

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

RSA-IM-00-08

DATE: December 14, 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 SERVICE
PROGRAMS
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Selection of State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies for FY 2000
Periodic On-Site Monitoring

CONTENT: The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to inform you of the State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies selected to receive periodic on-site monitoring reviews during FY 2000. RSA selects a sample of the State VR agencies for this type of in-depth review in order to obtain a sense of the general health of the Public VR program. RSA is required to conduct annual reviews and periodic on-site monitoring of the programs funded under title I in order to ensure that the States are complying with the State plan requirements. Based upon these reviews, RSA provides technical assistance to improve the quality of VR services and establishes a corrective action plan if the program fails to comply substantially with the State plan provisions.

The selection is based on established criteria, including reviews of the following:

- ? State VR agency performance in assisting people with disabilities to achieve employment outcomes;
- ? Previous monitoring reports, including non-compliance findings;
- ? Size of grant;
- ? Type of grant and geographic distribution;
- ? Reports of critical issues and concerns;
- ? Length of time since last in-depth review; and,

- ? Other information pertinent to the State VR agency's ability to fulfill its statutory and regulatory responsibilities.

One of the primary recommendations made by stakeholders in the Public VR program during meetings held in FY 1999 was that RSA should publicize its monitoring activities in order to enable participation by people interested in the program. We are responding to this recommendation by using this Information Memorandum to inform the public of the reviews planned for this Federal Fiscal Year. We will follow up this notification with wider dissemination of RSA's FY 2000 monitoring guidance. This guidance will also be available on our web site located at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/RSA/rsa.html>.

The State VR agencies selected for review are:

1. New York Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities;
2. South Carolina Commission for the Blind;
3. Indiana Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitation Services;
4. Texas Rehabilitation Commission; and,
5. California Department of Rehabilitation.

Beginning in the very near future, RSA staff will initiate the periodic on-site monitoring review by arranging meetings with: State VR agency management; the State Rehabilitation Council; Workforce Investment System partners; Client Assistance Program staff; and, other members of the rehabilitation community interested in the operation of the State VR agencies listed above. This process is designed to both identify issues and concerns to be reviewed, as well as to involve the stakeholders in developing effective solutions to the challenges faced within the State. We look forward to your becoming active partners in the VR program monitoring process.

If you have any questions regarding this Information Memorandum, please contact Ms. RoseAnne Ashby, Chief, Basic State Grants Branch, at (202) 245-7488, or via email at Roseann_Ashby@ed.gov.

Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D.
Commissioner

cc: NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING
COUNCIL OF STATE ADMINISTRATORS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS
NATIONAL REHABILITATION FACILITIES COALITION