

8.06 SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS

Introduction

Vocational rehabilitation services may be provided to family members of an applicant or eligible individual if necessary to enable the applicant or eligible individual to achieve an employment outcome.

The purpose of providing services to family members is to alleviate problems within the family which have a negative impact upon the consumer's adjustment or rehabilitation to the extent that the individual would be unable to begin or continue his/her IPE or employment would be unnecessarily delayed or could not be achieved

Federal Definition: Family Member

For the purposes of this service, family member means an individual:

1. who either is a relative or guardian of an applicant or eligible individual; **or** lives in the same household as an applicant or eligible individual
2. who has a substantial interest in the well-being of that individual **and** whose receipt of vocational rehabilitation services is necessary to enable the applicant or eligible individual to achieve an employment outcome.

Criteria for Provision

In order to provide services to family members, such services must be:

1. furnished to only those individuals who meet the definition of family member,
2. planned with the individual and documented in a case note,
4. related to the rehabilitation needs of the consumer and contributes to achievement of the employment outcome; and
6. unavailable through existing community resources, agencies, or comparable benefits.

Scope of Services

Services to a family member may include any of the VR services available to consumers during the vocational rehabilitation process.

Examples

Examples of the provision of Services to Family Members are:

1. A consumer whose goal is self-employment as a storekeeper recently indicated that her spouse is needed to assist in the business. The counselor may provide the spouse with training in business practices, accounting or other related training to enable the spouse to work with the consumer in the business.
2. A consumer is unable to engage in vocational training (which must begin in July or be delayed indefinitely) because she has no one to care for her two young children while school is out of session. This consumer is unable to pay for day care services and is not eligible for temporary assistance. After an unsuccessful search of community resources, the counselor has arranged to pay for summer day care thus enabling the consumer to participate in the needed training.
3. A consumer who has recently become blind due to trauma has applied for VR services and is anxious to develop and begin a vocational plan. However, the rehabilitation process is being delayed because the consumer's concern for his spouse who is having difficulty adjusting to the consumer's move towards greater independence. Counseling services may be provided to the spouse or to the couple to assist in their adjustment to the consumer's efforts towards rehabilitation.

Terminating Services to Family Members

Services to family members should be terminated when:

1. the service is no longer needed,
2. the provision of the service no longer contributes to achievement of the consumer's employment outcome,
3. the consumer's case is closed

Exception

In instances where the consumer has been placed in employment and the case is ready for closure, but services to the family member(s) have not been completed and are still expected to contribute substantially to the consumer's rehabilitation, the individual's case should not be closed until such services are completed or terminated.

Documentation

When services are provided to members of a consumers family, the record of services should be documented to include:

1. what services are needed
2. why services are needed
3. which family member or members need the services
4. how the services are expected to contribute to achievement of the consumer's employment outcome.

Economic Need

The provision of services to family members is subject to the rules and procedures for providing services to VR consumers. See Chapter 5.00 - Determination of Economic Need for further guidance.

Comparable Benefits

The provision of services to family members is subject to the rules and procedures for providing services to VR consumers. See Chapter 9.00 - Comparable Services and Benefits for further guidance.