What Works? VR Services for SSDI Beneficiaries with Visual Impairments

At-a-Glance
Examining VR service delivery patterns may shed light on both the effectiveness and potential risks of services for consumers. This study examined service patterns of VR consumers who had a disability of blindness or visual impairment and who were receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. The results identified services that could:

- Lead to positive employment outcomes.
- Serve as a red flag signaling the consumer is at risk and may need multiple or intensive services.

Key Findings

- Study participants often received services in clusters or groups that followed these patterns:
  - Services geared toward providing work experiences, including training and job-related supports, were linked to successful employment outcomes.
  - Special, remedial, and evaluative service clusters were linked to poor employment outcomes, possibly as a result of the consumer’s greater difficulty in becoming job-ready.
  - The study population often had previous work experience which improved their likelihood of attaining successful employment outcomes.
  - Post-secondary education often didn’t result in competitive employment for this population.

Putting It into Practice

Services and Supports that Lead to Competitive Employment

- Assistive technology services
- Job search and placement supports
- On-the-job training

Service that Improves Adjustment to Disability

- Rehabilitation counseling
**Red Flag Signaling Consumer May Be at Risk**

A cluster of these services built into an Individualized Plan for Employment can serve as a red flag that the consumer may need multiple or intensive services:

- Reader and interpreter services
- Job readiness training
- Augmentative skills training
- Assessments

**More about this Research**

Unlike previous research, this study looked at vocational rehabilitation consumers who had a disability of blindness or visual impairment and who were receiving SSDI benefits. Patterns identified in this study may be used as tools for developing and monitoring rehabilitation plans for consumers.

**Learn More**

Access this research by visiting the [Project E3 Research Database](#).


**Questions? Feedback?**

Do you have questions or feedback about putting this research into practice? We’re waiting to hear from you! [Send Us Your Questions](#)

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