



Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Job Seeker and Incumbent Worker Services

[Arkansas Rehabilitation Services](#)' (ARS) mission is to prepare Arkansans with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives. With 19 field offices across the state serving all 75 counties, ARS provides a variety of training and career preparation programs. Field Services include career and technical education and training, transition from school to work or post-secondary education, on-the-job training, and ancillary support services that clients may need for successful employment.

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 - The national employment rate for individuals with disabilities receiving services from a vocational rehabilitation agency is 47.8%.
 - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' employment rate is over 60%.
- The [Arkansas Career Development Center](#) (formerly the Arkansas Career Training Institute) provides vocational training and services that lead to employment opportunities for students served by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Students are referred to the Arkansas Career Development Center for evaluation, training, and placement by the Vocational Rehabilitation counselors who are located in field offices serving each county in the state.
- [Access & Accommodations](#) Program staff are accommodation specialists who can assist employers and employees when it comes to addressing employee performance issues because of disability in the workplace. Accommodations may address sensory, learning, or physical limitations, and assistance to stay at work or return to work.
- As a workforce development partner, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) assists clients with finding the right job so they can lead productive and independent lives. [Business Engagement](#) services also assists businesses in achieving a competitive advantage by offering qualified job candidates who are trained in a wide variety of skills and have the good work habits that employers value. The Business Engagement Team facilitated or assisted with 325 successful employment closures for Arkansans with disabilities.
- The Small Business Program exists to allow clients with entrepreneurial pursuits to seek self-employment as a realistic employment goal. Thorough evaluation of eligible individuals is necessary to assure the feasibility of this employment objective.
- [Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) (SDHH) provides high quality, innovative services that result in employment opportunities, improved quality of life, and full inclusion in society for Arkansans who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deafblind. The professional staff of SDHH is knowledgeable about the unique barriers faced by people with hearing loss and speech disabilities and is experienced in collaborating with both the person experiencing the barrier as well as the community at large to develop effective solutions.

- Arkansas Rehabilitation Services works to provide opportunities for rehabilitation counselors and schools to develop partnerships in an effort to prepare high school students with disabilities the knowledge, skills, and abilities to achieve a successful transition from high school to post-secondary life. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Transition Counselor works with students, teachers, principals, and other appointed school staff, as well as families and community resources. Together they coordinate [Transition Services](#) and develop programs with the intent to improve and provide quality post-school outcomes. Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) assists students in the transition into Vocational Rehabilitation clients who are provided services needed that result in competitive integrated employment.
- Programs such as OWL, TEP, and Arkansas Project SEARCH® provide youth and adults an opportunity to gain workforce readiness skills and participate in work-based programs
 - The Opportunities for Work Based Learning (OWL) program is a collaborative effort between local school districts and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services to ensure students with disabilities are afforded the opportunity to gain work readiness training skills and work experiences prior to exiting the secondary setting.
 - Transition Employment Program (TEP) is a comprehensive program designed to assist high school students with disabilities that have completed the 11th grade in discovering their skills, abilities, interests, strengths, and career goals through extensive assessments, job readiness skills, and an introduction to the world of work. TEP is a four-week comprehensive pre-employment transition service held on the ACTI campus. High school students representing 75 high schools graduated from TEP with OSHA certifications; some graduated with OSHA and ServSafe.
 - Project SEARCH Arkansas: ACCESS Initiative is an innovative job-training program providing a nine-month internship program for young adults with developmental disabilities. Interns in the program complete (3) ten-week rotations at a partnering business with the goal of gaining the necessary skills to obtain competitive employment. Upon completion of the program, the staff provides assistance with finding employment within the community and continued support during employment. The competitive integrated employment outcomes for Arkansas Project SEARCH® graduates range from 70% to 100%, depending on the site. 70% of the 2018 Project SEARCH graduates are OSHA Certified.