

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM  
RSA-IM-01-35  
DATE: June 11, 2001

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  
NATIONAL FACILITIES COALITION  
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Dissemination of the publication entitled: "Effective Strategies to Improve the Achievement of Employment of Individuals Who Are SSI/SSDI Participants," developed by the Twenty-Sixth 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 by individuals representing various State VR programs, the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RRCEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). While the publication was developed under a grant from RSA, the contents do not represent the policy of this agency, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government. Dr. Daniel McAlees, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, served as the university coordinator for the study group.

This publication is intended to be a source of innovative ideas for rehabilitation personnel, a user's guide, and a tool for use in training staff. 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. Clearly, the innovative ideas contained in this document have the potential to improve the ability of the

VR counselor to provide quality services to individuals served by the Public VR program.

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.

Copies of this publication may be obtained by contacting the IRI university coordinator:

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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 [voice], (202) 205-9295 [TTY], (202) 205-9340 [FAX], or via Email at [Charles.Sadler@ed.gov](mailto:Charles.Sadler@ed.gov).

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Mark E. Shoob  
Deputy Commissioner