

Nebraska VR

Order of Selection Fact Sheet

What is Order of Selection?

Nebraska VR must provide a full range of vocational rehabilitation services, as appropriate, to all eligible individuals who apply. In the event these services cannot be provided to all eligible individuals, in this case due to limited funding, the agency must implement an Order of Selection Policy.

Under Order of Selection, priority will be determined during the eligibility process based on how significantly your disability impacts your ability to work. Individuals with the most significant disabilities are selected first to receive vocational rehabilitation services.

What are the Priority Groups?

Clients are served in the following order as funding allows:

- Priority Group 1- Persons with the most significant disabilities
- Priority Group 2- Persons with significant disabilities
- Priority Group 3- All other eligible persons

Persons within each group are served in order of application date. Priority Group 1 will remain open and individuals will be served as funds are available in order of application date. Priority Groups 2 and 3 are closed. Individuals in these groups will be put on a waiting list and will be served if and when sufficient funds become available.

What is the criteria for each Priority Group?

Priority Group 1 – Eligible persons with the most significant disabilities

An eligible individual with severe physical or mental impairments resulting in a serious limitation of two or more functional areas and who require multiple services over an extended period of time. Persons in Priority Group 1 are selected for services before all other eligible persons.

Priority Group 2 – Eligible persons with significant disabilities

An eligible individual with severe physical or mental impairments resulting in a serious limitation of one functional area and who require multiple services over an extended period of time. Individuals who receive SSDI or SSI automatically qualify for priority group 2 and are assessed to determine whether they qualify for priority group 1.

Priority Group 3 – Eligible persons with non-significant disabilities.

This group includes all other eligible individuals who have a limitation in at least one of the seven functional areas.

How does Nebraska VR determine my significance of disability and Priority Group?

Significance of disability and Priority Group are determined after reviewing your medical records, assessment reports, and determining your ability to complete work related tasks. These work-related tasks are categorized into 7 functional capacity areas:

- Communication
- Mobility
- Self-direction
- Work tolerance
- Interpersonal skills
- Self-care
- Work skills

How will I know what Priority Group I am assigned to and if I can start receiving services?

You will receive a letter of your assignment to a Priority Group along with information about the Client Assistance Program (CAP). If you are placed on a waiting list, as soon as we are able to serve you, you will be contacted by another letter. Once you are notified that it is your turn to be served, you will have 30 days to contact your assigned specialist and schedule an appointment. Your priority assignment can be re-evaluated when new or additional information becomes available which affects your functional areas.

Do I have the right to an appeal?

Yes. You have the right to appeal the group assignment through informal or formal review as well as through CAP.

How might I obtain assistance in achieving my employment goals if I am assigned to a closed Priority Group?

You will also be referred to other agencies and partners in the Workforce System like an Independent Living Center, the American Job Center or other community resources.

Am I automatically served if I am on SSI or SSDI?

No. However, a person who receives SSI or SSDI based on their own disability will be assigned Priority Group 2, and may qualify for a higher Priority Group based on the number of functional capacity limitations.

What happens if I am currently employed but could potentially lose my job if not provided specific services or equipment?

Retention services can be provided to Priority Groups 2 and 3 if there is documentation from the employer stating you are at immediate risk of losing your job. An Individualized Plan for Employment would be written to provide immediate service or equipment to help you keep your job. Under this retention option, you will only receive the service or equipment required to maintain employment and will remain on the waiting list for other non-retention services.

What happens if I am already receiving employment services from Nebraska VR?

There will be no disruption in services for individuals, regardless of priority assignment, who have an Individualized Plan for Employment in place when the Order of Selection takes effect.

How does this affect high school students?

For students with disabilities, Pre-Employment Transition Services are made available statewide.

These services include:

- job exploration counseling,
- work-based learning experiences,
- counseling on opportunities for enrollment in post-secondary education,
- workplace readiness training, and
- instruction in self-advocacy.

Students who apply and are determined eligible for individualized VR services, but placed in a closed priority group, may continue to receive pre-employment transition services as long as those activities were initiated prior to being placed in a closed priority group.