

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC)

A Resource Agency for People with Disabilities



Vocational Services

Overview

A key aspect of independence is financial self-reliance which often involves employment. SVILC's Vocational Services Department offers comprehensive services that help Consumers find and maintain jobs. To meet a variety of Consumer needs, the Vocational Services Department addresses training and assessment and provides employment services.

By eliminating barriers to employment and increasing the chances of successful job retention, SVILC assists persons with disabilities in joining the workforce, becoming more self-sufficient, and contributing to the economy.

Training and Assessment

Computer Training

Computer classes focus on work-related understanding of computer operations and software applications. Students receive one-on-one training in a computer lab, which is equipped with ergonomic workstations and adaptive devices customized to meet each individual's needs. Classes are self-paced and a self-study lab is available for those who need extra practice.

Functional Assessment

An Occupational Therapist works with Consumers to determine their level of function and physical endurance as it pertains to finding and keeping a job.

Personal Vocational Social Adjustment (PVSA)

PVSA is a unique service for Consumers who would like to work but are facing barriers that prevent them from finding employment. PVSA provides one-on-one training in areas such as personal hygiene, grooming, social skills, and work etiquette.

Vocational Assessment

Skills assessment tools and an in-depth interview are used to assist Consumers in determining areas of career interest and possible job matches.

Employment Services

Job Preparation and Placement

Vocational Specialists assist Consumers in obtaining employment that is a fit with their particular skills. The specialists provide an assessment of vocational abilities and help determine realistic job goals. They also help Consumers with job preparation services such as resume writing methods, interview skills, and job search techniques.

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Vocational Services (continued)

Job placement services, including help with applications and interview arrangement and accompaniment, are offered to Consumers. To assist Consumers with adjustment and success in the workplace, follow-up services are available for 90 days after each competitive job placement.

The recently introduced **Job Club** includes four, half-day workshops designed to develop pre-employment skills and increase job marketability. This group experience addresses a full-range of job search strategies, presents a comprehensive approach to the process, and adds in an element of personal accountability.

Job Coaching

Job Coaches act as liaisons between Consumers and employers. The coaches help Consumers maintain employment by providing support, mentoring, advocacy, and mediation. They also assist with job task analysis and training.

Worksite Assessment

Once a Consumer is on-the-job, worksite evaluations are done to determine the adaptability of the worksite to the Consumer's individual needs. The evaluations involve assessments of the workspace and/or computer workstation.

Ergonomic restructuring, which can include adaptive equipment may be implemented, improving work areas for employees with disabilities.

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SVILC services are also available at satellite offices at work2future One-Stop Centers in Morgan Hill and San Jose. Please contact SVILC's Main Office for details.

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