

READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Answer these questions about your resources, skills, and needed accommodations to help you think about how ready you are for self-employment.

Once you are done, share your answers with your VR counselor.

1. Why Self-Employment?

Why do you think self-employment is a better choice than getting a job with an existing business?

- Can you explain why self-employment is the best option?
- Do your reasons fit with the realities (compared to myths) of self-employment?
- Do your reasons make sense in terms of your life values?

2. Start-up Funding

How will you pay your bills until your new business earns a profit?

- Do you have enough savings to cover your personal expenses?
- Would getting a job with an existing business help you build savings and skills for self-employment in the future?
- Would financial counseling help you get your finances in order before applying for a business loan?
- What other financial resources do you have that could help get your business up and running?

3. Business Skills

What business skills do you have for running your business?

- Do you have experience using a computer?
- Do you have skills for managing day-to-day business operations (like bookkeeping, ordering, or keeping track of inventory)?
- Can you do the accounting for your business? If not, can you hire professionals to help you?
- Do you know how to advertise to customers?
- Do you have friends or family willing to volunteer their time to help you get started?

4. Needed Accommodations

What accommodations will you need to open and run your business?

- If you have challenges with verbal communication, have you thought about other ways to communicate with customers, such as email?
- If you have challenges with math or managing money, do you have a family member or friend that can help you with bookkeeping?
- How will you run your business if an issue related to your disability comes up, such as a pain flare-up?

5. Other Challenges

Are there other challenges that might affect opening your business? These could include:

- Environmental issues (allergies, chemical or sound sensitivities)
- Family commitments
- Debt or poor credit
- Criminal record
- Land use restrictions
- Other commitments
- Substance abuse issues
- Other

Once you answer these questions, share your answers with your VR counselor.

By thinking about possible challenges and solutions ahead of time, your proposed business is more likely to be successful!

Self-Employment Guide