

Topical Heading
Rehabilitation

Program Title

Randolph Sheppard Vending Facility Program

CFDA # (or ED #)
None

Administering Office
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Who May Apply (specifically)
An application for designation as a state licensing agency may only be submitted by the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency providing VR services to the blind under an approved state plan for VR services under 34CFR 361.

Type of Assistance (specifically)
Sec. 103(b)(1) of the *Rehabilitation Act* gives state agencies the authority to use some of their VR state (formula) grant funds (see Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program, # 84.126A, also listed under topical heading "Rehabilitation") to support the supervision, management, and the acquisition of equipment and initial stock and supplies of business enterprise programs, including the Randolph Sheppard program.

Appropriations
Note: The Randolph Sheppard program has no specific appropriations line item in the federal budget. In FY 2006, the total gross income for the program was 692.2 million, while the total earnings of all vendors was \$115.7 million. FY 2007 data not available yet.

Fiscal Year 2008 Awards Information
Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Number of New Awards Anticipated: Not applicable

Legislative Citation
Randolph-Sheppard Act, P.L. 74-732, as amended by P.L. 83-565 and P.L. 93-516; 20 U.S.C. 107 *et seq.*

Program Regulations
34 CFR 395

Program Description
The Vending Facility program authorized by the *Randolph-Sheppard Act* provides persons who are blind with remunerative employment and self-support through the operation of vending facilities on federal and other property. The program, enacted into law in 1936, was intended to enhance employment opportunities for trained, licensed blind persons to operate facilities. The law was subsequently amended in 1954 and again in 1974 to ultimately ensure individuals who are blind a priority in the operation of vending facilities, which included cafeterias, snack bars, and automatic vending machines, on federal property. The program has broadened from federal locations to also include state, county, municipal, and private installations. However, the priority provisions of the act apply only to the operation of vending facilities on federal property. Under the Randolph Sheppard program, state licensing agencies recruit, train, license and place individuals who are blind as operators of vending facilities located on federal and other properties. The act authorizes a particular blind individual to conduct specified activities in a particular location through a "license" granted by the state.

Education Level (by category)
Adult

Subject Index
Blindness, Vocational Rehabilitation

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Links to Related Web Sites

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/rsarsp/index.html>