthetic care to social connection, healthcare, and more. It's a searchable, user-friendly tool designed to connect you with the resources you need.

Additional assistance can be found at "[AmputeeCoalition.org](https://amputeecoalition.org)" : or Trenaya Reid, Workforce Development Manager Email: workforce@amputee-coalition.org
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