Will I receive priority with OVR if I receive services from another program or if my financial resources are limited?

No. Priority category assignment is based on the significance of the individual's disability-related functional limitations, not referral source, other services received, or financial resources. Financial participation rules may apply separately to certain services.

Will there be a periodic review of my functional limitations?

If you are on the waiting list and believe your disability related functional limitations have changed, you may contact your vocational rehabilitation counselor to request a review of your priority category assignment. Supporting documentation may be requested.

What if I do not agree with my priority category assignment?

You may request an appeal if you disagree with your priority category assignment. OVR may conduct an informal administrative review and may offer voluntary mediation. If the issue is not resolved, you may proceed to an impartial hearing. An appeal may be requested by U.S. mail, email, or orally to the office, including by phone or in person. A voicemail message does not constitute a request for appeal.

KY OVR - Director of Field Services
500 Mero Street, 159SC, Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-372-7172 - OVRAppeals@ky.gov

To contact the Client Assistance Program, please visit: kypa.net/get-help or call 1-800-372-2988.

Where else may I seek services if I am on the waiting list?

OVR staff in your local office will provide information about other employment-related resources in your area. You are also encouraged to visit the Kentucky Career Center website for additional information. KCC.ky.gov

What are the Priority Categories?

OVR currently has four priority categories:

Priority Category 1:
Individual with a most significant disability is an individual with a disability who has been determined eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, requires multiple vocational rehabilitation services for a period of six (6) months or more, and experiences serious limitations in four (4) or more areas of functional capacity, in terms of an employment outcome.

Priority Category 2:
Individual with a significant disability is an individual with a disability who has been determined eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, requires multiple vocational rehabilitation services for a period of six (6) months or more and experiences serious limitations in three (3) areas of functional capacity, in terms of an employment outcome.

Priority Category 3:
Individual with a significant disability is an individual with a disability who has been determined eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, requires multiple vocational rehabilitation services for a period of six (6) months or more, and experiences serious limitations in one (1) to two (2) areas of functional capacity, in terms of an employment outcome.

Priority Category 4:
Individual with a disability is in individual who has been determined eligible for vocational rehabilitation services and does not meet the criteria for priority categories 1, 2, or 3.

Understanding
Order of Selection

Kentucky Career Center
Vocational Rehabilitation

TEAM KENTUCKY
EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, age, pregnancy or related medical condition, marital or familial status, disability, veteran status, political affiliation, or genetic information in accordance with state and federal laws. Upon request, and to the best of our ability, KYOVR provides reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs. (Documents are Printed with Federal Funds)

What Is Order Of Selection?

When all individuals eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program cannot be served due to limited resources, federal law requires the VR agency – in this case the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) – to define categories which establish the priority order in which individuals will be served. This law requires OVR to give highest priority to individuals with the most significant disabilities. It also requires OVR to serve individuals in the other categories in priority order as funds become available. This is called an Order of Selection (OOS). The OOS categories are called priority categories. OVR opens and closes priority categories based on available resources.

How does OOS affect services?

If you are eligible for OVR services, your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) assigns you to one of the priority categories based on the significance of your disability to employment. If your priority category is open, you can receive the full range of VR services. If it is closed, you will be notified that you are on a waiting list and will be provided information and referral services only. However, if you are a student receiving the five required OVR Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) before being determined eligible for OVR services, you can continue to receive Pre-ETS services if you are determined eligible and placed on the waiting list.

What is functional limitation and what determines a serious functional limitation?

A functional limitation is a barrier to employment due to a disability that affects one of these functional capacity areas: mobility, self-direction, self-care, interpersonal skills, communication, work tolerance, or work skills. A serious functional limitation means the individual requires accommodations or services not typically needed by other individuals to prepare for, enter, keep or advance in employment.

If I am placed on the OOS waiting list, when will I be served?

As funding becomes available, OVR may begin serving individuals on the waiting list or reopen a priority category. When this occurs, individuals are served in the order of their application date. OVR will notify you as soon as services become available to you. In the meantime, your counselor will contact you on a quarterly basis to confirm whether you wish to remain on the waiting list and continue to need services.

Am I automatically served if I receive SSI or SSDI?

A person who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits is presumed eligible for OVR services if they intend to achieve an employment outcome. However, SSI and SSDI do not automatically determine the person's priority category. OVR assigns the priority category based on the individual's disability-related functional limitations and service needs.

May an OVR office serve more categories than another office?

No. OVR is required to maintain a statewide Order of Selection. Individuals assigned to closed priority categories are placed on the statewide waitlist and will be released from the waitlist when resources are available, based on priority category and the date of application.

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