Understanding Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Your state’s Vocational Rehabilitation office is an important resource available for our deaf and hard of hearing students to help you plan and finance a college education. Financial assistance to deaf and hard of hearing students is often provided by state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies. State VR agency titles vary from state to state. You find information from a state-by-state dictionary below.

- A state-by-state dictionary of VR agencies (http://askjan.org/cgi-win/TypeQuery.exe?902)

During your junior or senior years in high school, you may begin the application process with VR. Your local VR agency will determine if you are eligible for services. To be eligible, you must have an impairment that results in a substantial impediment to employment.

Among the services that may be provided by VR agencies to you once you become a client are:

- Tuition expenses
- Books and supplies
- Room and board
- Transportation

To be eligible for services through VR, your student must meet the following federally mandated guidelines:

- Your student must have a documented physical, mental, emotional or learning disability that has a significant impact on your student’s ability to get or keep a job.
- Your student must require VR services to find, keep and succeed in a job.

Meeting with a VR counselor in your area can help you determine if you are eligible for their services.

- Vocational Rehabilitation (http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/index.html)
- Frequently asked questions about VR (http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/faq.html#vrp)