



Commission for Minority Affairs Disability Services Resource Guide

Abstract

A Guide to services for persons with disabilities in SC to enable them to achieve employment and enhance their independent living skills.

Jerry Francis

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INTRODUCTION:

“The 2000 U.S. Census estimates that 16.8 million civilian, non-institutionalized Americans from ethnic and racial minorities have long-lasting disabling conditions or impairments (Waldrop, 2003). When looking at the relationship between disability and employment, researchers have found that minorities with disabilities are often at increased risk for unemployment (Smith Randolph & Andresen, 2004).”

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs has implemented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) and the SC Commission for the Blind (SCCB), to connect those minorities with disabilities to the services they need in order to achieve their employment and independent living goals. These agencies can provide professional interpreters for those whose native language is not English.

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) provides a variety of services to persons with disabilities, with the primary focus on retaining or securing competitive employment. This state agency provides services to all disabilities (physical and mental), other than legal blindness.

“To be eligible for VR services, you must have a physical or mental barrier to employment, need help to overcome it, and be able to benefit from VR services.” Included within these “barriers”, are disabling conditions such as diabetes, learning disabilities, depression, attention deficit disorder, etc.

Eligible individuals can receive such services as: Comprehensive evaluation, information technology training, substance abuse recovery treatment, and job readiness training. Specialized services are available for those with hearing impairments and youths in school. Other specialized services include both probation and parole and cardiac rehab.

SCVRD has offices and work development centers across the state. Below is their website address and main contact info:

www.scvrd.net

1410 Boston Avenue

West Columbia, SC 29171

1-800-832-7526

Listed below, are the SCVRD Area Offices and the names of the respective supervisors. They can provide additional information regarding sub-office locations, etc.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>SUPERVISOR</u>
Aiken	803-641-7630	Jeanette Murray
Anderson	864-224-6391	Lisa Gillespie
Beaufort	843-522-1010	Greg Gilbert
Berkeley-Dorchester	843-761-6036	Kelly Sieling
Camden	803-432-1068	Summer Rigby
Charleston	843-740-1600	Yvonne Brown
Conway	843-248-2235	David Edwards
Florence	843-662-8114	Pam Company
Gaffney	864-489-9954	LaRonda Frye
Greenville	864-297-3066	David Turnipseed
Greenwood	864-229-5827	Raweewan Ross
Lancaster	803-285-6909	Shane Childers
Laurens	864-984-6563	Chad Ulmer
Lexington	803-896-6333	Teresa Moses
Marlboro	843-479-8318	Tilette Scott
Oconee-Pickens	864-761-6036	Estella "Sheila" Ford
Orangeburg	803-534-4939	Freddie Boan
Richland	803-782-4239	Stacy Lever
Rock Hill	803-327-7106	Shane Childers

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>SUPERVISOR</u>
Spartanburg	864-585-3693	Barbara Rhodes
Sumter	803-469-2960	John Hornsby
Walterboro	843-538-3116	Allison Kitler

In addition to the Area offices listed, SCVRD has several sub-offices around the state. All of these offices have Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors trained in the various disability fields. The Area Office can provide the contact information for those Counselors.

South Carolina Commission for the Blind

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) provides a variety of services to persons who are legally blind, with the primary focus on retaining or securing competitive employment via its Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

“A person may be eligible for services if they have a vision impairment that affects their daily activities at work, school, or home. For most services, a person must meet one of the following conditions:

- Meet the legal definition of blindness:
 - they have a central visual acuity of 20/200 in the better eye even with the best corrective lens
(they see at 20 feet what a person without a visual impairment would see at 200 feet), OR
 - they have a visual field of 20 degrees or less
(they see objects within 20 degrees of the direction they are facing while a person without a visual impairment would see objects within 180 degrees).
- Have a progressive visual condition that will result in legal blindness.
Legal blindness or a visual disability must be verified by an eye examination that is current within one year.”

The Prevention of Blindness program can provide the following services to those who meet the financial guidelines and are without insurance coverage: eye exams, eye glasses, cataract surgeries, and retinal detachment surgeries. <http://www.sccb.state.sc.us/prevention/index.php>

SCCB's Vision Screening Program identifies individuals who have or are at risk of developing eye conditions that can lead to permanent visual damage. This free program is provided at locations such as health fairs, community events, primary and secondary schools or colleges and universities.

SCCB has district offices located across the state. Below is their website address and main contact info:

www.sccb.state.sc.us
 1430 Confederate Avenue
 Columbia SC 29201
 1-800-335-5951 or publicinfo@sccb.sc.gov

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>SUPERVISOR</u>
Aiken	803-641-7658	Karma Marshall
Charleston	843-852-4225	Kelly Jochim
Columbia	803-898-8731	Karma Marshall
Conway	843-248-1017	Kelly Jochim
Florence	843-661-4788	Kelly Jochim
Greenville	864-241-1111	Felisa Massey
Greenwood	864-223-3334	Felisa Massey
Rock Hill	803-980-8140	Felisa Massey
Walterboro	843-539-1156	Kelly Jochim

ABLE South Carolina

Website info:

Able SC is a Center for Independent Living (CIL), an organization not about “helping” people with disabilities, but built on the central concept of self-empowerment. It’s a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability nonprofit that provides an array of independent living services. We do everything it takes to empower people with disabilities to live active, self-determined lives including advocacy, services, and support. More than half of our staff are persons with disabilities, as are over half of our Board of Directors. We didn’t just learn this– we live it!

Able SC offers core services to the following counties in the Midlands and Upstate: Abbeville, Anderson, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chester, Clarendon, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, and York. However, many of our programs are statewide.

Website address and office locations:

<https://www.able-sc.org/>

720 Gracern Rd. Suite 106
Columbia, SC 29210
Phone: 803.779.5121
800.681.6805

135 Edinburgh Ct. Suite 101
Greenville, SC 29607
Phone: 864.235.1421
800.681.7715

ABLE SC does offer employment programs, and works with the SC Employment Disability Coalition.

Sandy Jordan
Director of Employment Programs
864-235-1421, ext 310
sjordan@able-sc.org

Walton Options: Resources for Independent Living

Website info:

- Guide persons with disabilities as they work towards new goals;
- Teach consumers how to utilize resources to enhance their independence;
- Promote the removal of attitudinal and architectural barriers;
- Offer real, impactful learning opportunities;
- Help consumers achieve self-sufficiency through understanding benefits such as Social Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
- Promote equal employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, regardless of their disability through an [Employment First position](#).

Website address and office locations:

<https://www.waltonoptions.org/>

514 West Avenue

North Augusta, SC 29841

Phone/TTY: 803-279-9611

Fax: 803-279-9135

Serves the following counties: Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick

2414 N. Jefferies Blvd.

Walterboro, SC 29488

843-538-1600

Serves the following counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired SC

Website info:

For more than 80 years, ABVI has empowered adults in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties with the tools they need to live independently with vision loss.

Through our Own Your Life program, ABVI helps blind and visually impaired adults learn new approaches to daily life. Skills taught through our Own Your Life classes range from household management tasks to workforce development training like typing, interview preparation and safely using public transportation. Our Own Your Life program offers two tracks:

- *Personal Independence*
- *Vocational Rehabilitation*

Website address and office location information:

www.abvisc.org

1 Carriage Lane, Building A
Charleston, SC 29407
843-723-6915
info@abvisc.org

9565 Highway 78, Building 800
Ladson, SC 29456

Contact Ruthie Harman at rharman@abvisc.org or 843.410.1058

SC Association of the Deaf

Website info:

The South Carolina Association of the Deaf's mission is to advocate for full accessibility and to improve the quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in South Carolina. Our vision statement is to be the statewide leader in advocacy of rights in civic, human, linguistic, and accessibility in the lives of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in South Carolina.

Services provided:

- Advocacy and Peer Support
- Annual Conference
- Community Meetings
- Information Resources (ASL classes and locating interpreters)
- Informative Workshops
- Legislative Initiatives
- Social Activities
- Educational Workshops

Website address and office location information:

SCAD Office
437 Center Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
803-403-9255 VideoPhone
803-794-3175 Voice
803-794-4420 Fax

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