



SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES

The [**Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services program**](#) help persons with spinal cord and brain injuries receive intensive therapies to increase independence. Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services helps Texans with traumatic spinal cord and brain injuries receive intensive therapies to increase independence.

The [**Independent Living \(IL\) Services And Centers**](#) concentrate on self-sufficiency and quality of life, even if work potential is limited. Independent Living Centers and Services promote self-sufficiency despite significant disability - providing people with disabilities with improved mobility, communication, personal adjustment and self-direction. Independent Living Centers are operated by and for people with disabilities throughout the state to provide assistance through peer counseling, information and referral, advocacy support and other measures that encourage people to make their own decisions.

Supported Employment serves consumers of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program who need on-going support to maintain competitive employment. Counselors ensure that consumers in this program have the opportunity and support necessary to work in their communities.

Transition Planning. DRS VR counselors provide consultative and technical assistance to public school personnel in planning the move from school to work for students with disabilities. DRS Regional Transition Specialists assist VR counselors in coordination with schools, independent school districts, and regional Educational Service Centers.

The [**Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) program**](#), a state-federal partnership since 1929, helps people with disabilities prepare for, find and keep jobs. Work related services are individualized and may include counseling, training, medical treatment, assistive devices, job placement assistance, and other services. Eligibility criteria for this program include: the presence of a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment, whether the individual is employable after receiving services, and whether services are required to achieve employment outcomes. Our Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program helps Texans with disabilities prepare for, find and keep employment. This program also helps students with

disabilities plan the jump from school to work. Please see our Vocational Rehabilitation Guide to Applicants to learn about the process of applying for VR services.

The VR program also provides services to eligible persons with disabilities who have been injured on the job and partners with the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) when needed. The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) is a state agency created by the Texas Legislature to represent the interests of injured employees in the workers' compensation system. OIEC's Mission: To assist, educate, and advocate on behalf of the injured employees of Texas. For further information about the agency and the services provided please visit the OIEC website at www.oiec.state.tx.us.

If you are interested in applying for services or need more information about the DARS Division for Rehabilitation Services, you may call (956) 523-8050 or 1-800-628-5115 Email: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us. The local office is located at 313 W. Village Blvd, Suite 112, Laredo, Tx 78041.

The [**Early Childhood Intervention \(ECI\) Program**](#) is a statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services.

State and federally funded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, P.L. 108-446), ECI provides evaluations and assessments, at no cost to families, to determine eligibility and need for services. Families and professionals work as a team to plan appropriate services based on the unique needs of the child and family.

Services can include Assistive Technology (services & devices), Audiology, Case Management, Early Identification, Screening & Assessment, Family Counseling, Family Education, Medical Services (diagnostic or evaluation services used to determine eligibility), Nursing Services, Nutrition Services, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychological Services, Social Work Services, Specialized Skills Training, Speech-Language Therapy and Vision Services.

ECI asks families who can afford to do so, to share in the cost of services. The amount a family pays for ECI services is determined using a sliding fee scale and is based on family size and income after allowable deductions. No child and family will be turned away because of an inability to pay.

ECI focuses on working with the child and family in their natural environment, such as at home or a child care center. Essentially, it's where children live, learn and play.

Research shows that growth and development are most rapid in the early years of life. The earlier problems are identified, the greater the chance of eliminating them. Early intervention responds to the critical needs of children and families.

ECI is here to help and can become an important resource for all families. For more information about ECI, or to refer a child residing in Webb or Zapata County, call ECI Project Niños at **(956) 728-1769**. You may also call 1-800-628-5115 or visit www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/ to inquire about an ECI program in a different county. The local office is located at 5709 Springfield, Laredo, TX 78041. If you have any questions, please contact Anna R. Perez, ECI Area Director.

DRS INQUIRIES AND FEEDBACK

If you are interested in applying for services, need more information about the DARS Division for Rehabilitative Services, or if you have comments about any DRS services you've received, send an email to: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us and we'll respond to you as soon as possible.

Or, if you prefer, you can call or write:

DARS - Division for Rehabilitative Services
4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751
Phone: 1-800-628-5115
Email: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us

If you have questions or comments about this website email webmaster@dars.state.tx.us

DARS Web site, www.dars.state.tx.us