

**MassAbility**

# MassAbility

## We Can Help!

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# What is MassAbility?

Formerly known as Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, or MRC

MassAbility provides a wide range of services through its three Divisions

1. Career Services (Formerly known as Vocational Rehabilitation)
2. Home and Community Life
3. Disability Determination Division

# MassAbility

## MassAbility Career Services

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Counseling and guidance

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Interest and aptitude testing

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Diagnostic evaluations

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Job placement assistance

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Job-driven training and skills training

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On the Job Training Opportunities

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College or vocational training

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Assistive technology

# MassAbility

## MassAbility Career Services

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Financial wellness (benefits counseling)

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Pre-ETS for Students (Pre-Employment Transition Services)

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School to work counseling

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Employer consultation

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Statewide employer partnerships

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Statewide network of providers

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Partnership with Independent Living Centers

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ASL interpreters

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Bilingual staff and interpreters/translation assistance

# Understanding MassAbility Services and Eligibility

MassAbility's Career Services division provides a wide range of supports to help individuals with disabilities obtain competitive, integrated careers

Eligibility for MassAbility's Career Services is made through MassAbility Connect.

Once eligible, a Job Seeker is assigned to a Career Counselor in the closest MassAbility Area Office

Upon assignment, the Career Counselor will begin working with the job seeker to develop an Individual Plan for Employment

# MassAbility Connect

[Apply for Services | Mass.gov](#)

617-204-3665

What to say: Interested in obtaining a Job  
Interested in gaining skills towards employment

What do I need to submit to MassAbility Connect?

Paperwork is not required  
DDS ISP is helpful for planning services  
Guardianship Information if applicable  
Identify your Service Coordinator



# **Can I Receive Services From MassAbility and DDS?**

## **Yes!**

**DDS Service Coordinators  
and MassAbility Career and  
Vocational Counselors work  
together to help Job  
Seekers**



## **Our shared vision:**

To increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for people who are eligible for DDS services, acknowledging that competitive integrated employment includes supported employment, customized employment and supported self-employment.

Employment provides a pathway to independence, financial well-being, dignity and inclusion.

Shared view that people with disabilities, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, should have access to the services and supports necessary to assist them in obtaining and maintaining competitive integrated employment.

Self-determination and informed choice are principles we seek to have embedded in these services and supports.



# Job Placement Services

- MassAbility's Job Placement Services focus on Competitive Integrated Employment Services
- Job Seekers can be receiving Day Services or other supports from DDS and work with a MassAbility Career Counselor
- MassAbility can provide initial Job Placement and Supports with long term supports being provided by DDS
- Many Job Placement providers work with DDS and MassAbility

# Education and Training

- MassAbility provides supports to help Job Seekers with Training and Education needed for individuals to meet their employment goals
- MassAbility participants must meet Financial Need determination to access paid Training and Education
- MassAbility offers a wide range of Job Driven Training Opportunities and Hiring Events
- MassAbility supports students accessing college through the Massachusetts Inclusive Higher Education in Partnership with DDS. MassAbility typically supports students to access Credited Courses, with DDS covering non-credited coursework and support services.



# Things to know about MassAbility Career Services

- MassAbility Career Services is not a long-term program
- Cases are typically closed 90 after successful job placement
- If a case is closed but the individual needs help on the job, the case can be reopened quickly
- Individuals can return to MassAbility after case closure by applying for a new case through MassAbility Connect
- Individuals need to meet financial need criteria for paid services, but anyone can receive counseling and guidance and job placement services regardless of financial need
- Education and Training needs to be towards the goal of employment
- All MassAbility Offices work in partnership with the DDS local offices
- Individuals can be served by MassAbility, DDS, DMH, DTA, etc at the same time, but services can not be duplicative



# Other Programs Offered by MassAbility

# Pre-Employment Transition Services

- MassAbility partners with High Schools across the state to connect with students with disabilities
- MassAbility contracts with community providers to provide Pre-ETS services to students ages 14-22
- Students can be in public schools, residential schools, home schooled or in college
- Pre-ETS help students learn about career opportunities, develop the skills needed to go to work, Self Advocacy and explore Post-Secondary training and education
- Services can be provided in schools, remotely, at community locations and in work settings during paid and unpaid internships

# MassAbility Home and Community Life

- Assistive Technology
- Adaptive Vehicle Modifications
- Home Modification Loan Program
- At Home Care
- Adult Supported Living
- Independent Living Centers
- Brain Injury Services (SHIP)
- Moving Forward Program (ABI Waiver)
- Brain Injury Resources including Clubhouses
- Benefits Counseling



# How can we help?

- Individuals and families can learn more about MassAbility at [Mass.gov/orgs/MassAbility](https://Mass.gov/orgs/MassAbility)
- We have 20 offices across the state. Feel free to call an office and ask to speak with the Area Director or Supervisor to learn about the services in your area and the intake process
- Identifying that the individual is eligible for DDS services helpful when meeting with Career Counselors. Helps both agencies coordinate together to braid services to best support the job seeker.

**MassAbility**