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(Serving Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, & Nebraska)

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Guide

Vocational Rehabilitation

- Vocational rehabilitation (VR) can be defined as the process of facilitating an individual in the choice of, or return to, a suitable vocation. When necessary, assisting the patient to obtain training for such a vocation. Vocational rehabilitation can also mean preparing an individual regardless of age, or physical condition to cope emotionally, psychologically, and physically with changing circumstances in life, including remaining at school, work, or a work equivalent (homemaker).



The History of Vocational Rehabilitation

- The roots of vocational rehabilitation in America can be traced to the diffuse development of disability-specific workshops in the early 19th century.
- By far the greatest stimulus to vocational rehabilitation arose after World War I, when the influx of disabled veterans from overseas battlefields proved too much for private institutions to bear.
- The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in Washington, DC oversees all state VR agencies, which are funded by federal and state tax dollars. These agencies can:
 - Assess your work skills, needs, and goals
 - Work with you to develop a plan for services
 - Help you get training or retraining for a different job if you need it.
 - Find employers who are willing to hire disabled people
 - Help you find and keep a job



Basic Steps to Vocational Rehabilitation

Referral & Application

Initial Interview

Evaluation/Assessment

Eligibility

Planning

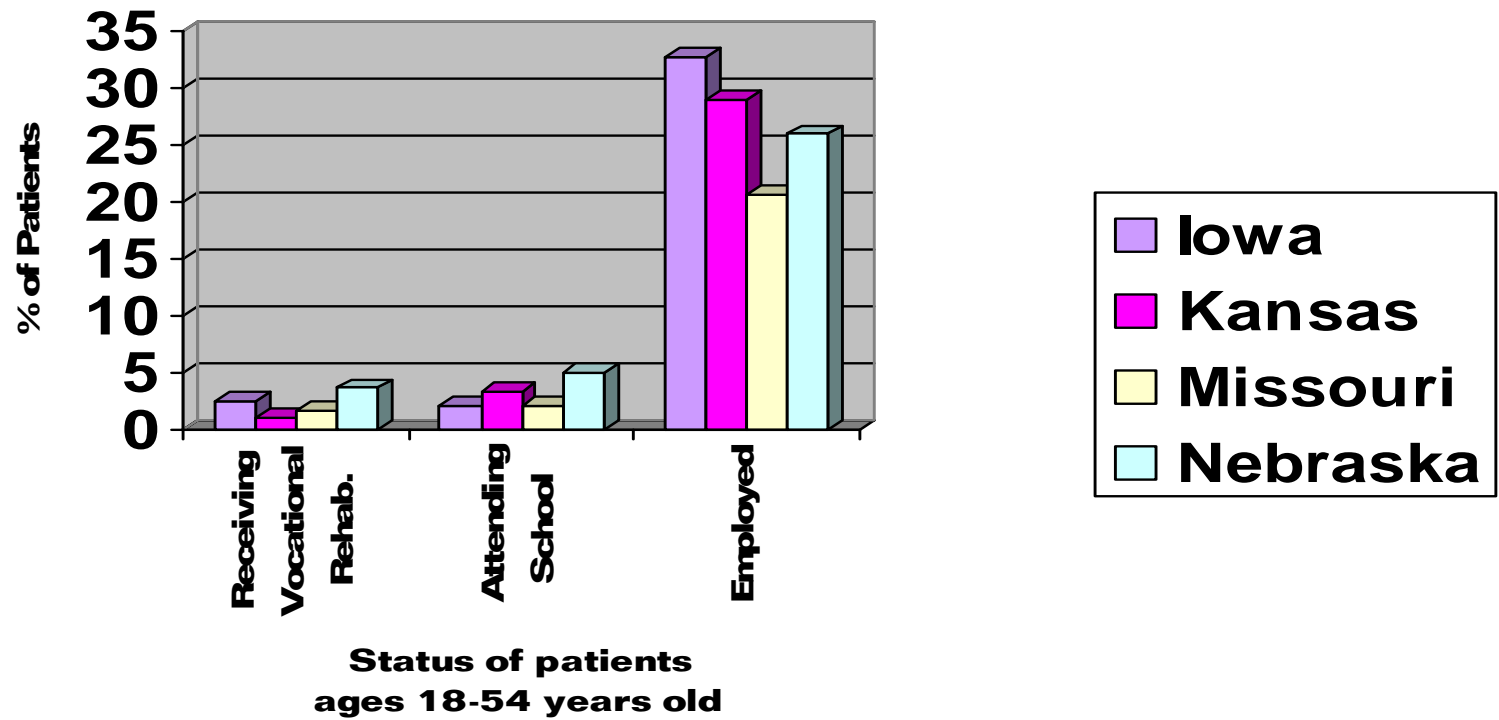
Services

Employment

Successful Rehabilitation



Vocational Rehabilitation in the Heartland





Where Can I Find More Information About Vocational Rehabilitation?

State	Contact Numbers	Websites
Iowa (IA)	Rehabilitation Services Bureau (515)-281-4026	http://www.ivrs.iowa.gov/clients/applicantsguide.htm
Kansas (KS)	SRS- Statewide Access 1-888-369-4777	http://www.srskansas.org/rehab/text/VR.htm
Missouri (MO)	Vocational Rehabilitation (573)-751-3251 Toll Free : 1-877-222-8963	http://www.dese.mo.gov/vocrehab/vrhome/toc.htm
Nebraska (NE)	(402)-471-3231 Toll free: 1-800-472-3382	http://www.vocrehab.state.ne.us/client/client.htm