

# News Release

**November 1, 2022**

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## Public invited to comment on changes to Vocational Rehabilitation dispute resolution process

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is seeking public comment on changes to its administrative rules. The public may testify at public hearings or submit written comments through Dec. 20, 2022.

VR seeks input on proposed changes to the process clients may follow if they disagree with a VR decision, outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) [582 Division 20](#): Dispute Resolution and Review of Determinations of Rehabilitation Services. All input will be reviewed, and the proposed rules may be modified as a result of public input during this period.

Specifically, VR proposes to amend the following:

- Clients will have 30 days to respond to a written notice that VR plans to end services because it cannot locate or has had no contact with the client, and they have not participated in services. All other notices of proposed action continue to provide the client with 60 days to respond.
- Clarify the rule contents generally and review grammar and plain language.
- Review and update legal references and names of forms and organizations, as needed.
- Remove gender designations (replace he/she, his/hers with they, them, theirs).
- Change all references of Notices of Action (NOA) to Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA).

- Definitions for Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) and “Unable to locate or contact the individual” have been added.

The proposed rules are posted on the [VR Policies web page](#).

Updates to OAR 582 align with requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), enacted July 22, 2014, ([Public Law No. 113-128](#)) and with state and federal requirements.

## How to comment or provide testimony:

- Email: Send comments to [VR.Policy@dhs.oha.state.or.us](mailto:VR.Policy@dhs.oha.state.or.us)
- Mail: Send written testimony to:
  - Oregon Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Robin Brandt, Policy Analyst
  - 500 Summer Street NE, E-87 Salem, Oregon 97310-1018
- [Attend](#) one of two virtual public hearings scheduled Nov. 29 and Dec. 7.

## Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held virtually on [Zoom](#). Participants may join the meeting using the link provided or dial in by phone listed on the [VR Policy web page](#). Staff will be available for comments during the entire hearing. The hearings will be recorded. ASL interpretation and live captioning will be provided at every public hearing.

- Nov. 29, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Dec. 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

To receive notice of future public hearings, [subscribe](#) to email updates from Vocational Rehabilitation.

## Accommodation Requests

You can request accommodation in other languages, large print, braille, or any other format you prefer to submit public comment or attend a public hearing. Contact Robin Brandt at 503-507-5226 or by email at [VR.Policy@dhs.oha.state.or.us](mailto:VR.Policy@dhs.oha.state.or.us). We accept calls from all forms of relay service for people who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. Please let us know of any accommodations at least a week in advance. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

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**About Vocational Rehabilitation:** ODHS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) assists individuals with disabilities to get and keep a job or advance in their career that matches their skills, interests and abilities. VR staff work in partnership with the community and businesses to provide services that are individualized to help each eligible person receive services that are essential to their employment success