

Connect-700 FAQs

What is Connect-700?

Connect-700 is a noncompetitive hiring process that is meant to bring qualified individuals with disabilities into state government.

Do I automatically qualify to participate in the program if I have a disability?

No. You must meet both parts of the eligibility requirement.

Who is eligible?

Individuals with specific disabilities who are unable to demonstrate their skills in the standard competitive hiring process **due to their disability** are able to participate in the program.

How do I participate?

The process involves getting certified by Minnesota Management & Budget's Office of Equal Opportunity, Diversity & Inclusion. Once certified, job seekers can apply for State of Minnesota jobs and provide their certificate to the individual listed on the bottom of the job posting prior to the job closing. You may be invited to have a one to one noncompetitive interview with the hiring manager if you meet all of the minimum qualifications for the position in which you applied.

Do I need to have an open case with VRS or SSB in order to participate in the program?

No. Anyone that meets the eligibility requirements is able to participate in the program. You can involve SSB or VRS at any time, whether you have an open case or not, to assist with assessing job accommodations.

Should I apply for a position even if I don't meet the minimum qualifications for the job but I really think I can do the job?

No. You must clearly meet all of the minimum qualifications to be considered.

Can I still get a noncompetitive interview if I didn't get my certificate to the person listed at the bottom of the job posting before the posting closes but I did apply and I meet the minimum qualifications?

No. Connect 700 program policy does not allow for late submissions.

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Am I guaranteed a noncompetitive interview if I applied and got everything in on time?

This depends. If you applied to a Connect-700 eligible position, are the only Connect-700 applicant for that position and you clearly meet all of the minimum qualifications, yes. If there are multiple candidates, then the hiring manager only needs to choose one. If your resume does not clearly show that you meet the minimum qualifications, no. If the position that you applied for is not Connect-700 eligible, no. If you apply and clearly meet all of the minimum qualifications but do not provide the individual listed on the posting with your certificate before the position closes, no.

I had applied as a Connect-700 applicant and have a noncompetitive interview scheduled, is the job automatically mine?

No. Having the meeting with the hiring manager does not guarantee that you will get the job.

I was offered the job under the Connect-700 program, now what?

If offered the job, you are being given a 700 hour pre-probationary period. This means that you will get up to 700 hours (approximately 4 ½ months) to try the job so you and the manager can determine if it is a good fit for both of you.

Am I guaranteed to have 700 hours to show I can do the job?

No. You and the manager may find that it takes less time to determine this and they may hire you on permanently in less than 700 hours. At that time, you will begin the standard probation period. If it is apparent that it's not a good fit, the manager could let you go or you could decide to leave prior to the 700 hours being completed.

If I have an open case with SSB, will my counselor close my case during the 700 hours?

No. Your case will not close until after you have passed the pre-probationary period. Even then, does not close cases until it makes sense to do so. Every case is different and will be treated as such.

Can the 700 hours be extended?

No. An individual must be able to learn the job and be performing at a satisfactory level within 700 hours.

I've passed my pre-probationary period, now what?

Once you have passed your pre-probationary period, you will be moved into the standard probationary period for your new position.

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Am I eligible for the same benefits as other state employees?

Yes. Those that have been hired under the Connect-700 program are state employees. The rate of pay falls within the job class and bargaining unit and is not separate. All employees are eligible for worker's compensation. Other benefits may vary based on different collective bargaining agreements.