

# Archived Information

## PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM (PWI)

<b>Goal:</b> To facilitate the establishment of partnerships between rehabilitation service providers and business and industry in order to create and expand employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.  <b>Legislation:</b> Title VI, Part A, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by P.L. 105-220, Section 61 (29 U.S.C. 795g).	<b>Funding History</b> (\$ in millions)			
	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
	1985	\$0	2000	\$22
	1990	\$19	2001	\$22
	1995	\$22	2002 (Requested)	\$22

### Program Description

The Project With Industry (PWI) program supports projects that create and expand job and career opportunities in the competitive labor market for individuals with disabilities by engaging the participation of business and industry in the rehabilitation process.

PWI is a current-funded program that provides job development, job placement, and career development services, and, to the extent appropriate, training services to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment in the competitive labor market. When necessary, post-employment services to help individuals maintain employment may also be provided. Projects must determine eligibility for services in a manner consistent with eligibility requirements for the State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program under section 102 of the Rehabilitation Act.

PWI projects promote the involvement of business and private industry through Business Advisory Councils (BAC) that identify jobs and careers available in the community and provide advice on the appropriate skills and training. BACs are comprised of representatives of private industry, business concerns, organized labor, the State VR Agency and individuals with disabilities. BACs are required to identify job and career availability within the community, consistent with the current and projected local employment opportunities identified by the local workforce investment board for the community under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The BAC is also responsible for identifying the skills necessary to perform the jobs and careers identified, as well as prescribing training programs for individuals with disabilities.

PWI grants are made to a variety of agencies and organizations, including business and industrial corporations, community rehabilitation programs, labor organizations, trade associations, and foundations. Grants are awarded for a period of up to 5 years and may not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of a project. New awards may be made only to projects proposing to serve geographic areas that are unserved or underserved by the PWI program.

PWI grantees must provide to the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration an annual evaluation of project operations in accordance with the established program standards and compliance indicators. Data and information contained in the report include the number of individuals with disabilities served, number of individuals with disabilities who achieved a competitive employment outcome, improvement of participants' employment status and earning power following services, and employment retention. In addition, continuation awards may be made only to grantees that are carrying out the provisions of their approved grant application. In order to receive continuation funding for the third and subsequent years, grantees must meet the above requirements, as well as demonstrate compliance with the performance indicators by submitting data for the most recent complete project year. If a grantee does not demonstrate compliance on the basis of the previous year's data, the grantee has an additional opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the standards by submitting data from the first 6 months of the current project year.

## Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: ENSURE THAT PWI SERVICES (THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY) RESULT IN COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT, INCREASED WAGES, AND JOB RETENTION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Percentage of individuals served who were placed in competitive employment</i>			<p><b>Status:</b> FY 2000 performance exceeded the 2000 target.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> In FY 1998, following a new grant competition, there were significantly fewer projects (104 projects) participating in the PWI program as compared to the FY 1997 base year (119 projects). The number of projects operating in fiscal year 1999 and 2000 were 101 and 99 respectively. Following a corresponding drop in performance in 1998, the number and percent of individuals placed in competitive employment by the program has increased annually. Performance in FY 2000 surpassed the 1997 level.</p> <p>Both the number and percentage of persons served who are significantly disabled and the number and percentage of previously unemployed persons have also increased.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Grantee performance indicator data. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> December 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> January 2002.</p> <p><b>Validation Procedure:</b> The sources and data quality are validated by checking to see if the data are reasonable. On-site compliance reviews are also conducted on at least 15 percent of grant recipients annually to (a) determine whether the grant is managed in accordance with Federal requirements; (b) identify areas where the project can be improved; and (c) assess the project's mission as it relates to the Department's mission.</p> <p><b>Limitation of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> The primary limitation of the data is that they are self-reported. Technical assistance and regular monitoring is provided to grantees in order to receive updated reports from the grantee regarding progress toward meeting project goals.</p>
<b>Year</b>	<b>Actual Performance</b>	<b>Performance Targets</b>		
FY 1997:	59% (11,300)*			
FY 1998:	49% (6,792)*			
FY 1999:	59% (8,099)*	61%		
<b>FY 2000:</b>	<b>61.9% (8104)*</b>	<b>61%</b>		
FY 2001:		62%		
FY 2002:		62.2%		
* The number in parentheses indicates the actual number of individuals served who were placed in competitive employment.				
<b>Indicator 1.2 Change in earnings of individuals who are placed in competitive employment: Projects With Industry projects will report that participants placed in competitive employment increase earnings by an average of at least \$218 per week.</b>				
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Average increase in weekly earnings</i>			<p><b>Status:</b> FY 2000 performance exceeded the 2000 target by \$34.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> FY 2000 performance reflected an average increase in earnings of \$252 per week. On average, the FY 2000 group of grantees demonstrated higher performance on this indicator than in prior years. However, we have only raised the FY 2002 target to \$226 per week because of the variability in annual performance.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Grantee performance indicator data. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> December 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> January 2002.</p> <p><b>Validation Procedure:</b> Same as Indicator 1.1.</p> <p><b>Limitation of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> Same as Indicator 1.1. In addition, performance data on this indicator are further limited because the national average is calculated based on self-reported project averages.</p>
<b>Year</b>	<b>Actual Performance</b>	<b>Performance Targets</b>		
FY 1997:	\$207			
FY 1998:	\$209			
FY 1999:	\$226	\$209		
<b>FY 2000:</b>	<b>\$252</b>	<b>\$218</b>		
FY 2001:		\$218		
FY 2002:		\$226		

OBJECTIVE 2: ENSURE THAT PWI SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH THE MOST NEED.

**Indicator 2.1 Percentage of individuals served who were unemployed for 6 months or more prior to program entry who are placed in competitive employment: The percentage of previously unemployed individuals served who are placed into competitive employment will increase.**

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Percentage of previously unemployed individuals served who were placed in competitive employment</i>			<p><b>Status:</b> FY 2000 performance slightly exceeded the 2000 target, bringing the actual performance rate back up to a level commensurate with performance experienced in the 1997 base year.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The overall number and percent of previously unemployed persons who were placed in competitive employment has increased annually since 1998. In addition, both the number and percentage of persons served who were previously unemployed has increased. However, we have raised the FY 2002 target only slightly above the FY 2001 target because this population faces greater challenges in obtaining competitive employment.</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Grantee performance indicator data. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> December 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> January 2002.</p> <p><b>Validation Procedure:</b> Same as Indicator 1.1.</p> <p><b>Limitation of Data and Planned Improvements:</b> Same as Indicator 1.1.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
FY 1997:	60% (7,506)			
FY 1998:	48% (4,561)			
FY 1999:	58% (5,561)	62%		
<b>FY 2000:</b>	<b>60.77% (5,725)</b>	<b>60%</b>		
FY 2001:		61%		
FY 2002:		61.2%		
<p>*The number in parentheses indicates the actual number of previously unemployed individuals served who were placed in competitive employment.</p>				