Administration

Connie Lee Berg, Director is a Certified Prevention Specialist and recognized Facilitator for certifying Prevention Specialists.

Donna M. Sumner
Employment Specialist
Shirley McNeal
Data Entry
Melanie Neadeau
Secretary

Program Information

The Red Lake Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program (RLVR) started operations for the Red Lake Nation in October, 1992. Our Federal funding is received from the Rehabilitation Services Administration- (Department of Education) Washington, DC.

We work with many agencies and programs at the Local, State and National levels.

- The main objective is to work with American Indian people with disabilities in securing employment.
- All program participants must be: enrolled members of a Federally Recognized Tribe (verification is required.)
- The services provided are all based on needs identified while developing an Individualized Employment Plan.
- Residency on the Red Lake Indian Reservation (Federal requirement.)
- VR services are required to secure long term employment due to disability

VR is not intended to be an employment agency.
The services provided are to address disability related employment obstacles.

Other Information

The Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companion Program hold monthly meetings with Red Lake participant workers. A calendar is provided to the participants for the scheduled date and location.

The Student Transition/Work Orientation Program is for

Enrolled Native American students
Age 16 years and older
Residing on the Red Lake Reservation.

Students are assigned to various sites in the community to learn employment skills. This is for students with an I.E.P. recorded.
The following are services available through this program:

- Foster Grandparent Program
- Senior Companion Program
- N.I.C.O.A. Program
- Student Work Orientation
- Referrals - specialized support

The Director works closely with National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (N.I.C.O.A.) and with The Special Education Staff of Red Lake.

The Employment Specialist works closely with the Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program.

Service Information

There must be an employment outcome for a person to receive vocational rehabilitation services. The services provided are time-limited and planned services as recorded on an individualized plan for employment. Services are provided to the extent that financial support is not readily available from another source and addresses the disability-related impediment (barrier) to employment. Some of the services provided (intended to provide) includes:

- A thorough and complete assessment to determine eligibility and rehabilitation needs
- Counseling and guidance
- Referral and other support to secure needed services from other agencies
- Job-related services, including job search, placement assistance, follow-up and follow-along services
- Specialized support for individuals with the most severe disabilities that enables community involvement (10 Hrs/week)
- Rehabilitation Technology

Based on current regulations, the rehabilitation administration is given 60 days to make an eligibility determination. The assigned staff person will review your situation, receive your application, explain the program and services available, collect your medical and eligibility documentation and determine if they will recommend eligibility.