



AIVRTTAC

TRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

A trial work experience must be provided when, because of the severity of the applicant's disability, the vocational rehabilitation counselor has insufficient assessment data to determine whether the applicant can benefit from VR services in terms of a competitive integrated employment outcome. In such cases, prior to making any determination of eligibility/ineligibility, the VR counselor must conduct an exploration of the applicant's abilities, capabilities, and capacity to perform in a realistic work situation. This provides clear and convincing evidence to make an appropriate decision regarding eligibility.

A trial work plan is a written plan to assess an applicant's ability to perform in work situations through the use of a trial work experience or extended evaluation. If a trial work plan is developed, trial work experiences will take place in competitive and integrated employment settings over a sufficient period in order to determine, with clear and convincing evidence, the ability or inability of the applicant to benefit from VR services in terms of an employment outcome.

The trial work experience must also include a rehabilitation technology consultation in coordination with the nearest State vocational rehabilitation agency.

Under limited circumstances, if an applicant cannot take advantage of a trial work experience, or if options for trial work experiences have been exhausted before the VR counselor is able to obtain sufficient evidence for an eligibility decision, the counselor will discuss with the applicant why VR services are not appropriate and will move forward with case closure.

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