



# Coordinated Regional Council Resources: Transition and Employment

The links provided here were compiled for the IFSP Coordinated Regional Council Meeting on May 20, 2021. You can find additional links and contact information in the IFSP presentation slides at <https://tinyurl.com/IFSP-Archives!>

- The Arc of Virginia: <https://www.thearcofva.org/local-chapters>

The Arc chapter in your area may offer programming that is focused specifically on transitions! Find your local chapter in the link above.

- The Disability Law Center of Virginia (dLCV):  
<https://www.dlcva.org/employment-rights>

- The HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center:  
<https://www.heath.gwu.edu/directory-of-transition-websites>

- Parent Center Hub's "Transition Starters for Everyone":  
<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/transition-starters>

- Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC): <https://www.peatc.org>

- Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL):  
<https://www.vacil.org>



Looking for information from DARS? We've listed DARS field office contact information and information about Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) starting on the next page!



Virginia Department of  
Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Services



## DARS Field Offices

DARS Field Office	Office Phone	Contact E-mail	City
DRS Abingdon Office	(276) 676-5565	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.Matney@dars.virginia.gov">Cynthia.Matney@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Abingdon
DRS Alexandria Office	(703) 960-3411	<a href="mailto:Karen.Brown@dars.virginia.gov">Karen.Brown@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Alexandria
DRS Charlottesville Office	(434) 296-5621	<a href="mailto:Naomi.Aitken@dars.virginia.gov">Naomi.Aitken@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Charlottesville
DRS Chesterfield Office	(804) 714-2021	<a href="mailto:Asha.Moses@dars.virginia.gov">Asha.Moses@dars.virginia.gov</a>	N. Chesterfield
DRS Christiansburg Office	(540) 381-7122	<a href="mailto:Nora.Tucker@dars.virginia.gov">Nora.Tucker@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Christiansburg
DRS Culpeper Office	(540) 829-7360	<a href="mailto:Tiffany.Jenkins@dars.virginia.gov">Tiffany.Jenkins@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Culpeper
DRS Danville Office	(434) 549-8210	<a href="mailto:Tora.Terry@dars.virginia.gov">Tora.Terry@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Danville
DRS Fairfax Office	(703) 359-1124	<a href="mailto:leanne.rerko@dars.virginia.gov">leanne.rerko@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Fairfax
DRS Farmville Office	(434) 392-8189	<a href="mailto:Asha.Moses@dars.virginia.gov">Asha.Moses@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Farmville
DRS Fishersville Office	(540) 332-7700	<a href="mailto:John.Jackson@dars.virginia.gov">John.Jackson@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Fishersville
DRS Franklin Office	(757) 562-2028	<a href="mailto:Matt.Olson@dars.virginia.gov">Matt.Olson@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Franklin
DRS Fredericksburg Office	(540) 899-4161	<a href="mailto:Kay.Manipole@dars.virginia.gov">Kay.Manipole@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Fredericksburg
DRS Hampton/Newport News	(757) 865-4863	<a href="mailto:Margie.Millner@dars.virginia.gov">Margie.Millner@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Hampton
DRS Harrisonburg	(540) 434-5981	<a href="mailto:John.Jackson@dars.virginia.gov">John.Jackson@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Harrisonburg
DRS Leesburg	(703) 771-4775	<a href="mailto:Natasha.Fry@dars.virginia.gov">Natasha.Fry@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Leesburg
DRS Lynchburg	(434) 947-6721	<a href="mailto:Christian.Wiscovitch@dars.virginia.gov">Christian.Wiscovitch@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Lynchburg
DRS Manassas Office	(703) 335-5550	<a href="mailto:Tiffany.Jenkins@dars.virginia.gov">Tiffany.Jenkins@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Manassas
DRS Martinsville	(276) 634-3633	<a href="mailto:Donna.Martin@dars.virginia.gov">Donna.Martin@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Martinsville
DRS Norton Office	(276) 679-2262	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.Matney@dars.virginia.gov">Cynthia.Matney@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Norton
DRS Petersburg	(804) 863-1625	<a href="mailto:Erica.Schwartz@dars.virginia.gov">Erica.Schwartz@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Petersburg
DRS Portsmouth	(757) 686-5004	<a href="mailto:Matt.Olson@dars.virginia.gov">Matt.Olson@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Portsmouth
DRS Pounding Mill	(276) 963-1028	<a href="mailto:Whitney.Church@dars.virginia.gov">Whitney.Church@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Pounding Mill
DRS Roanoke	(540) 204-9725	<a href="mailto:susan.watkins@dars.virginia.gov">susan.watkins@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Roanoke
DRS South Boston	(434) 572-8064	<a href="mailto:Tora.Terry@dars.virginia.gov">Tora.Terry@dars.virginia.gov</a>	South Boston
DRS South Hampton Roads	(757) 451-7101	<a href="mailto:jerron.byers@dars.virginia.gov">jerron.byers@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Norfolk
DRS The Greater Richmond	(804) 588-3333	<a href="mailto:Amanda.Habel@dars.virginia.gov">Amanda.Habel@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Richmond
DRS Williamsburg Office	(757) 253-4817	<a href="mailto:Margie.Millner@dars.virginia.gov">Margie.Millner@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Williamsburg
DRS Winchester Office	(540) 722-3453	<a href="mailto:John.Jackson@dars.virginia.gov">John.Jackson@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Winchester
DRS Wytheville Office	(276) 228-2108	<a href="mailto:Nora.Tucker@dars.virginia.gov">Nora.Tucker@dars.virginia.gov</a>	Wytheville



# Prepare Students for the **FUTURE**



## Pre-Employment Transition Services



**Job Exploration**



**Work-Based Learning**

**Education & Training Options**



**Workplace Readiness**

**Self Advocacy**



**DARS**  
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



# HELPING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PLAN & PREPARE FOR CAREERS

## Pre-Employment Transition Services

The Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) collaborates with high school students with disabilities, their families, schools and community service providers to support transition beginning at age 14.



### Job Exploration Counseling

- Explore career interests and foster motivation



### Work-Based Learning Experiences

- Use the workplace to gain knowledge and skills that connect school experiences to career opportunities



### Counseling on Educational and Training Options

- Learn about postsecondary education and training opportunities and resources



### Workplace Readiness Training

- Prepare for adult life by developing social and independent living skills



### Instruction in Self Advocacy

- Learn how to effectively communicate your needs and direct your life

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Pre-ETS are the beginning of a continuum of services DARS offers to students with disabilities.

To find more about Pre-ETS, visit [www.vadars.org/drs/transitionservices.htm](http://www.vadars.org/drs/transitionservices.htm).

Office (804) 662-7000  
Video phone (804) 325-1316

[www.vadars.org](http://www.vadars.org)





VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

## Our Mission

To improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families.

The **Division of Rehabilitative Services** offers vocational rehabilitation to assist people with disabilities to



prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. You may be eligible for these services if you have a physical, mental or emotional disability; this disability keeps you from working; you live, work or attend school in Virginia; and DRS certifies that there is a good chance that these services will result in your employment.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors may provide or assist with:

- Physical and mental restoration
- Vocational evaluation/career exploration
- Vocational/job training
- Job placement assistance
- Situational assessment
- Job development/job coaching



**Assistive technology** devices, services or accommodations may help consumers live and work independently. Services and supports are also available to businesses to improve workplace accessibility. DARS can help identify potential resources for obtaining equipment through the Virginia Assistive Technology System, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority and Centers for Independent Living. DARS works with many

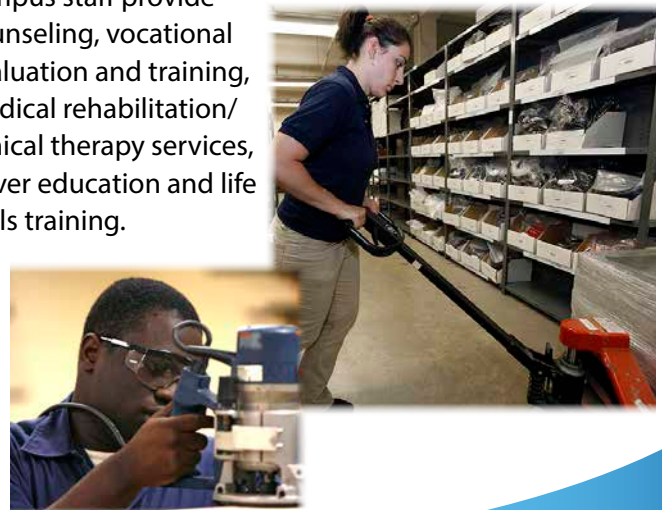


**Community Partners** and businesses to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving their goals of employment and/or independence.

- Brain Injury Services
- Centers for Independent Living
- Employment Service Organizations
- Virginia Assistive Technology System
- ATLFA
- One-Stop Career Centers
- Ticket to Work/Employment Networks
- High schools and higher education



The **Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center** provides comprehensive, integrated medical and vocational rehabilitation services to enhance an individual's independence and employability. Its on-campus staff provide counseling, vocational evaluation and training, medical rehabilitation/clinical therapy services, driver education and life skills training.





**T**oday, businesses recognize people with disabilities as a **workforce that works**. The Division of Rehabilitative Services provides employers the tools and resources they need to successfully employ and support people with disabilities in the workplace.

At little or no cost, employers can benefit from the following DRS services:

### **Staffing and Recruitment**

DRS' dedicated employment counselors can find qualified job applicants who meet your specific job requirements.



### **Workplace**

#### **Accommodations**

Develop or revise job descriptions, identify reasonable accommodations for prospective or existing employees with disabilities or improve workplace accessibility.

### **Job Retention/Return to Work Services**

In cases of disability due to illness or non-occupational injury, DRS can help reduce turnover and training costs by providing solutions that keep valuable skills and expertise in your workplace.

### **Disability Awareness Training**

Create a positive work environment within your company. Request for staff to learn about disability etiquette, "people first" language and adopt best practices for hiring, accommodating and communicating with workers and customers with disabilities.

### **Access to Resources**

DRS connects businesses with community resources and networks that support diversity and workforce needs. Financial Incentives and Training Programs Hiring and/or accommodating persons with disabilities can provide you with tax and reimbursement benefits.

### **Unpaid Work Experience Program**

- The Unpaid Work Experience is a no-cost, opportunity to identify future employees.
- DRS consults with the employer to set up specific job tasks for our client to perform.
- DRS assists the client with transportation costs.
- DRS provides accident coverage for qualifying client if injured during the internship.

### **On-The-Job Training Reimbursement Program**

- Employers get a chance to assess the abilities and work habits of an employee at half the cost.
- DRS will set up a contract for you to hire our client and will reimburse you for up to 50 percent of the trainee's wages paid during the training period.
- The trainee's wage is equal to minimum wage or the entry level wage the employer pays for that position, whichever is greater.
- OJT can also be combined with the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.
- DRS finds carefully screened trainees to match the demands of your workplace.
- DRS follows up regularly on trainee's progress.

### **Work Opportunity Tax Credit**

- A tax credit is available to employers who hire persons with disabilities.
- The tax credit amounts to 25 percent of qualified first-year wages for those working 120 to 400 hours or 40 percent for 400 hours or more worked.
- See the VEC Website for more information.

### **Supported Employment Training Program**

- DRS contracts with vendors to provide job services that help employees become acclimated to their job and increase job performance.
- Contracted services may include situational assessments, job coaching, job retention, social skills training, job placement and long-term follow along.

*Contact your Business Development Manager to learn more or set up these programs.*

