# **Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual B-300: Determining Eligibility**

Revised April 1, 2022

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## **B-310: Trial Work Services**

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### B-310-3: Trial Work Experience

All policies throughout the VRSM that are related to purchasing, arranging, or providing specific goods or services for VR customers apply to customers that are receiving trial work services. If a good or service has special requirements or restrictions for eligible customers, those same requirements and restrictions apply to customers receiving services through a trial work plan.

Trial work experiences can include:

* Supported employment refer to [C-1200: Supported Employment Services](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-1200) and SFP [Chapter 18: Supported Employment Services](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-18),
* On-the-job training refer to [C-1007-4: On-the-Job Training](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-1000%22%20%5Cl%20%22c1007-4),
* Work Experience Services (excluding Paid Work Experience purchased from the Local Workforce Development Boards) refer to [C-421: Work Experience Services](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-400%22%20%5Cl%20%22c421) and SFP [Chapter 14: Work Experience Services](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-14),
* Wage Services for Work Experience through WorkQuest refer to [C-1408: Wage Services for Work Experience through WorkQuest](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-c-1400%22%20%5Cl%20%22c1408),
* Work Adjustment Training refer to SFP[13.6 Work Adjustment Training](https://twc.texas.gov/standards-manual/vr-sfp-chapter-13%22%20%5Cl%20%22s136), and
* Other experiences using real work settings.

Pre-ETS funds cannot be used for Trial Work.

**Supported Employment as Trial Work Experience**

When using Supported Employment for trial work experience, at a minimum, Benchmarks 1, 2 and 3 must be purchased. If a customer achieves Supported Employment Benchmark 5, he or she meets the criteria of eligibility. If at any time while the customer is participating in Supported Employment Services it is determined the customer is eligible for services, an IPE must be implemented to continue supported employment service.

A TWP must include trial work experiences that are of sufficient variety and duration to provide:

* evidence that the customer can benefit from VR services; or
* clear and convincing evidence that the customer cannot benefit from VR services in terms of an employment outcome owing to the severity of his or her disability.

Trial Work experiences must be provided in competitive integrated employment settings to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the informed choice and rehab needs of the individual.

**Additional Assessments**

If existing records do not meet the assessment needs for determining eligibility for services, the VR counselor includes any additional diagnostics and or assessments that are required as planned services in the TWP. Refer to [B-300: Determining Eligibility](https://twc.texas.gov/vr-services-manual/vrsm-b-300) for additional information about requirement for use of existing records to determine eligibility.

**Services that Require Approval as part of the Trial Work Plan**

The following goods or services require VR Supervisor review and approval when provided as part of a trial work plan:

* Residential modifications
* Worksite modifications
* Durable medical good
* Orthotics and prosthetics
* Any services related to self-employment
* Modification of vehicles
* Academic or vocational training
* Medical services specified in VRSM C-700: Medical Services
* Services or goods to support any of these items

**Paid Work Experience**

Paid Work Experience purchased from the Local Workforce Development Boards cannot be used to meet the requirements for trial work experience.

For more information on Paid Work Experience, refer to the [Requirements for Vocational Rehabilitation Services Provided by Local Workforce Development Boards, Chapter 2: Wage Services for VR Participants in Paid Work Experience](https://twc.texas.gov/partners/board-vr-requirements/paid-work-experience).

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