

## **VR 101: History, System & Process**

### **Understanding the History of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program**

While vocational rehabilitation has been a federally funded program for more than 75 years, its processes and functions often vary from state to state and change in tandem with the introduction of new legislation. Such variability can create challenges for interpreters who work in this setting. However, there are fundamental goals and objectives guiding the work of VR that transcend individual state protocols and clarifying legislation. It is important that the interpreter working in the VR setting have a solid understanding of the foundational components of VR. More specifically, interpreters should have an understanding of:

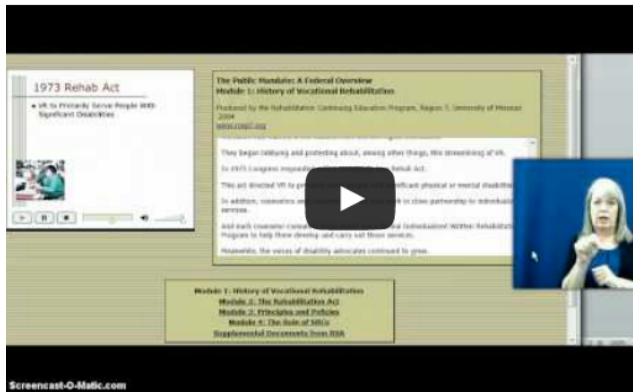
- the purpose of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program;
- related legislation and social movement roots that led to and support VR;
- the Titles of the Rehabilitation Act;
- how VR benefits the tax payer and society; and
- how VR varies from state to state at a global level.

This page has a presentation focusing on the history and context of vocational rehabilitation. The video includes ASL interpretation. Below that, there is a link to view the original presentation on the website of the Minnesota Council on Developmental Disabilities. Below that, you can read the English transcripts of the presentation. Use whatever format is most beneficial for your learning.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

- What was the original impetus for public rehabilitation?
- How has the definition of who has been eligible to be served by VR changed over the years?
- What values related to work and independence continue to be a guiding principle of VR services?

## The Roots of Public Rehabilitation



To access the presentation click here: <http://youtu.be/boG0LvAtOUM>

*Originally produced in 2004 by the University of Missouri's Disability Policy & Studies office (formerly RCEP 7) under a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) as part of the RSA National SRC Training Initiative. Produced and written by Scott Standifer. For more information contact Disability Policy & Studies at 573 882-3807.*

*Interpretation is provided through the MARIE Center.*

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