

## Locations

### Bemidji

616 America Ave. N.W., Suite 300  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
Phone: (218) 308-2080 or 1-888-234-1116  
Fax: (218) 755-0010

### Duluth

525 Lake Ave. S., Suite 330  
Duluth, MN 55802-2368  
Phone: (218) 733-7810  
Fax: (218) 723-2362

### Mankato

Mankato Place  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1650  
Mankato, MN 56001-7781  
Phone: (507) 304-6267  
Fax: (507) 389-2746

### Rochester

Atrium Professional Building  
401 16th Street S.E., Suite 208  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: (507) 206-2374 or 1-800-657-3950  
Fax: (507) 280-5535

### St. Cloud

3400 First Street N., Suite 405  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
Phone: (320) 258-2050 or 1-800-657-3749  
Fax: (320) 255-3951

### St. Paul

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry  
*(Physical address)*  
443 Lafayette Road N.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
  
*(Mailing address)*  
P.O. Box 64223  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0223  
  
Phone: (651) 284-5038 or 1-888-772-5500  
Fax: (651) 284-5734

Version0116



# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION UNIT



**Helping injured workers  
get back to work**



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**

[www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

## About VRU

The Department of Labor and Industry's Vocational Rehabilitation unit (VRU) provides vocational rehabilitation services to injured workers whose claims have been denied by the employer/insurer. The legislative rationale was labeled "early (vocational rehabilitation) intervention" to provide needed vocational assistance to injured workers prior to, rather than after, a determination of liability by the courts.

These services are provided or coordinated by vocational rehabilitation counselors who are registered as qualified rehabilitation consultants (QRCs) and are neutral parties in the rehabilitation process. They are professionals who have knowledge of medical factors, local labor markets and statutes concerning rehabilitation within Minnesota's workers' compensation law. Injured workers have the right to choose a QRC and to take an active part in developing their own written rehabilitation plan.

Although all injured workers may be eligible, VRU primarily serves claims where liability is denied by the insurer. The unit has 12 QRCs and six placement staff members in six regional locations throughout Minnesota.

## VRU goals

Under Minnesota Statutes § 176.102, vocational rehabilitation is provided to injured workers who meet certain criteria. Rehabilitation is designed to:

- restore the injured worker to a job related to his or her former employment, or
- return the injured worker to a job in another work area that produces an economic status as close as possible to what he or she would have enjoyed without a disability.

## Making a consultation request

In the case of a denied claim or a dispute about medical causation, to qualify for services provided by VRU the injured worker or their attorney needs to initiate a dispute by filing a claim petition or an objection to discontinuance with the court. The injured worker may then contact VRU to request a consultation.

## Cost

Unless agreed to in a settlement, injured workers do not have to pay for VRU services. The costs for service are paid by insurance carriers, self-insured employers or special state funds.

## More information

For information about workers' compensation benefits, call the Department of Labor and Industry's workers' compensation hotline at (651) 284-5000 or 1-800-342-5354.

For more information about VRU services, contact the nearest office (see reverse).



Vocational counseling



Medical management



Job-seeking skills training



Return-to-work services

## Rehabilitation consultation and eligibility

A rehabilitation consultation is a meeting between the injured employee and a QRC to determine whether the employee is eligible for rehabilitation services. According to Minnesota Rules Part 5220.0100, subp. 22, an employee is eligible if, because of the effects of an injury or disease, whether or not combined with the effects of a prior injury or disability, the employee:

- is permanently precluded or is likely to be permanently precluded from engaging in the employee's usual and customary occupation or from engaging in the job the employee had at the time of injury;
- cannot reasonably be expected to return to suitable, gainful employment with the date-of-injury employer;
- can reasonably be expected to return to suitable, gainful employment through the provision of rehabilitation services, considering the treating physician's opinion of the employee's work ability.

To determine the employee's eligibility for rehabilitation services, the QRC speaks not only with the employee, but also the employer and the treating doctor, when necessary.

When the employee is eligible for rehabilitation services, a rehabilitation plan will be written, agreed to, signed by all parties and filed with the Department of Labor and Industry. The QRC will provide the services necessary to complete the plan, which may include the following.

- Medical management
- Vocational evaluation
- Job analysis
- Job development
- Labor-market survey
- On-the-job training
- Work adjustment
- Retraining assessment
- Return-to-work assistance
- Vocational counseling
- Job modification
- Job placement
- Vocational testing
- Job-seeking skills training
- Transferable skills analysis
- Retraining planning