



# Rhode Island Department of Human Services Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)

## What is ORS?

The Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) is a division of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS). Dedicated to supporting Rhode Islanders with disabilities, ORS empowers people with disabilities who want to advance and maintain employment, independence, and integration into society. This essential State office administers the following programs and services.

### The Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR)

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR) is a State and federally funded program that assists people with disabilities find, obtain, and maintain employment. Securing employment is the focus of this program.

To be eligible for VR services, people must have a desire to work and a condition that limits job opportunities. Customers interested in participating in the VR program can download an application online and return a completed application to the Office of Rehabilitative Services, 40 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02903.

### R.I. Disability Determination Services

The Disability Determination Services (DDS) unit, which operates under a State and federal partnership, focuses on making determinations on the medical eligibility for people who have applied for either Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Financed by the Social Security Administration, the DDS unit makes formal judgements on disability applications, appeals of cases initially denied, and performs continuous disability reviews. Applications for disability benefits can be filed at any local Social Security Office or online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). Any further questions regarding DDS should be directed to 401-462-7716.

### Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI)

The Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) unit offer a variety of opportunities and supports to help people with visual impairments become more independent, active, and self-sustaining. Through targeted programs such as Vocational Rehabilitation, the Business Enterprises Program, and the Independent Living and Social Services Program, SBVI can help people thrive at home and in the community. More information about SBVI can be found at [www.ors.ri.gov/SBVI.html](http://www.ors.ri.gov/SBVI.html)

## Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program (ATEL)

The Rhode Island Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program provides landline and home telephones as well as wireless devices on loan to qualified people who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech disability, or have neuromuscular damage or disease that prevents them from using a regular telephone. Eligibility requirements do apply. An ATEL application can be found on the ORS website here: <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/adaptive-telephone-equipment-loan-program-atel/application>

## Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)

The Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) is a statewide partnership that is focused on improving access and acquisition of assistive technology for people with disabilities. Each ATAP partner offers services with a focus on assistive technology. Partners include:

Organization	Website	Email	Phone
ORS	<a href="http://www.ors.ri.gov">http://www.ors.ri.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:jennifer.fiske@ors.ri.gov">jennifer.fiske@ors.ri.gov</a>	(401) 871-1145
TechACCESS of RI	<a href="https://www.techaccess-ri.org/">https://www.techaccess-ri.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:techaccess@techaccess-ri.org">techaccess@techaccess-ri.org</a>	401.463.0202 (V/TTY)
East Bay Educational Collaborative	<a href="https://ebecri.org/assistive_technology">https://ebecri.org/assistive_technology</a>	<a href="mailto:lisa.labitt@ebecri.org">lisa.labitt@ebecri.org</a>	401-245-2045 (V)
Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)	<a href="http://www.oscil.org/">http://www.oscil.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:info@oscil.org">info@oscil.org</a>	401.738.1013 (V)
ATEL	<a href="http://www.atel.ri.gov">http://www.atel.ri.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:denise.corson@ors.ri.gov">denise.corson@ors.ri.gov</a>	401-486-3325 (V) 401-222-1679 (TTY)
Rhode Island Council on Assistive Technology	N/A	<a href="mailto:michaelmatracia@gmail.com">michaelmatracia@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:bdugas_3439@email.ric.edu">bdugas_3439@email.ric.edu</a>	N/A

### Have More Questions?

Visit our website: [www.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.dhs.ri.gov); ORS materials can be found on <https://ors.ri.gov/>

Call: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, except holidays, from 8:30AM-3:00PM

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Customer Service: 1-888-979-9939

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