

# **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission**

**Milford Area Office  
508-478-0700**

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands. From top to bottom, the bands are light blue, black, dark grey, and white with a fine diagonal line pattern.

# MRC Milford office Staff

■ **Director** – Amy Partelow

■ **Supervisor** – Tracie Bianco

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors:**


Jill Richard

Ashley Self

Melissa Ratcliffe




# Mass Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)

- A state and federally funded agency that assists individuals with disabilities to enter, maintain, or retain employment.
  - MRC is an Eligibility Program NOT an Entitlement Program.
  - MRC touches the lives of 150,000 people with disabilities each year.
  - The MRC Vocational Program assists people with physical, psychiatric and/or significant learning disabilities face the challenges of the modern workplace.
- 

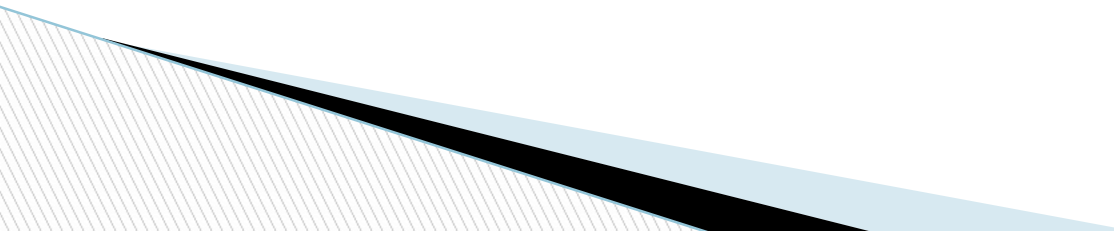
# HOW CAN MRC HELP MY STUDENTS?

Each MRC area Office assigns a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor as the primary liaison to the High Schools in their catchment area.

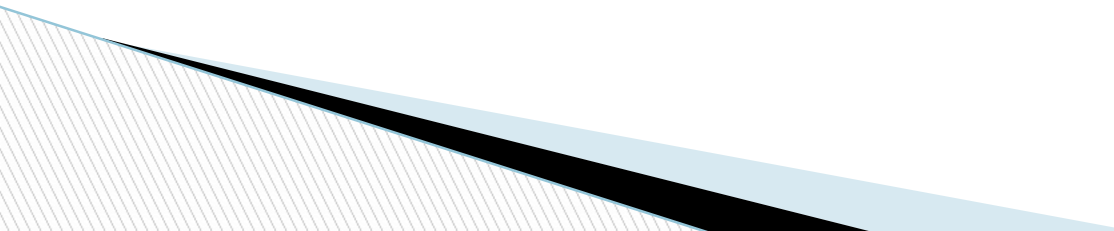
Each liaison is responsible for the following:

- ❑ Developing relationships with appropriate personnel
  - ❑ Communicating current information about MRC to the high school staff.
  - ❑ Ensuring that referral procedures are clear and available
  - ❑ Educating referral sources about MRC 688 services
  - ❑ Attending IEP meetings as deemed appropriate
  - ❑ Attending Transition meetings
  - ❑ Works with Pre-ets providers (WOU)
- 

# When to refer a student

- ❑ Referrals can be made by the school via a 688 referral or by contacting the local MRC office directly.
  - ❑ 688 students must be receiving special education services, be in need of continuing adult services, **and** be unable to work 20 or more hours per week in competitive, non-sheltered or non-supported employment.
  - ❑ 688 Referrals should include the Year of graduation and the student's social security number.
  - ❑ Students with IEP plans, 504 plans, and/or physical disabilities should also be considered for referral
  - ❑ Students should be referred two years before graduation
- 

# MRC Process

- ❑ Referral
  - ❑ Initial Interview
  - ❑ Eligibility determination (or not)
  - ❑ Order Of Selection – based on significance of disability
  - ❑ IPE (individual plan for employment)
  - ❑ Implementation of IPE (services to prepare student to work)
  - ❑ Ready for employment
  - ❑ Consumer Employed!!!!
  - ❑ Successful Closure -90 days after employment began
- 

# Eligibility and Priority Determination

1 An individual must have a “most significant physical or mental impairment, which seriously limits four (4) or more functional capacities.”

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

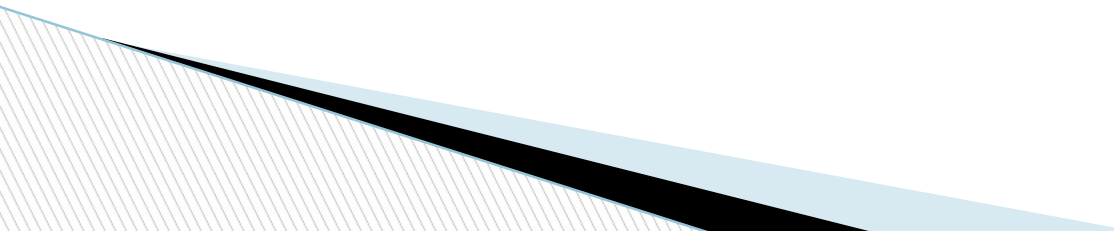
2 And in regard to employment...

3 Is expected to require two or more distinct vocational rehabilitation services within the following categories:

- Vocational/other training
- Interpreter services
- Diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental impairments
- Occupational licenses, tools, equipment
- Technical assistance, business plans self-employment support
- Rehabilitation technology (telecommunications or technological aids)
- Supported employment services.

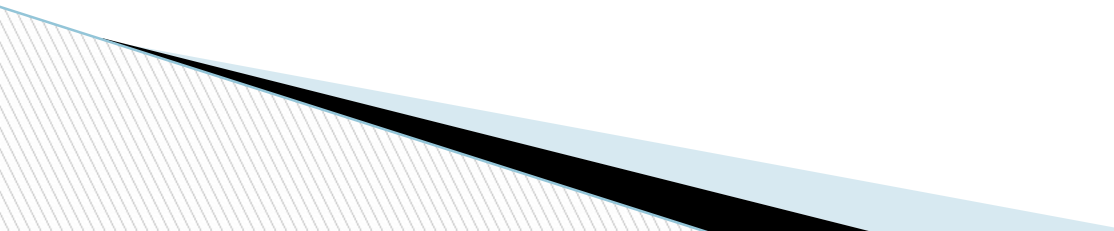
4 All of which will be needed over six (6) months or more

# Financial Eligibility

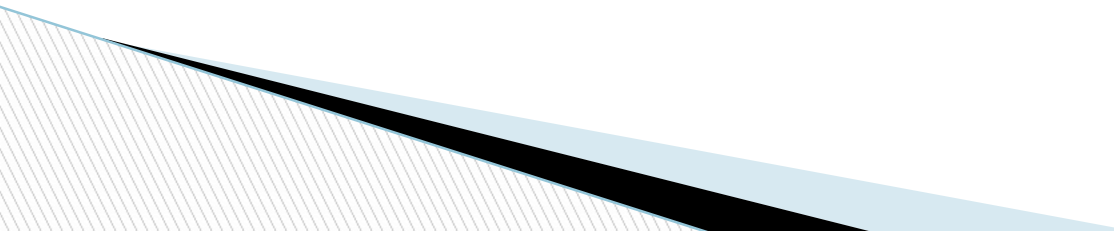
- ❑ Paid services are dependent on an individual's financial need and the availability of funds. (Career development, assessment, and job placement services are provided to all eligible individuals regardless of financial need).
  - ❑ SSI/SSDI Documentation/eligibility can preclude the need for parent's tax information
  - ❑ Parent's income is considered for all student's. Taxable income from 1040 tax form.
- 



**The following is a list of many (but not all) of the VR services MRC provides. Since every person is unique and will have different goals or needs, individuals will not necessarily receive all of the following services, but will receive those services appropriate to their individual situation.**

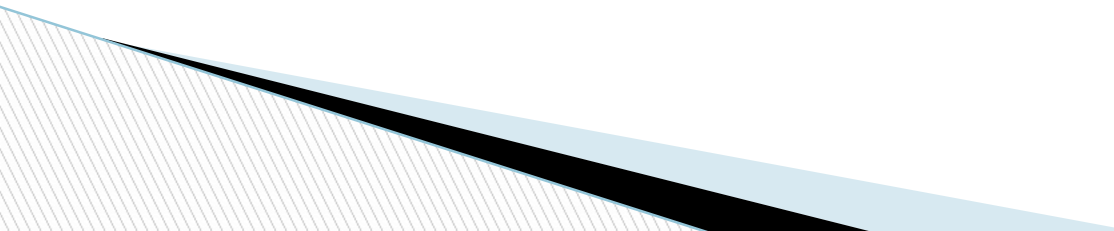
- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
  - Assessment of Aptitude, Interests and Skills
  - Referral to Individual Therapy or Medical Treatment pertaining to disability
  - Benefits Planning
  - Job Seeking Assistance
  - Individualized Job Placement and Job Coaching
  - Job Retention Services
  - Assistive Technology
  - Vehicle Modifications
  - Housing Modifications
  - School to work transition services for High School students
  - College or Educational Training
- 

# What can a parent do?

- ❑ Participate in IEP meetings as the students plan develops, particularly around transition planning.
  - ❑ Parent involvement is necessary prior to age 18, encouraged after age 18, but at the students request
  - ❑ Stay in touch with the student's VR Counselor to make sure planning for post-high school activities is consistent with the plans they and their child have been making with the high school.
- 

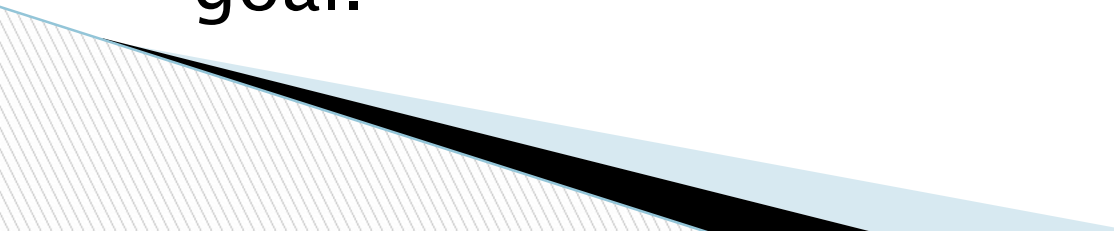
# Who will make the decisions about student's VR program?

The student and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will make the final decisions that fit his/her own career interests, choices and goals.

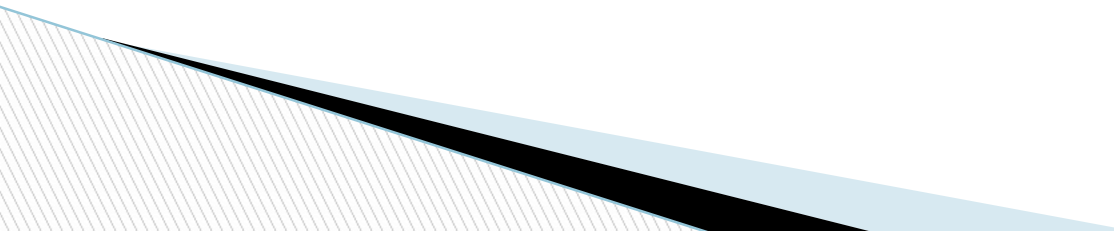
- ❑ The best situation is one in which everyone works together.
  - ❑ When their IEP (school) is complete, their IPE (MRC) begins.
  - ❑ An Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) is a plan for VR services needed to enable students to reach their career goals.
- 

# Individual Plan for Employment

An IPE is like a contract, outlining who is going to do what in order for the individual to be successfully employed. It includes:

- ▣ Services that MRC will provide
  - ▣ Paid and non-paid services
  - ▣ Vocational Needs
  - ▣ Short term goals related to their vocational goal.
- 

# EMPLOYMENT

- ❑ After the consumer has completed services in their IPE, it is expected they will go to work.
  - ❑ After the consumer is working 90 days, the case will be closed successfully.
  - ❑ Post-employment services – support necessary to retain the job in which the individual was doing when the case was closed.
- 

# MRC Milford Area Office

Serving the following communities:

Bellingham

Blackstone

Douglas

Franklin

Grafton

Hopedale

Medway

Mendon

Milford

Millis

Millis

Millville

Norfolk

Northbridge

Plainville

Sutton

Upton

Uxbridge

Whitinsville

Wrentham

# Milford MRC

Massachusetts Rehabilitation  
Commission

100 Medway Road  
Milford MA 01757

508-478-0700 – phone

508-634-0746 - fax

