



The Reunion Project
NOLA Regional Town Hall Webinar
July 21, 2020

Following Up for Help with Employment
in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas

Selected Key Listings: Employment Services and Resources

Types of listings (following these descriptions, by state):

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Individual services and resources for people with disabilities who need assistance to gain or maintain employment. Can link participants with training, education, evaluation, self-employment supports, job search assistance, supplies, licenses, fees, equipment, among a broader range of resources based on individual needs, preferences, goals, experience, and opportunities. These services are centered on the collaborative relationship between the participant and their vocational rehabilitation counselor – it is wise to be thoughtful in establishing and developing this relationship. Much may spring from it.

American Job Centers: information, services, and resources to help jobseekers connect with employers and employment opportunities. Your local American Job Center probably has another name (like Job1, or Employ BR, or One Stop Career Centers, or WIN Job Center, or Mobile Works, etc.), does not require disclosure of any disability, chronic health condition, or other personal history, but may have programs and resources for people with specific barriers to employment (e.g., youth, veterans, histories including incarceration, dislocated workers, etc.). Don't hesitate to ASK for detailed information about special services and resources related to specific eligibility requirements.

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program: nationwide network of programs with certified benefits specialists trained and credentialed to provide accurate, up-to-date, and individualized information to people receiving Social Security disability benefits (SSI and/or SSDI) focused on advisement for starting or continuing work while receiving disability benefits. There is a WIPA provider identified to serve each county in the country. To find your local WIPA provider, go to: choosework.net (then click "Find Help," then "Direct Search," choose "Benefits Counseling (WIPA)" and enter your zip code, then click "Update Results."

Small Business Administration (SBA): federal agency with a network of state and local offices providing assistance to those who're starting or strengthening small businesses. Associated programs include the Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, SCORE, and Veteran Business Outreach Centers.

For the national SBA Learning Center and Business Guide, go to: sba.gov

Find local SBA offices at: sba.gov/local-assistance/find

Alabama

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency:

Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS) - Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

<http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/services/vr>

Find your local Alabama Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS) office:

<http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/documents/office/adrs%20locations%2007072020.pdf>

(note: the Vocational Rehabilitation Service local office listings begin on the 3rd page, listed alphabetically by community)

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program:

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Service

Phone: 1-800-441-7604

<http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/documents/office/adrs%20locations%2007072020.pdf>

American Job Centers:

AlabamaWorks

<https://alabamaworks.com/resources/>

American Job Centers – find your local American Job Center location:

<https://alabamaworks.com/map/>

Louisiana

Community-based HIV Employment Programs:

Getting To Work/HOPWA – Open Health Care Clinic, Baton Rouge

Phone: 1-225-655-6422

<https://www.ohcc.org/social-services>

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency:

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) – Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Phone: 1-800-737-2958

http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS_Rehabilitation.asp

Find your local district office:

http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS_RegionalOffices.asp

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Programs:

South Louisiana:

Disability Rights Louisiana WIPA

Phone: 1-855-877-8599

<https://disabilityrightsla.org/how-we-can-help/wipa-work-incentives-planning-assistance/>

Parishes covered by DRLA throughout South Louisiana include: Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Livingston, Many, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Union, Vermillion, & Washington

North Louisiana:

Louisiana Benefits Planning Services - LSU Human Development Center WIPA

Phone: 1-855-886-5123

<https://www.hdc.lsuohsc.edu/labps>

Parishes covered by **Louisiana Benefits Planning Services** include: Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, Jeff Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Landry, Tensas, Vernon, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, & Winn

American Job Centers – find your local American Job Center location:

http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/WFD/AJC_Contacts.pdf

Mississippi

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency:

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

<https://www.mdrs.ms.gov/Pages/FAQs.aspx#01>

Phone: 1-800-443-1000

Find your local district office:

<https://www.mdrs.ms.gov/About/Pages/Location-Finder.aspx>

Phone: 1-800-443-1000

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program:

Mississippi Partners for Informed Choice

1-866-968-7842

<https://www.mdrs.ms.gov/Publications/Brochures/MPIC-Bifold.pdf>

American Job Centers – find your local American Job Center location:

<https://mdes.ms.gov/win-job-centers/>

<https://mdes.ms.gov/i-need-a-job/job-searching-resources/e-win-access-points/>

Texas

Community-based HIV Employment Programs:

Project Good Hope – Goodwill Houston

Phone: 1-713-699-6317

<https://www.goodwillhouston.org>

http://www.rwpchouston.org/bluebook/bbapp/social-support/employment-and-training/employment_training--goodwill_industries_of_houston---project_good_hope.html

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency:

Texas Workforce Solutions – Vocational Rehabilitation Services

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services>

Phone: 1-800-628-5115

customers@twc.state.tx.us

Find your local TWC-Vocational Rehabilitation Services office:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/offices/vr-general-services.html>

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program:

To find your local WIPA provider, go to: choosework.net (then click “Find Help,” then “Direct Search,” choose “Benefits Counseling (WIPA)” and enter your zip code, then click “Update Results”)

https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/result?p_sort=alphabetical&option=2&resStr=wipa&stateStr=TX&p_pagesize=25&p_pagenum=1

Current WIPA listings covering the counties of Texas:

Austin: Arcil, Inc. (800-414-6327/512-832-6349)

Crockett: Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living (866-272-4527/936-544-2811)

Fort Worth: Easter Seals of North Texas (888-617-7171 x1003/817-759-7929)

Houston: Houston Center for Independent Living (877-877-7082/713-974-4621)

Stephenville: Imagine Enterprises, Inc. (888-437-4213/254-434-9369)

American Job Centers – find your local American Job Center location:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services>