

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202**

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

RSA-IM-93-08

RSM-525

DATE: November 18, 1992

TO : STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS (RRCEPS)
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: National Cooperative Agreement for the Rehabilitation of Persons Who are
Deaf-Blind

CONTENT: In the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Operational Plan for Fiscal
Year (FY) 1992 under Goal I, Objective 1, Subobjective F, Activity A, the major
action item was to:

"Develop and disseminate a Model State Cooperative Agreement to encourage the
development of transitional employment, and community based services to
advance the independence and integration of persons who are deaf-blind into the
workplace and the community."

I established an RSA work group to enlist input and support of the Council of
State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), the American
Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB), and the Helen Keller National Center
(HKNC) for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults in the development of a cooperative
agreement.

The attached Cooperative Agreement establishes a commitment by the parties to
support collaborative efforts to improve services that will allow individuals who
are deaf-blind to realize their optimal level of function, employment and
community integration.

At this year's 9th Annual Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week program sponsored by RSA on June 24, 1992, an official signing ceremony took place for the National Cooperative Agreement for the Rehabilitation of Persons Who Are Deaf-Blind.

The National Cooperative Agreement is intended to provide a framework from which State agreements can be designed. Each State can amend the provisions of the National Cooperative Agreement to meet their individual needs and objectives.

The distribution of this agreement will set the stage for:

1. State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies;
2. Local Chapters of AADB (consumers, and parents); and
3. HKNC and other parties who are interested in the rehabilitation, employment and community integration of persons who are deaf-blind to establish collaborative agreements at the state and local level.

We encourage each State agency to develop cooperative agreements with appropriate parties within their States to promote collaborative working arrangements to enhance services to persons who are deaf-blind.

INQUIRIES

To : RSA Regional Commissioners

Nell Carney, CRC
Commissioner

Attachments