

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM  
RSA-IM-99-15  
DATE: March 5, 1999

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)  
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)  
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS  
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS  
PROGRAMS  
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS  
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION  
PROGRAMS  
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Dissemination of the publication entitled: People with Disabilities  
Developing Self-Employment & Small Business Opportunities, developed  
by the Twenty-Fourth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI).

CONTENT: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to transmit the  
enclosed publication to vocational rehabilitation (VR) professionals,  
advocates and other interested persons. The publication was developed in  
partnership with individuals representing various State VR programs, the  
Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RRCEPs) and  
the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Ms. Jeanne Miller,  
director of the University of Arkansas Region VI RRCEP, served as the  
university coordinator for the study group, and Mr. Kendal Fleming, who  
recently retired from the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation,  
served as the chairperson.

We recommend that the IRI publication be brought to the attention of  
personnel responsible for, or interested in, human resource development  
and staff training for use in planning, implementing and assessing the  
effectiveness of training on this topic. The *IRI* publications are widely  
used by VR counselors and supervisors, human resource development  
specialists, community-based rehabilitation service providers,  
administrators, researchers, educators and policy analysts in fulfilling the  
purposes of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, particularly, "... to  
empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic  
self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion and integration into  
society..."

An important part of RSA's mission is to provide training and technical assistance to State VR agencies on the problems facing rehabilitation service providers, and to disseminate and promote the utilization of knowledge resulting from current research. Through the *IRI*, high priority training needs are responded to expeditiously, and the study findings on a specific topic are quickly transposed into useful and usable training materials and publications.

Improving the skills of personnel in the Public VR program through effective training is a basic function of RSA's RRCEPs. RSA funds the following three RSA RRCEPs to serve as prime study group coordinators for developing the three publications: the University of Arkansas; George Washington University; and, the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Additional copies of this publication, or copies in alternate formats, may be obtained by contacting Ms. Jeanne Miller at:

Region VI Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program  
University of Arkansas  
P.O. Box 1358  
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71902

Email: [jcmiller@cei.net](mailto:jcmiller@cei.net)  
Voice: 501.623.7700  
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If you have any questions or comments regarding the *IRI*, please contact Mr. Charles Sadler, RSA *IRI* Coordinator at 202.205.9286, or via email at [Charles\\_Sadler@ed.gov](mailto:Charles_Sadler@ed.gov).

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Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

Enclosure