



## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

### Order Of Selection 2004: Key Points

If DRS does not have the resources to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to all eligible consumers, federal law requires that it specify the order to be followed in selecting those individuals who will receive services. This is called an **Order of Selection**. The law requires that individuals with the most significant disabilities be served first.

DRS' Order of Selection will become effective July 1, 2004, and will remain in effect until such time that there are sufficient resources to serve all eligible individuals.

Consumers who have a signed Individualized Plan for Employment (Employment Plan) as of June 30, 2004, will not be affected by the Order of Selection.

Other current consumers (those who do not have signed Employment Plan as of June 30, 2004), and new applicants, will receive diagnostic services to determine whether they are eligible for services. An eligibility determination is required prior to assignment to a priority category. A determination that the consumer is eligible for the VR program does not necessarily mean that the consumer will be served.

Consumers who are determined eligible for VR services will be placed into one of four priority categories by their vocational rehabilitation counselor. The four priority categories are:

**Priority Category I:** An individual who is most significantly disabled that results in serious functional limitations in three or more functional capacities.

**Priority Category II:** An individual with a significant disability that results in serious functional limitations in two functional capacities.

**Priority Category III:** An individual with a significant disability that results in serious functional limitation in one functional capacity.

**Priority Category IV:** All other individuals determined eligible for the VR program.

Effective July 1, 2004, DRS will close Priority Categories III and IV. It is not known when these priority categories will be re-opened.

Consumers assigned to Priority Categories I and II will be able to move to Employment Plan development and implementation. Consumers assigned to Priority Categories III and IV will be placed on a waiting list for 12 months.

Consumers on the waiting list will be notified to this effect by letter and will be referred to their One-Stop Center (or other resource(s)) for possible employment services. After 12 months, consumers on the waiting list will be asked whether they wish to remain on the waiting list, or to have their case closed.

Consumers on the waiting list cannot have an Employment Plan developed and cannot receive services. This includes "no cost" services (i.e., counseling, guidance and placement services) and services paid for by a third party (i.e., insurance coverage). This also includes services provided at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center.

SSI and SSDI consumers are not exempt from Order of Selection. While they, by law, have a significant disability, an assessment to determine their priority category still must be conducted; however, they cannot be assigned to Priority Category IV.

Consumers who are on the waiting list and who have evidence that their disability has become more severe, may request a review of their assigned category by their counselor.