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The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Objective

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This presentation will give an overview of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the services the agency can provide, and how to apply.

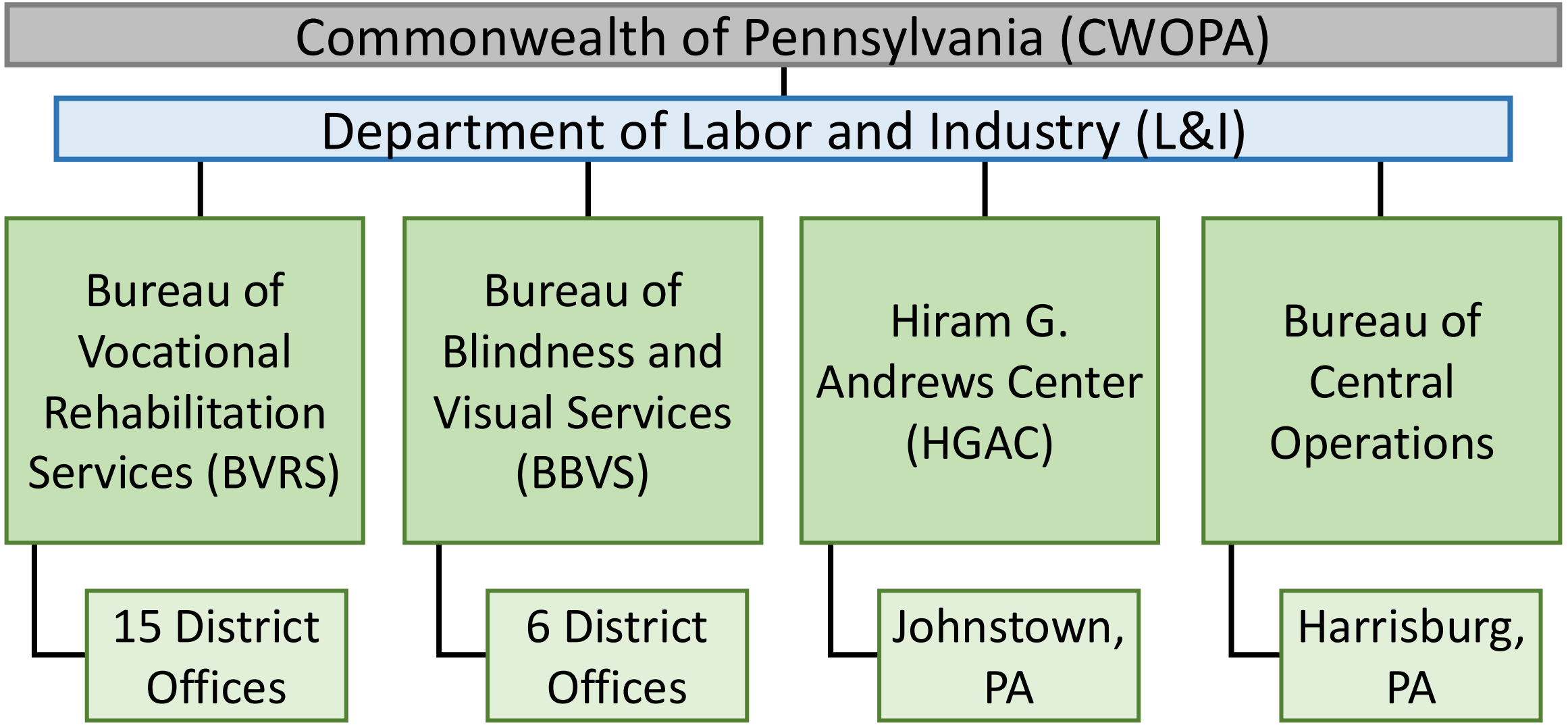
Overview: Mission Statement

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To assist Pennsylvanians with **disabilities** to secure and maintain **employment** and independence.

OVR Agency Organization

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What We Do

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- We work together to make informed choices regarding a plan of action, including a career goal, the services needed to assist you in getting started or maintaining your career, and your responsibilities.
  - This action plan is called the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).
- We will review different careers, job skills, chances for employment in your local area, potential earnings, family responsibilities, training, etc.
- Services can help you prepare for a career. The services you receive will be arranged to meet your individual needs.

Who We Serve

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- OVR serves Pennsylvania residents, with disabilities that present a substantial impediment to their employment.
  - A person's disability could be cognitive, physical, emotional, psychological, or a learning disability.
  - A disability, for OVR's eligibility criteria purposes, is different then a barrier to employment which may include homelessness, teen pregnancy or parenting, criminal background.
- Our customers must be willing and able to work.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Review Pre-ETS and the five Required Categories

Purpose of Pre-ETS

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Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) help students with disabilities learn about themselves, understand work requirements, practice work skills, choose a career, and explore training options.

Click here for more information!

Pre-ETS Criteria

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Pre-Employment Transition Services are for students:

- Between the ages of 14-21.
- Enrolled in secondary or post-secondary education.
- Have an IEP, 504 Plan, or identify themselves as a student with a disability.

Required Pre-ETS

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What are the 5 required Pre-Employment Transition Services?



Self-Advocacy Instruction

Counseling On Postsecondary Options

Job Exploration Counseling

Workplace Readiness Training

Work Based Learning



Early Reach Services

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- Beginning at age 14
- Group Pre-Employment Transition Services
- IEP Meeting Attendance
- Family Consultations
- School and Community Collaborative Events
- Training for Parents, Families, and Professionals
- Provide Resources



Experiential Learning & Instruction

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- Experiential Learning & Instruction services include, but are not limited to:
  - Generalized Group Services
  - Individual/Group Travel Training
  - Group Shadowing
  - Early Reach Transition Academy (ERTA)

To participate in Experiential Learning & Instruction, a student must at least have a Potentially Eligible (PE) Case

Paid Work Based Learning Experiences

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- Paid Work Based Learning Experiences include, but are not limited to:
  - MY Work
  - Community Work Instruction (CWI)
  - Paid Work Experiences

To participate in any Work based Learning Experiences, a student must have a referral for OVR services submitted.

Enhanced Exploration Opportunities

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- Collaborative programs including:
  - Project SEARCH
  - On the Job Training
  - Real World Lehigh Valley

To participate in any Enhanced Exploration Opportunities, a student must have an open OVR case with an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Additional OVR Services

A review of individualized VR services

OVR Services (1 of 2)

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Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

- Diagnostic Services
- Vocational Evaluation
- Counseling and Guidance
- Transition Services
- Restoration Services
- Training Services
- Vehicle/Home Modification
- Placement Services



OVR Services (2 of 2)

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Additional Blindness and Visual Services:

- Blindness Skills Training
- Instruction: Mobility
- Instruction: Daily Living
- Independent Living Skills
- Specialized Children's Services
- Randolph-Sheppard Business Enterprise Program (BEP)



Applying for OVR Services

Steps to apply for OVR services

Who Should Apply?

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OVR serves people who have disabilities that present a substantial impediment to employment. Services are provided to individuals to prepare for, secure, retain, advance in or regain employment.



You should apply if:

- you have a disability;
- your disability impedes you from preparing for, securing, retaining, advancing in or regaining employment; and
- you want to work.

How to Apply for OVR Services (1 of 2)

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Anyone interested can complete a Pre-application for OVR services through the PA Careerlink website. https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov

- Once the home page opens scroll down to “Let’s Get You To The Right Place” & select “I am an Individual”
- Then click on “Individuals with Disabilities”
- Scroll down to “Join In” and click “Register Now”
- Select “Individual Seeking OVR Services”
- Complete the OVR Referral Form and submit
- Contact your local OVR office if assistance is needed in completion



How to Apply for OVR Services (2 of 2)

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- Individuals can also be referred by family, friends, their high school, Supports Coordinators and other community agencies.



Service Delivery

What happens after you apply to OVR

Eligibility Determination

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- Once an application is received, a counselor will be assigned to meet with the customer.
- The counselor will gather information about needs, interests, aptitudes, education, work experience, family and finances.
- The counselor will arrange any needed medical examinations and testing.



Individualized Plan for Employment

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- The counselor and customer will work together to develop the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).
- The IPE includes:
  - Career goal
  - Services needed to get started or maintain their career
  - The customer's responsibilities



- Different types of careers, job skills, chances for employment in their local area, potential earnings, family responsibilities, training and any other matters of importance.

Case Closure

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- Successful employment
- A person can choose to close their case at any time
- Unable to located or contact
- The customer does not follow through with the steps identified on the place

A person may reapply at any time!



Contact Information

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Questions

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