

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-00-20
DATE: February 25, 2000

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE
GRANTS
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: FY 2000 Monitoring and Technical Assistance Guide for the State
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program

CONTENT: Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended in 1998, requires the
RSA Commissioner to conduct annual reviews and periodic on-site
monitoring of programs under this title to determine whether a State
vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency is complying substantially with the
provisions of its State plan and with the evaluation standards and
performance indicators established under section 106. RSA has developed
this FY 2000 Monitoring and Technical Assistance Guide to fulfill the
requirements of section 107 of the Act.

The attached FY 2000 Monitoring and Technical Assistance Guide
contains the RSA procedures for the conduct of annual reviews, periodic
on-site monitoring reviews, and targeted on-site reviews. The Guide can
also be used by State VR agencies as a self-assessment tool. During FY
2000, each of the 80 State VR agencies will be reviewed for the annual
requirements using the Annual Review sections of the attached Guide. In
addition, RSA has selected five State VR agencies to receive more
intensive monitoring. In order to enable interested constituencies to
participate in the public hearings that will be conducted as part of the
information gathering phase of periodic on-site monitoring, we are
providing you with the following list of State VR agencies to be reviewed
during FY 2000 (four of these will receive a periodic on-site monitoring
review, and one (California) will receive a targeted review):

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

Each year RSA develops monitoring focus areas to determine the level of implementation of certain requirements and national initiatives and to assess the nature and scope of technical assistance needed. This information is also useful in making decisions regarding funding and training priorities. The FY 2000 focus areas are:

- ? State Vocational Rehabilitation Participation in the Workforce Investment System;
- ? Achievement of Employment Outcomes;
- ? Eligibility;
- ? Development of the Individualized Plan for Employment;
- ? Informed Choice;
- ? Comprehensive System of Personnel Development;
- ? Mediation and Due Process; and
- ? Selected Fiscal Requirements.

RSA will be gathering data regarding the public's perception of how the State VR agency is implementing these specific requirements in order to determine effective practices and/or the need for technical assistance. Persons interested in providing this feedback may attend the public meetings or contact RSA directly.

INQUIRIES:

Information necessary to obtain additional copies of the Guide, to obtain the Guide in alternative formats, to contact the RSA Central Office Monitoring Unit and to contact the RSA Regional Commissioners is located at the end of the Guide. The Guide, as well as the sub-regulatory guidance referenced herein, are also available at the RSA Web site: www.ed.gov/offices/osers/RSA.

Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D.
Commissioner

CC: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
National Council of State Agencies for The Blind
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems
National Council on Independent Living
National Rehabilitation Facilities Coalition