

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL SERVICES, cont. . .

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR APPEALS

- The Client Assistance Program (CAP) assists persons with disabilities who are seeking or receiving services from any program funded by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. CAP can:
 - advise clients of their rights and responsibilities under the Rehabilitation Act;
 - assist clients in communicating their concerns to DRS; and
 - represent the individual in the fair hearing process when appropriate and/or needed.
- Additional information concerning vocational rehabilitation and the appeals process can be obtained from the CAP at (405) 521-3756 or (800) 522-8224 statewide.
- All DRS clients should receive a CAP brochure at the time their case is activated.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- The IPE is an individualized program of services based around a core of comprehensive evaluation, vocational counseling, and job placement that are needed to assist the person in attaining his or her employment goal. Any assistive technology the person needs for employment must be included in this plan. However, AT devices and services may be essential to help the person demonstrate vocational capabilities and are an essential part of a comprehensive evaluation.
- The DRS counselor along with an AT Specialist will assist in accessing necessary AT devices and services to meet employment needs.
- Once a decision has been made to supply an eligible client with assistive technology, it may be possible to provide a wide range of devices if they are vocationally relevant. However, DRS cannot buy devices that other sources can buy or that ADA requires other sources to provide.
- The cost of some services, such as medical examinations to determine if a person is eligible for vocational rehabilitation, and counseling and job placement, are provided at no charge to the client. For some other services such as assistive technology, a client may have to share in the cost, depending on his or her income and resources.
- The DRS State Plan has provisions, during times of limited resources, to serve clients under an order of selection which means some eligible applicants may be placed on waiting lists until funds are available to pay for services. Consumers are encouraged to apply for services during an order of selection because those on waiting lists will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.
- DRS has the authority to purchase consumer equipment and services through an agency-adopted bid process rather than going through the state bid process, thus allowing greater consumer choice and faster delivery.
- VR partners with Oklahoma ABLE Tech to provide an assistive technology device demonstration center and short-term equipment loan program. The demonstration center can assist a person or small group of individuals the opportunity to explore one or more assistive technology devices to assist in the decision making process about device purchase or utilization. The short-term loan program allows a person to “try before you buy” an assistive technology device. For more information on the devices available contact the AT Lab in Oklahoma City by calling (405) 549-9483.