

Order of Selection



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Order of Selection



- Rehabilitation Act - Section 101(a)(5)

In the event that vocational rehabilitation services cannot be provided to all eligible individuals with disabilities who apply for services, the state must:

- Provide justification for the Order of Selection;
- Assure that individuals with the most significant disabilities will be served first; and
- Provide information and referral services to individuals who do not meet the Order of Selection.



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- When all eligible individuals for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) cannot be served due to limited resources, federal law requires that the states define categories which establish the order in which clients are served.
 - Priority level categories must be based on how significantly the applicant's ability to work is limited.
 - Priority level category must be determined for every eligible individual.



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- Counselors will utilize existing records, reports, and data in order to determine the Order of Selection category if possible.
- Additional assessments may be authorized to gather appropriate data.
- The individual's service needs will be addressed in relation to each identified functional limitation.



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- Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration has defined three priority categories.
 - Priority Category 1 – Most Significantly Disabled
 - Priority Category 2 – Significantly Disabled
 - Priority Category 3 – All Other Eligible Individuals



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- Priority Category 1 – Most Significantly Disabled
 - The individual must have an impairment that seriously limits three or more of the individual's functional capacities; and
 - The individual must be expected to require multiple services over an extended period of time (6 months or more).



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- Priority Category 2 –Significantly Disabled
 - The individual must have an impairment that seriously limits one or more of the individual's functional capacities; and
 - The individual must be expected to require multiple services over an extended period of time (6 months or more).



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- Priority Category 3 –All Other Eligible Individuals
 - Any eligible individual who does not meet the requirements for Category 1 or 2.



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- Individuals who are determined eligible, but whose priority category is currently closed will be maintained on a waitlist.
- Individuals on the waitlist will be removed from the waitlist and served as resources allow, based on the priority level being served, and the date of application.
- Letters are sent to individuals on the waitlist every six months to determine if services are still needed or if there has been an exacerbation of the disability.



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- If additional disabilities are noted or there has been an exacerbation of symptoms related to the disability, the individual can request that their priority status be reviewed.
 - The individual should be able to provide additional documentation.



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- Priority Category 1 is currently open and individuals in this category are being served.
- It is unknown when Priority Category 2 or 3 will open.
 - These categories were closed in 2009 due to reductions in state appropriations.



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Questions and Answers

