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The Hidden Opportunity Medical-Based College Funding Formula

Script and Steps to Qualify for the Hidden Opportunity Medical-Based College Funding Formula

This little-known funding plan helps students with documented medical, learning, or mental-health conditions, ranging from ADHD, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, allergies to chronic health issues and genetic disorders, may qualify for special educational support that can reduce college costs and fund career training.

Arizona Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- <https://des.az.gov/services/employment/rehabilitation-services/vocational-rehabilitation-vr>
- Arizona VR form <https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/dl/RSA-1298A.pdf>

To Qualify for the VR Vocational Rehabilitation program "Education and Training Services" the student must have a medical condition that has some impact on their future employment.

This program may pay for tuition and may cover housing. This program could cover undergraduate degree, graduate degree and vocational schools.

It can take 90 days after the interview to get approved.

Here are the steps

1. Call the VR and make an appointment.
2. Tell the VR that you want to make an appointment with a VR Counselor
3. If asked why you want an appointment or what type of services, say you are interested in applying for "Education and Training Services"
 - a. I am interested in education and training services.
 - b. If asked for more information tell them, I have a medical condition that will impact my future employment and I would like to discuss this with a VR counselor.
4. Before you go to the VR appointment, you need to be prepared
 - a. Gather any and all medical documentation
 - b. If you can get a doctor to write a letter that says you have a medical condition that will impact future employment, that will help
 - c. Bring a copy of your high school (or college) transcripts

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- d. Look up and research your medical condition and write out some bullet points, does your medical condition cause fatigue, hard to concentrate, unable to sit or stand for long periods. Research this so that you can give the VR counselor a reason for them to say yes.
- e. When preparing for the application process, you need to ask yourself what jobs or types of work might be difficult to perform because of your medical condition. Come up with a few examples as this will help the VR counselor to more likely say yes.
- f. For example, I would say yes, I have severe animal allergies particularly cats. If I work around cats my lungs and nasal passages swell up and make it very difficult to breath, in addition to that my eyes water excessively to a point where my vision is blurred. I cannot work around cats and other animals.
5. When you go in for the interview, the VR Counselor may ask you if you have a medical condition that will impact future employment. You need to answer YES.
 - a. Explain your medical condition, don't assume they are aware of the symptoms or problems with your medical condition.
 - b. For example, I would say yes, I have severe animal allergies particularly cats. If I work around cats my lungs and nasal passages swell up and make it very difficult to breath, in addition to that my eyes water excessively to a point that my vision is blurred. I cannot work around cats and other animals.
6. In the VR interview, tell the VR counselor your desire to get educated (finish up your education in _____ field.)
 - a. You MUST have a career path that you are considering that will lead to employment. Telling the VR counselor that you don't know what to study in college will not help. I want to be a ____ and I want to study _____.
7. After the interview, in person thank the VR counselor, and get their business card with their email and phone number.
 - a. After the interview, send the VR counselor an email reiterating and thanking them again. *Thank you for taking the time to talk to me about the Education and Training Services program. If you require any other documentation or anything else, please contact me at 480-555-5555 or email myemail@email.com. Sincerely Firstname Lastname*
8. When you are approved, the VR department will contact you with the next steps which may be another in-person appointment.

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- a. Once approved, the VR department will ask you which college to send the funds to.
 - b. You may be required to submit a FAFSA form as the VR may want to exhaust any other resources first.
 - c. The VR counselor may want to meet with you once or twice a semester, to keep you on track and to make sure you are doing what is needed to get a degree.
 - d. You will be required to keep a minimum GPA while in college and in grad school.
9. Once you graduate college or grad school, the VR department may continue to work with you, periodically checking in and or assisting you with job searches.

YOU MUST BE A FULL TIME STUDENT TO QUALIFY FOR TUITION BENEFITS