

What Are the Priority Categories?

There are three priority categories. Individuals will be served in the following order of priority under the Order of Selection, once there is a sufficient amount of division resources.

**Priority Category 1: (MSD)
Most Significant Disability**

An eligible individual determined to have a severe physical or mental impairment that seriously limits two (2) or more functional capacities and who requires three (3) or more VR services for an extended period of time.

**Priority Category 2: (SD)
Significant Disability**

An eligible individual determined to have a severe physical or mental impairment that seriously limits one (1) or more functional capacities and who requires two (2) or more VR services for an extended period of time.

**Priority Category 3: (NSD)
Non-Significant Disability**

All other individuals determined eligible for VR services.

Where Else May I Seek Services?

Your VR counselor will provide you information and referral services to help you find services through other agencies and entities, such as information about the One-Stop Centers in your area for employment assistance.

**What If I Do Not Agree with My
Priority Category Assignment?**

If you do not agree with the decision, you have the right to appeal through mediation and/or hearing. Your counselor will inform you about the appeal options.

You may also ask for assistance from the Client Assistance Program which provides help to inform, advise and advocate for VR applicants and clients, upon request.

Client Assistance Program (CAP)
Hawaii Disability Rights Center
1132 Bishop St. Suite 2102
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: (Oahu) 949-2922 (V/TT)
Neighbor Islands: 1-800-882-1057
Email: info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org
Web: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

Additional information may be found on
the VR website at
<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/vr/>

UNDERSTANDING

ORDER

OF

SELECTION



**State of Hawaii
Department of Human Services Division
of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

**1010 Richards Suite 217
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
PH: (808) 586-9745**

What is Order of Selection?

The Order of Selection (OOS) is a systematic way to serve eligible individuals when the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) program is unable to serve all eligible individuals who have applied for services. Federal law requires that individuals with the most significant disability be given first priority and served first. It requires that individuals in the other categories will be served in priority order as funds become available.

This is called an Order of Selection (OOS). These OOS categories are called priority categories. The VR program opens and closes priority categories based on available resources.

How Does OOS Affect Services?

If you are eligible for VR services, your counselor will assign you to one of the priority categories. If your priority category is open, you will be served. If it is closed, you will be notified that you are on a waiting list.

May a VR Office Serve More Categories than Another Office?

No. The VR program is statewide. All offices will serve the same categories when they are open.

If I Go on the Waiting List, When Will I Be Served?

The decision whether to open priority categories will be made annually. You will be notified as soon as your category opens. You will be notified quarterly that you are on the waiting list and given a number to call if you want to be removed from the waiting list. We will keep your name on the waiting list for as long as you choose to do so.

If My Priority Category is Not Open, Will My Case Be Closed After a Certain Period of Time?

No. Your case will remain open until:

- ❖ Information is available that would allow it to be reclassified to a higher priority category; or
- ❖ Funding becomes available to provide services to eligible individuals in other priority categories; or
- ❖ You and your counselor agree that your case should be closed.

If I Receive SSI or SSDI, do I Automatically Receive Vocational Rehabilitation Services?

No. A person who receives Social Security Disability Insurance benefits (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Insurance payments (SSI) as a result of disability or blindness is presumed to be eligible with *at least* a significant disability. But, this does not mean that you will automatically receive VR services. You will be assigned to a priority category and served if your category is open.

Is the Priority Category Affected by the Cost of the Services that I Need or if My Financial Resources are Limited?

No. No other factors can be used to determine assignment to a priority category, including the cost of service, income level and financial resources.

Will I Be Assigned to a Higher Priority Category if My Condition and Limitations Get Worse?

Any time that your disability and limitations get worse, you should ask for a re-evaluation of your priority category and provide any further medical or psychological documentation that is available.