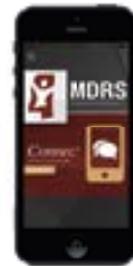


This independence is gained through the support and guidance of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, its staff and partners. This freedom is also achieved through the determination of individuals with disabilities who are extraordinary people in their own right, people who envision a better life for themselves and work hard to attain it.



*It is the mission of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide appropriate and comprehensive services to Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner.*



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*The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*  
6/2015

# MDRS

## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

*Opportunities for Independence*

Since the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) was established, there has been a singular goal: provide individuals with disabilities opportunities for independence.



Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

- Albert Einstein



www.mdrs.ms.gov



## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Thousands of Mississippians with disabilities are successfully employed each year through teamwork with the staff and resources of the Department Of Rehabilitation Services.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) helps people who have physical and/or mental disabilities through special services that prepare them for employment.

Among the many services VR provides are counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, vocational exploration, assistive technology, job training, and job development. Other programs and services may be offered depending on the impediments to employment each individual faces.

MDRS has 17 community rehabilitation centers, known as AbilityWorks, located throughout the state, which provide vocational assessment, job training and actual work experience to VR consumers.

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (VRB) serves individuals who are blind or visually impaired. VRB provides comprehensive evaluation, training and adjustment services at the Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center in Jackson. VRB also administers the Business Enterprise

Program (BEP) which provides full-time job opportunities for those who are legally blind. BEP vendors are self-employed business people who operate a variety of food service operations.

Among the many programs and services VRB offers to individuals with severe visual impairments are job development, job placement, job training, orientation and mobility, counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, and Independent Living Services.

## SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Many individuals with severe disabilities are able to live independently in their homes and communities because of the services they receive through the Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP). Our programs provide services to individuals with severe disabilities who have serious limitations in their ability to perform the activities of daily living independently.

OSDP provides services through the following programs:

- Independent Living Grant Program
- State Attendant Care Program
- Independent Living Waiver Program
- Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injury Waiver Program
- Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program

Services provided can include: home modifications, specialized medical equipment/ supplies, personal care attendant services, and some vehicle modifications. Services provided by these programs have enhanced and improved the lives and independence of many Mississippians with disabilities.

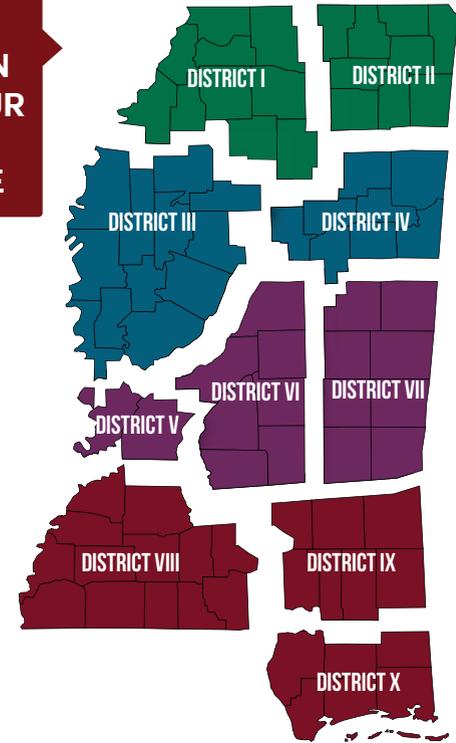
## DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Some individuals are eligible for benefits such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The first consideration for eligibility is determining whether an individual's impairment is medically severe and to what degree the impairment limits work-related functions. The process for determining the severity of impairment involves medical evidence gathered from attending physicians and other treatment sources.

Through an agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), claims for SSDI and SSI are processed at the Office of Disability Determination Services (DDS). Guidelines for determining disability are prescribed by law and SSA regulations. The Office of Disability Determination Services is fully federally funded.

The SSDI program, which usually addresses claims for adults, is funded from the Social Security Trust Fund and does not consider an individual's income or resources. The SSI program, which includes claims for adults and children, is funded from general revenues and has income and resource limitations for claimant eligibility.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR NEAREST MDRS OFFICE**



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OVRB: (662) 844-5830

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