

# Step by Step Guide to Working with AgrAbility PA and PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

**AgrAbility PA** - Assists farmers and other agricultural workers with disabilities or long-term health conditions by linking them to the resources and providing support they need to live independently and to continue working in or return to production agriculture. Support includes on-site farm assessments, identification of assistive technology, information, education, referrals, and support navigating service providers. AgrAbility does not provide financial assistance but can assist you in navigating third party funding options.



**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)** - Provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. Services include counseling, training, assistive technology implementation and support services. For eligible individuals OVR can provide financial assistance towards assistive technology, training, or diagnostic services.

**Together AgrAbility and OVR strive to support farmers with disabilities as they return to or continue in farming as their occupation.**

For the full guide, visit [AgrAbilityPA.org](http://AgrAbilityPA.org)

## Tips for Success:

- Learn about both organizations and the different roles they play.
- Communicate frequently with the AgrAbility case coordinator.
- Communicate frequently with your OVR counselor.
- Keep a file of information that includes contact information, paperwork, list of questions you may have, meeting dates, and important documents.
- Provide required information in a timely manner.
- Complete any assigned tasks in a timely manner.
- Ask lots of questions.
- **Advocate for yourself.**

# Each individual working with AgrAbility & OVR will have a unique plan & services, here is the general step by step process:



- 1 Contact AgrAbility by phone (814-867-5288), email (AgrAbilityPA@psu.edu), or website to start the process.
- 2 AgrAbility staff will conduct a primary interview over the phone (alternate format if needed). You may be referred to OVR for additional services.
- 3 If referred to OVR, review the OVR handbook that will be provided to you in your welcome packet.
- 4 Contact your local OVR office, request to fill out an application for services. It is helpful to have your social security number available when applying. Fill out the application and follow the steps outlined by OVR to submit the application.
- 5 Work with your OVR counselor to provide the required information, identification, and medical records. Develop a plan for services with your OVR counselor.
- 6 As part of your plan, AgrAbility will provide an on-farm assessment by the AgrAbility Case Coordinator and an evaluation by an occupational therapist. Provide any follow-up needed after the assessment such as completing assistive technology testing, submitting paperwork, or trying a new routine.
- 7 AgrAbility Case Coordinator will write a recommendation report & provide it to your OVR counselor. The counselor will review the report with you. OVR will determine which accommodations can be implemented. OVR will send out bids & purchase approved items. Continue working with AgrAbility for any additional assistive technology needs or if more financial assistance is needed.

Contact AgrAbility PA today to get started.

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 **AgrAbility**  
Cultivating Accessible Agriculture  
for Pennsylvanians

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