

REHABILITATION

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Vocational Rehabilitation. Cases are also located by the State Board of Health, the Welfare Commission, the US Employment Service, Civil Service Boards, crippled children's agencies, the Maritime Commission, hospitals, doctors and educators.

Each prospective trainee is given a medical examination to determine his or her exact physical condition. If the person can be returned to a normal or more nearly normal condition, treatment is given before any vocational training is attempted, thus applying the rehabilitation axiom "never train around a disability that can be remedied."

Vocational counseling, and aptitude tests when necessary, help to guide toward a profitable and agreeable vocation. When necessary, physical and occupational therapy and psychiatric treatment are given as part of the medical care.

Vocational training is arranged and paid for by the state agency. This training is purchased on the open market as the department does not have vocational schools. Trainees are enrolled on an apprentice basis in commercial industries or as students in established schools. The physical examination, counseling, training and placement are available at no cost to all disabled; medical treatment, transportation,

maintenance, tools and equipment are provided without cost if well-established economic need exists.

The variety of disabilities which are handled is unlimited—disabilities from accidents (industrial and otherwise), from diseases, epilepsy, blindness or mental condition.

The rehabilitation program was inaugurated on June 6, 1920 when President Wilson signed the first Vocational Rehabilitation Act. Prior to 1943, 210,000 persons were enabled to return to employment. The average yearly earnings of these individuals rose from \$110 before rehabilitation to \$1,228. A series of amendments enacted in 1943 extended the previously limited services to the mentally handicapped, the blind and to war veterans who have returned to civilian life.

This work is financed by the cooperative contributions of the state and federal governments. The federal government pays for the entire cost of administration. The state legislature makes an appropriation for case costs, which amount is matched with federal funds. The 1945 Oregon legislature appropriated \$15,000 for each of the next two years. During the last fiscal year \$101,000 was expended for this work. The federal government paid \$51,000 for administration costs; the state legislature appropriated \$9,600;

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