



The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency that provides resources to help Mississippians with disabilities find new careers, live more independently, overcome obstacles, and face new challenges.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Vocational Rehabilitation provides individualized services and resources to individuals with disabilities to prepare them to obtain full-time careers and retain employment. Among the many services provided by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) are counseling and guidance, vocational exploration, assistive technology, job training, and job development. Other programs and services may be offered depending on the specific needs of each individual.

MDRS has 15 community rehabilitation centers known as AbilityWorks, located throughout the state, which provide vocational assessment, job training and actual work experience.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE BLIND

Vocational Rehabilitation For The Blind (VRB) specializes in working with Mississippians with blindness or low vision to optimize their opportunities for inclusion into the workforce, their community and home. VRB provides

comprehensive evaluation, training, and adjustment services at the Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center in Jackson and the Mississippi EMERGE Center (MEC) in Long Beach. MEC however, uses non-visual techniques and encourages problem-solving through experiential learning and confidence-building activities.

VRB also administers the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) which provides full-time job opportunities for those who are legally blind. BEP vendors are self-employed business people who operate a variety of food service operations.

Other services include job development, job placement, orientation and mobility, counseling and guidance, and Independent Living Services.

SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS

Special Disability Programs provides services and supports to Mississippians with the most severe disabilities to assist them in living independently in their home rather than residing in a long-term care facility.

The Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP) provides services through the following programs:

- Independent Living Grant Program
- State Attendant Care Program
- Independent Living Waiver Program
- Traumatic Brain Injury/Spinal Cord Injury Waiver Program and Trust Fund Program

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Disability Determination Services determines eligibility based on federal guidelines for Mississippians who apply for Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income.

The first consideration for eligibility is determining whether an individual's impairment is medically severe and to what degree the impairment limits work-related functions. The process for determining the severity of impairment involves medical evidence gathered from attending physicians and other treatment sources.

The Office of Disability Determination Services (DDS) is fully federally funded. The SSDI program, which usually addresses claims for adults, is funded from the Social Security Trust Fund and does not consider an individual's income or resources. The SSI program, which includes claims for adults and children, is funded from general revenues and has income and resources limitations for claimant eligibility.

DISTRICT I

51 County Road 166
Oxford, MS 38655
VR: (662) 234-3171
VRB: (662) 234-6092
OSDP: (662) 563-8244

DISTRICT II

2620 Traceland Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
VR: (662) 842-1010
OSDP: (662) 287-6951

615-A Pegram Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
VRB: (662) 844-5830

DISTRICT III

104 Professional Plaza
Greenwood, MS 38930
VR: (662) 453-6172
VRB: (662) 455-1432
OSDP: (662) 453-2253

DISTRICT IV

317 Industrial Park Road
Starkville, MS 39759
VR: (662) 323-9594
OSDP: (662) 324-4953

48 Datco Industrial Drive
Columbus, MS 39704
VRB: (662) 328-8807

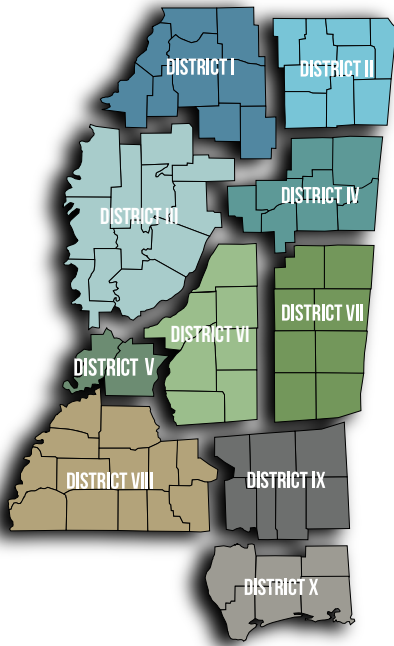
DISTRICT V

3895 Beasley Road
Jackson, MS 39213
VR: (601) 898-7004
OSDP: (601) 898-7034

2550 Peachtree Street, ext.
Jackson, MS 39296
VRB: (601) 987-7403

DISTRICT VI

1032 Center Pointe Blvd.
Pearl, MS 39208
VR: (601) 709-5601
VRB: (601) 709-5625
OSDP: (601) 709-5657



DISTRICT VII

1003 College Drive
Meridian, MS 39307
VR: (601) 483-3881
VRB: (601) 684-3392
OSDP: (601) 482-1594

DISTRICT VIII

1221 Parklane Road
McComb, MS 39648
VR: (601) 249-2498
VRB: (601) 684-3392
OSDP: (601) 249-4646

DISTRICT IX

17 J.M. Tatum Industrial Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
VR: (601) 545-5639
VRB: (601) 545-5613

18 J M Tatum Industrial Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
OSDP: (601) 544-2613

DISTRICT X

13486 Fastway Lane
Gulfport, MS 39530
VR: (228) 575-3789
VRB: (228) 575-3788
OSDP: (228) 575-3785

It is the mission of MDRS to provide appropriate and comprehensive services to Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner. Programs and services assist individuals with disabilities to gain employment, retain employment and to live more independently.



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**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Opportunities for Independence

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
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