How does a Lump Sum Settlement affect my eligibility for VR services?

You may seek vocational rehabilitation within two (2) years of approval of your lump sum settlement. See MGL c. 152, § 48(2). OEVR will make the final determination of your eligibility for vocational services.

Do I have to accept VR Services?

No. However, if you are found to be suitable for vocational rehabilitation services by this department and you do not participate in a vocational rehabilitation program, your weekly compensation may be reduced by 15%.

Will I be guaranteed a job?

No. No one can guarantee that a job will be offered to you. The Regional Rehabilitation Review Officer assigned to your case will oversee progress in your active return to work efforts. VR services should improve your Return To Work potential.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Department of Industrial Accidents

Office of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation

mass.gov/dia/oevr

Office of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (OEVR)

Return to Work Assistance

For more information, visit mass.gov/dia/oevr or email, oevr@mass.gov

Main Office
Lafayette City Center,
2 Avenue de Lafayette
Boston, MA 02111-1750
(857) 321-7403

Regional Offices
1 Father DeValles Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Fall River, MA 02723
(508) 676-3406

354 Merrimack Street, Building 1, Suite 230
Lawrence, MA 01843
(978) 683-6420

1441 Main Street, Suite 205
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 784-1133

Mercantile Center,
100 Front Street, Suite 310
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 753-2072



Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Department of Industrial Accidents

Office of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (OEVR)

OEVR Rev. 9-14-26

What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Although most injured workers return to previous jobs, sometimes the nature of the injury makes such a return impossible. **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)** helps the injured worker find a new job or a new career. VR provides such non-medical services as vocational testing/counseling and job placement assistance. **The Office of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (OEVR)** facilitates vocational rehabilitation services by referral to the insurers. OEVR does not directly provide these services.

Who may qualify for VR Services?

Any injured worker may apply. However, to be determined suitable for VR, an injured worker should:

- Have liability accepted by the insurer;
- Be medically stable;
- Have permanent functional limitations;
- VR must be feasible and cost effective as determined by OEVR.

How do I apply for VR Services?

You may apply by following the steps below:

- Apply in the region where your case is being heard by filling out a referral form requesting a mandatory meeting. You can get the referral form from the DIA website **mass.gov/dia/oevr** or from the Regional Review Officer. Fill out the referral form completely. Your attorney can also assist you in filling out this form.
- Please include medical reports, no more than six months old, as well as a copy of your lump sum agreement, if applicable.
- Send (see address on back) or fax to (617) 727-4366 your completed referral form and attached documents to the respective region where your case is being heard to the attention of the Office of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (OEVR).
- A Regional Review Officer will contact you for an appointment.





Who determines if I am eligible for VR Services?

Office of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation (OEVR) reviews your medical, educational, and employment history. If you are found eligible, OEVR will request that the insurer arrange VR services for you.

If I am found eligible for VR Services, will the insurer provide me with these services?

The insurer is required to provide you with VR services, after OEVR finds you eligible.

Does VR mean that I will be sent to school and retrained?

Not everyone needs retraining. The VR process is employment-oriented and is designed to get you back to employment in the most expedient and cost-effective way. Attempts will be made to return you to the same employer and your same job. If this is not possible, then the following options will be explored in the order listed below:

- If you cannot return to the same job, then an effort will be made to modify your job so you can return to your same employer;
- If that is not successful, then an effort will be made to find a different job with your employer;
- If that is not successful, then an effort will be made to find a different job with a different employer;
- **Retraining is an option only after all the above options have been eliminated.**

Can the insurer provide me with extra money, as part of my Lump Sum Settlement, for me to take care of my own vocational rehabilitation?

No. The cost of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (vocational counseling and testing, job seeking, job placement, job modification, etc.) cannot be made part of your Lump Sum Settlement.

