

2018 NADS CONFERENCE

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WHO IS DRS?

ORS aka DORS aka DRS is the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Illinois Department of Human Services

WHAT DOES DRS DO?

DRS is comprised of two programs: the home services program and vocational rehabilitation program.

Home services Program: provides services to individuals under the age of 60 with severe disabilities so they can remain in their homes and be as independent as possible. Customers who require these services hire their own personal assistant to assist in their home based on the service plan completed in conjunction with the DRS home services counselor. Services are provided in 48 local communities throughout the state. To find the nearest office call (800) 843-6154.

Vocational Rehabilitation: helps people ages 16-64 years of age with disabilities find and keep jobs. Customers work with a Rehab counselor to determine their employment needs including providing accommodations for a person to be successful on their job. DRS Vocational Rehab counselors work with people with various disabilities but also has specialized services for people who are blind or visually impaired, and people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Through vocational rehabilitation people who have significant disabilities and may require supportive employment can receive on-going services to help them succeed on a job.

Rehab Counselors also help high school students who have disabilities plan for their futures after high school graduation through the Transition and STEP programs. High school students with a physical and/or mental disability may be eligible to participate in STEP if they receive 504 services, special education services or other assistance because of a disability. A STEP referral can be made by contacting the local high school or the local IDHS/DRS office

- ✓ STEP is a work experience program that helps students with disabilities prepare to transition to employment.
- ✓ STEP provides students opportunities to explore careers
- ✓ STEP offers meaningful work experiences through on-the-job placement
- ✓ STEP provides instruction in self-advocacy and workplace readiness training

HOW TO CONTACT DRS?

People who are interested in services can complete a Rehabilitation Web Referral for themselves or for someone else. Referrals can also be made by calling the local DRS office or walk in. For more information about DRS services for youth with disabilities, contact DRS at 877-761-9780 or visit www.dhs.state.il.us

