



SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS

INDEPENDENT LIVING & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Individuals living with brain injury often want the same things as they did prior to injury or as every one else. Living as independently as possible and having a good job or something to do during the day are important to some. Despite challenges posed by brain injury, these goals are possible with supports. Even when people cannot return fully to employment, there are opportunities for a meaningful day in volunteering, entrepreneurship, or family-owned businesses. The right technology, structure, and assistance can make the right solution for achieving the maximum level of independence for someone. Avoid automatically saying it can't be done and instead, look at what might be out there to help.

Independent Living Program

Independent Living is living on your own, in your own apartment or house, as opposed to living in a group home or other residential provider. After a brain injury, daily tasks may be more challenging such as your health, hygiene, grooming, shopping, money management, laundry, home maintenance and meal preparation. Independent Living Skills programs can support individuals to live in the community by providing guidance and counseling, rehabilitation engineering, home and vehicle modifications, independent living skills training, certain equipment purchases, assistance with leisure activities, personal assistance services, or service animals. There is a statewide council in North Carolina with local offices to connect.



Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product, used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of an individual with a disability. Common technology might be aids for daily living, tablet, phone, or computer access, alternative and augmentative communication (AAC), sensory aids, vehicle/home modifications, environmental control, seating/mobility, learning, or more. Funding options may be available through State or community programs.



Employment Services

Employment programs help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals whether through education or a job. Support can range from helping to explore career assessments and counseling, education and career training, job-readiness training, supported employment, assistive technology evaluations/equipment/training, rehabilitation engineering services, job coaching, or assistance with job placement or self-employment. You may be eligible for state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services if you have a disability that affects your ability to find, keep, or advance in a job. There is no cost to apply or to find out if you are eligible for VR services. For assistance in understanding and using rehabilitation services, the North Carolina Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a federally funded program designed to assist individuals with disabilities through the vocational state services process.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES

- NC Vocational Rehabilitation: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs
- NC Assistive Technology Program: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services/north-carolina-assistive-technology-program
- NC Statewide Independent Living Council: ncsilc.org
- Disability Rights NC: disabilityrightsn.org
- Americans with Disabilities Act: www.ada.gov
- Job Accommodation Network: askjan.org
- Client Assistance Program: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs/client-assistance-program

Community Rehabilitation Services

Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) offer a range of employment-related and support services to VR consumers with specialized needs. Services designed to improve work skills/behaviors and emotional/physical tolerances include: vocational evaluation, community-based assessment, job development, and job coaching.

Education Supports

Children with a brain injury that impacts performance in school may be able access specialized supports, including an individualized education plan (IEP). Colleges also have disability specialists to address supports for classes, taking tests, learning, and more. VR may be able to assist with connecting individuals with brain injury to education services and opportunities.