

Archived Information

AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

<p>Goal: To improve employment outcomes of American Indians with disabilities who live on or near reservations by providing effective tribal vocational rehabilitation services.</p> <p>Legislation: Sections 110(c) and 121 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 730 & 741), as amended by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), and as further amended by technical amendments in the Reading Excellence Act (P.L. 105-277) and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act Amendments of 1998 (P.L. 105-332).</p>	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
	1985	\$1	2000	\$23
	1990	\$4	2001	\$24
	1995	\$10	2002 (Requested)	\$26

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to support projects that provide vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians with disabilities who live on or near Federal or State reservations, consistent with their individual strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interest, and informed choice, so that they may prepare for and engage in gainful employment. The services are expected to be similar to those provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation Basic State Grants Program.

The American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) Program provides grants to governing bodies of Indian tribes located on Federal and state reservations (and consortia of such governing bodies) to pay 90 percent of the costs of vocational rehabilitation services for disabled American Indians who reside on or near such reservations. Service grants for up to 60 months are awarded to Indian tribes on a competitive basis to help tribes develop the capacity to provide VR services to disabled American Indians living on or near reservations. Beginning in FY 1987, funds for this program were provided through a Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program. The Rehabilitation Act requires that not less than 1.0 percent or more than 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the VR State grants program for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2003 be set aside for Grants for Indians.

Projects supported through the AIVRS program provide vocational rehabilitation services, including diagnostic services, vocational assessment, physical and mental restoration (including traditional native healing), vocational training, job placement, and post-employment services. Individual projects also conduct outreach activities designed to acquaint potential clients with the range of services available. The projects develop cooperative working arrangements with the State VR agency and may refer the disabled American Indian to such state agency for services, if the individual so desires.

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: ENSURE THAT ELIGIBLE AMERICAN INDIANS WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES AND ACHIEVE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PARTICULAR STRENGTHS, RESOURCES, ABILITIES, CAPABILITIES, AND INTERESTS.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>The number of individuals who received vocational rehabilitation services under an individualized plan for employment</i>			<p>Status: The project exceeded the target for number of individuals receiving services under an Individual Plan for Employment in FY 2000.</p> <p>Explanation: In FY 2000, 4,148 individuals were served by the 53 projects that were in operation that year. This number is a substantial increase over past performance and the target set for that year. The increase in the number of individuals served can be attributed to the increase in the number of projects and an increase in the average number of individuals served per project.</p>	<p>Source: Annual performance reports and project follow-up. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> October 31, 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> December 31, 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data are supplied by project grantees. Without formal verification procedure applied. However, the projects receive training on the data elements during monitoring and in annual conferences.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data are self-reported and not standardized. Prior to the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, the Department did not have clear authority to collect routine performance data and very limited information was available on the operation and performance of these projects. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is working toward standardizing program data collection and reporting. The first comprehensive evaluation of the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services program was initiated in 1999 under section 14 of the Rehabilitation Act. Information obtained from this study should also be useful in assessing performance and in developing future performance measures.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	2,617 (34)*			
1998:	3,243 (37)*			
1999:	3,186 (47)*	3,750 (47)*		
2000:	4,148 (53)*	3,730 (53)*		
2001:		4,350 (64)*		
2002:		4,500 (66)*		
*The number of projects that were in operation during the performance year.				

Indicator 1.2 Number of eligible individuals who achieve employment outcomes: The total number of American Indians with disabilities who exit the program after receiving vocational rehabilitation services under an individualized plan for employment and achieve an employment outcome will increase.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>The number of individuals who achieved an employed outcome</i>			<p>Status: The target was exceeded.</p> <p>Explanation: The FY 2000 goal was exceeded by nearly 200 successful employment outcomes. Because of the increase in employment outcomes, RSA has increased the performance targets for FY's 2001 and 2002.</p> <p>Continual growth in the numbers of projects in operation in recent years has contributed to the program assisting more American Indians with disabilities to achieve more employment outcomes.</p> <p>Additionally, cross-training and resource coordination through annual conference and cluster training sessions have increased project capacity and communication. Collaboration and coordination with the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies has also added to the program effectiveness.</p> <p>RSA monitoring and technical assistance have reinforced the projects' abilities and expertise in provision of vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians with disabilities.</p>	<p>Source: Annual performance reports and project follow-up. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> October 31, 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> December 31, 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data are supplied by project grantees and no formal verification procedure has been applied. However, the projects receive training on the data elements during monitoring and in annual conferences.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Same limitations as reported under Indicator 1.1.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	530 (34)*			
1998:	598 (39)*			
1999:	678 (47)*	715 (47)*		
2000:	951 (53)*	765 (53)*		
2001:		980 (64)*		
2002:		1000 (66)*		
*The number of projects that were in operation during the performance year.				

Indicator 1.3 Percentage of individuals who leave the program with employment outcomes: By the end of FY 2001, at least 61 percent of all eligible individuals who exit the program after receiving services under an individualized plan for employment will achieve an employment outcome.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: In FY 2000, the program exceeded the performance target.</p> <p>Explanation: Although the program surpassed its performance target for this indicator and achieved an overall employment outcome rate of 62 percent in FY 2000, we are reluctant to set a much higher target. The Rehabilitation Act emphasizes provision to individuals with significant (severe) disabilities. We are concerned that setting too high a performance target might unintentionally motivate programs to serve individuals with less severe disabilities.</p>	<p>Source: Annual performance reports and project follow-up. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> October 31, 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> December 31, 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data are supplied by project grantees and no formal verification procedure has been applied. However, the projects receive training on the data elements during monitoring and in annual conferences.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Same limitations as reported under Indicator 1.1.</p>
1997:	No data available			
1998:	57%			
1999:	61%	No target set		
2000:	62%	61%		
2001:		61.5%		
2002:		61.5%		