

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

ACCES-VR

Presented By:

Jennifer Geiger M.S., C.R.C.





**Office of Children
and Family Services**

New York State Commission for the Blind

Jane Sullivan MA, CRC

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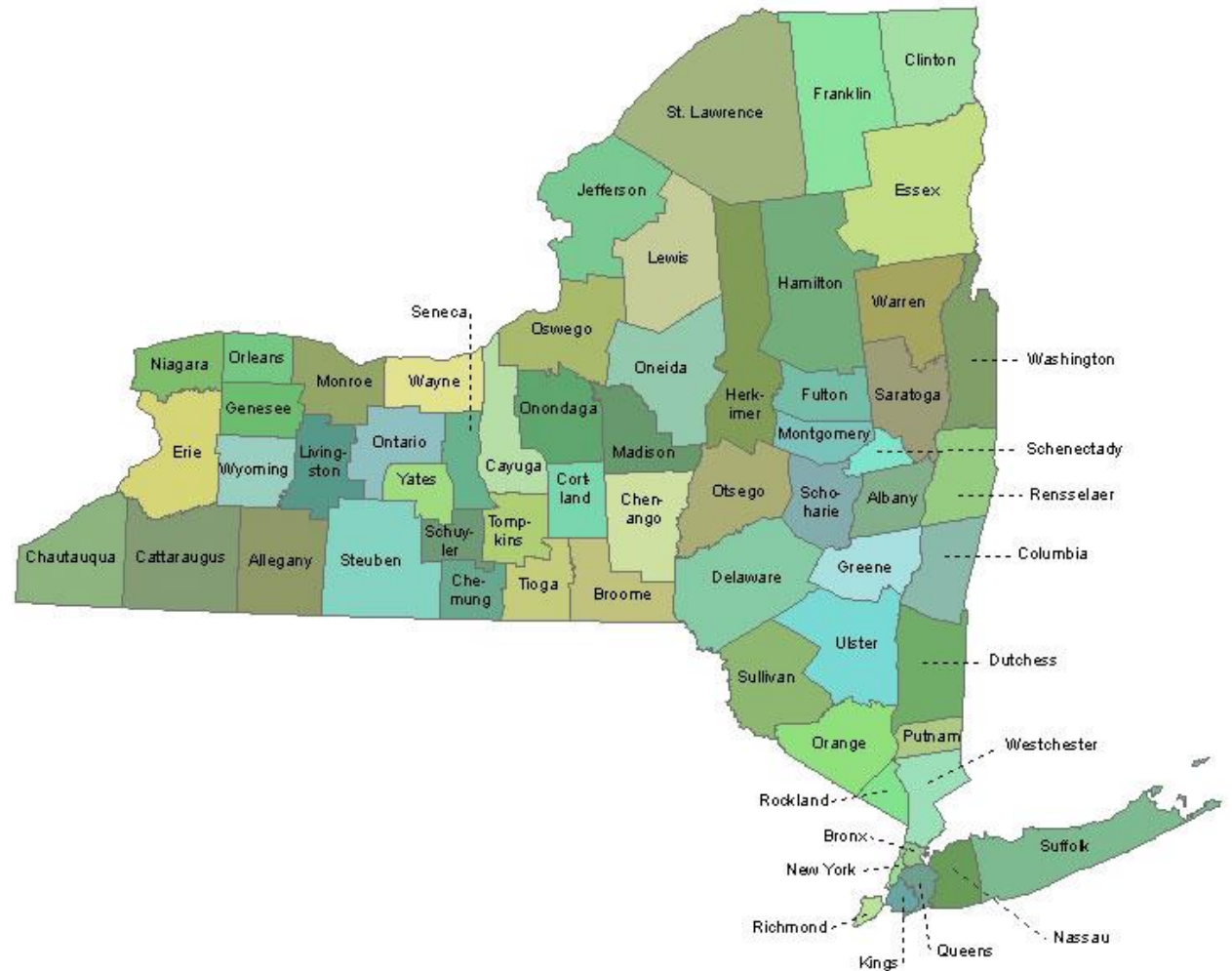
ACCES-VR's Mission

ACCES-VR assists individuals with disabilities to achieve, maintain and advance in employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation, and career development

ACCES-VR Offices

Part of the New
York State
Education
Department

15 District Offices
and 10 Satellite
Offices



New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB)

State vocational rehabilitation agency that provides employment services to New Yorkers who are legally blind

The mission of the New York State Commission for the Blind is to enhance employability, to maximize independence and to assist in the development of the capacities and strengths of people who are legally blind



NYSCB Offices

Part of the New York
State Department of
Children and Family
Services

7 District Offices
and 6 Satellite
Offices



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Examples of Types of Disabilities



Respiratory and/or Heart Condition

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Arthritis

Diabetes

Allergies



Mental Health Diagnosis

Substance Abuse/Alcoholism/Addiction

Learning Disabilities

Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities

Cerebral Palsy



Multiple Sclerosis

Orthopedic Impairment

Speech Impediments

Low Vision

Hearing Loss/Deafness

What is legal blindness?

- A visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better or stronger eye with best correction, or
- A restricted field of vision of 20 degrees or less in the better or stronger eye
- NYSCB can assist in determining if someone meets this criteria



ACCES-VR and NYSCB Purpose and Process

- The goal is to assist individuals with disabilities to go to **WORK**.
- ACCES-VR and NYSCB is an **ELIGIBILITY** based program, not an entitlement program. Individuals must qualify to receive services.



ACCES-VR: Eligibility

The ACCES-VR counselor reviews the following to make an eligibility determination:

- Does the individual have a documented physical, cognitive and/or behavioral health impairment that prevents or significantly affects their ability to:
 - **Prepare** for employment
 - **Enter** employment
 - **Engage** in employment
 - **Retain** employment
 - **Advance** in employment
- Is there a reasonable expectation that ACCES-VR services will lead to the individual's employment
- The individual's disability does not prevent your participation in ACCES-VR services

NYSCB: Eligibility

Eligibility is based on two conditions:

1. Having a disability (which for NYSCB services must include legal blindness) which results in a substantial impediment to employment
2. Requiring VR services to:
 - **Prepare** for employment
 - **Enter** employment
 - **Engage** in employment
 - **Retain** employment
 - **Advance** in employment

Examples of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Job Counseling
- Job Assessment and Development
- Job Placement
- Vocational or Technical Training
- College/BOCES or Other Classroom Training
- Books and Tools
- Driver Training
- Occupational License
- Supported Employment
- Vehicle Modifications
- Self-Employment
- High School-to-Work Transition Services
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Job Coaching
- And many others!

Being eligible for ACCES-VR services does not mean you are eligible to receive ALL ACCES-VR services.

Vision Related VR Services

- **Low Vision Services**- work with individuals to maximize the use of residual vision.
- **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT)** - Assist with looking at accommodations such as lighting, physical layout, or use of hand magnifiers, can include some technology and Braille
- **Orientation and Mobility (O&M)** - Assist with navigating safely to and from work or school as well as within the location
- **Assistive Technology (AT)** - Assist with adapting hardware/software to the needs of the participant. Includes computer training and troubleshooting school/work technology issues

Worker Retention Services



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When Considering Worker Retention Services

Do you have a disability:

- That is affecting your job?
- Are you at risk of losing your job?
- Did you have your job and then acquire a disability that is now negatively affecting your job?



How ACCES-VR and NYSCB can help



- Worker Retention Services May Include:
 - Job Analysis
 - Identifying Reasonable Accommodations
 - ✓ Assisting you with how to request reasonable accommodations
 - Vocational Counseling
 - Wage Reimbursement for Re-Training



NEXT STEPS

Interested in learning more or applying for services?

- **Review:** ACCES-VR Orientation Recordings at <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>:
 - Overview of ACCES-VR Services: Your Journey to Employment Begins Today
 - How to Apply for Services
 - Do You Want A Job That Requires A College Degree
- **Go to:** <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services#application> for an application, authorization to release/obtain information, and a list of medical documentation



Applying for Services

Visit the NYSCB website at: visionloss.ny.gov

On the website you will find an application for service, as well as a list of contact information for the district offices.

Feel free to call your local district office for more information.

Contact Information

Jennifer Geiger, M.S., C.R.C
Business Relations Representative

ACCES-VR Rochester District Office
109 South Union Street
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 238-2949

Jennifer.Geiger@nysed.gov



NYSCB Employment Contacts

Jane Sullivan, MA, CRC

District Manager

NYS Commission for the Blind

295 Main St., Room 545, Buffalo, NY 14203

Telephone: 716-847-3526

Email: Jane.Sullivan@ocfs.ny.gov

