

NC DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Section:	F
Title:	Family Member Services
Current Effective Date:	02/08
Revision History:	Revised 01/05

Family member means an individual who is either (a) a relative by blood/marriage, (b) representative/guardian of an individual with disabilities or (c) lives in the same household as the individual with disabilities and has a substantial interest in the well-being of the individual and whose receipt of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services is necessary to enable the VR program individual to achieve an employment outcome.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor may authorize VR services to family members of the individual when necessary to enable the individual with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome. Services must be identified in the individual's Individual Plan of Employment (IPE) (On-Line DSB-4005b-VR Individual Plan for Employment with instructions) and be consistent with the individual's Informed Choice (IC). Examples of services, but not limited to: dependent or child care, Transportation (transportation), room and board, personal and incidental expenses. Except when needed to access rehabilitation approved diagnostic and evaluation services, services provided to family member are subject to individual Financial Responsibilities/Economic Need Requirements participation (On-Line DSB-4040-VR Economic Need Survey with instructions), comparable benefits and purchasing policies and procedures: Fees for Services and Vendors and Assistive Devices/Equipment.

DSB gives preference for in-state vendors. The individual may choose an out-of state vendor that may be at a higher or lower cost than an in-state vendor. If either the out-of-state or in-state vendor will meet the individual's rehabilitation needs, DSB will not be responsible for those costs in excess of the cost of the in-state vendor. However, if the individual chooses an out-of-state vendor at a cheaper cost than an in-state vendor and both vendors will meet the need, the individual may choose the out-of-state vendor. Any exceptions should be reviewed and approved by the Area Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor or his/her designee, as appropriate.

Duration of services is based upon individual needs; services should substantially contribute to the individual's program and must be reflected in the individual's IPE.

Case documentation (On-Line DSB-4011-VR Case Progress Notes with instructions) must include how the service is necessary to enable the individual to achieve an employment outcome; i.e., without these services, the individual would be unable to begin or continue the IPE, which may result in delayed employment or unachievable employment.