WHAT IS MRC?

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Braintree Area Office
Vocational Rehabilitation

- My Job is to help you get a job
You may qualify for services if you have barriers to employment as result of disability and the desire to work. You may have a qualifying disability if you have experienced any of the following:

- Have/Has received Special Education Services in school
- Have/Has had a 504 Plan
- Have/Has had District Accommodation Plan
- Need Assistance with Transition
- Lack skills to get job offers
- Difficulties interacting with others
- Unsure of career direction
- Never been employed
- Incomplete education/training
- Need extra support to maintain job
If MRC is right for you our highly trained and experienced counselors will help you to develop a plan that will address any employment barriers in the areas of mobility, communication, interpersonal skills, self-care, self-direction, work tolerance and work skills. Often those areas addressed in your High School Special Education Plan, or 504 Plan or District Accommodation Plan
When Can I Apply for Services

- Young Adults are encouraged to apply for services when they are Juniors in High School.
- If you are in a turning 22 program you are encouraged to apply when you have two years remaining in your program.
While in high school, MRC counselors work with the young adults to help them plan for the transition beyond high school. During this time MRC can offer the following services:

- Counseling and Guidance
- Assessments
- Vocational Exploration
- Referral for Other Services
Once an individual has completed high school, MRC counselors will continue to work with the young adult in reaching his/her career goal.

Upon graduating the following services can be offered to assist with obtaining and maintaining employment:

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- Upon graduating the following services can be offered to assist with obtaining and maintaining employment:
After High School Continued

- Counseling and Guidance
- Interest and Aptitude Testing
- College or Vocational Training
- Tutors
- Assistive and/or Rehabilitation Technology
- Consultation to Employers
- Job Placement Assistance
- Job Coaching
- Follow-up and Referrals
Services for your Needs

- Services provided will reflect the individual’s unique aptitudes, interests, needs, and goals
While your application is processing, please contact us if your address, telephone number, or any other contact information changes.

This will assure you that the counselor assigned to you will be able to contact you when your processing time is up.
It is important to stay connected to health care providers, for example, primary care physician, therapist, psychologist or any other supports that oversee your treatment.

Other supports could include AA, NA, OA, GA, PT, OT, speech and language therapy and any other supports you have to keep on track.

Obtain medical records if possible.

Obtain proof of benefits if you are on SSI or SSDI.
Meeting Your Counselor

During the 1st meeting, the counselor will do an initial interview asking for the following information:

- Family & close contacts
- Education & work history
- Medical data (your disabilities, doctors, medications, hospitalizations)
- Income sources and amount of support
- Criminal history
- Goals and services you are interested in pursuing
After the initial interview is completed, the counselor will determine your eligibility based on:

- Your major barriers to employment caused by a disability based on medical records, proof of benefits, and diagnostic assessments.
- A reasonable expectation that a positive employment outcome will occur as a result of receiving vocational rehabilitation services.
You will work with your counselor to create a plan that is in your best interest.

Your counselor will help you explore community resources and provide employment services.

It is your responsibility to be active in the vocational process and to keep regularly scheduled appointments with your counselor.
Once found eligible for services, your counselor will work with you to develop your vocational goal.

If you have some job goals in mind, your counselor will help you explore their feasibility.

If you do not have clear career direction, your counselor may recommend that you participate in career assessment testing at our Braintree office.
Once determined eligible, an appointment will be set up with your counselor to discuss your Individual Plan for Employment (IPE)*.

The IPE is a written document that outlines and reflects your vocational goals and all services that will be provided to achieve your goal, including physical and emotional treatment services, adaptive services, case management, vocational/college training, job seeking skills preparation, job placement & follow up.

*IPE is used in lieu of Individual Transition Plan (ITP)
Your Individual Plan for Employment

- It will also document the time frame to meet these services and the cost breakdown.
- Your IPE is developed cooperatively between you and your counselor, and is based on your vocational goal.
Vocational Training & Education

- If your vocational goal requires that you obtain additional training, we can assist you in going to college, technical training school, or licensure programs.
- MRC can provide a wide array of training options to assist you in preparing for employment.
- We can assist with college degree and certificates programs at any state school.
All state schools waive tuition costs for clients of MRC.

To receive financial assistance from MRC, you must be found financially eligible for paid services.

Typically we do not assist with degree programs at private schools unless a particular program is not available at a state college.

We require all students to apply for financial aid services.
Once you are job ready you may receive assistance with the following:

- Resume writing
- Interviewing skills
- Developing job leads
- Employer advocacy
- Job coaching (if needed)
- OJE/OJT
MRC will provide you with support, advocacy and follow-up services for at least 90 days after you secure employment.

You may be eligible to receive post-employment services after you are placed in a job and your case is closed.

After 3 years, your file will be destroyed if you are not receiving services.
Area we serve

- 24 offices throughout Massachusetts
- The Braintree Area Office serves: Braintree, Cohasset, Hingham, Hull, Milton, Norwell, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Scituate, Walpole, Weymouth
Questions, Comments, or Concerns?

Should you have any follow up questions, please contact unit supervisors Julie Proud-Ray and Carreen Reinhold at (781) 356-8840.