

The Role of State VR Agencies in Workforce Investment Systems:

Creating a Universally Accessible and Seamless System that Meets the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

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Overview

- VR Program is an integral component of the statewide workforce investment system.
- One-Stop Centers must provide physical and programmatic access for persons with disabilities.
- State VR agencies are expected to play leadership roles in providing access to One-Stop Centers for persons with disabilities.
- VR's leadership role expected to be expanded when WIA and Rehab reauthorized.

Purpose of the Presentation

- Assist State VR agencies in fulfilling their leadership roles in expanding and improving training opportunities for persons with disabilities received in and through One-Stop Centers.
- This includes all aspects of the operation of One-Stop Centers, including outreach, intake, screening and assessment, service delivery, evaluation, and operations/management.

Organization of the Presentation

- First, describe key disability-related provisions in WIA and provisions prescribing VR's leadership role in enhancing access for persons with disabilities.
- Second, present national initiatives.
- Third, present Southeast region state initiatives.
- Finally, present initiatives from other states outside of the region.

Congressional Expectation

VR AND GENERIC SYSTEM

- Relationship between vocational rehabilitation programs and the generic workforce investment system.
- Role of VR as Change Agent

Congressional Expectation

VR AND GENERIC SYSTEM

- Achieving the goals of disability policy articulated in the ADA.
 - Equality of Opportunity
 - Full Participation
 - Independent living
 - Economic-self-sufficiency

Congressional Expectation

VR AND GENERIC SYSTEM

- Helping ensure the implementation of Section 188 of WIA (equal opportunity/nondiscrimination) and implementing regulations.

Congressional Expectation

VR AND GENERIC SYSTEM

Section 188 Disability Checklist

- Designation of Equal Opportunity Officers
- Notice and Communication
- Assurances
- Universal Access
- Obligation not to Discriminate on the Basis of Disability
- Data and Information Collection and Maintenance
- Monitor for Compliance
- Complaint Processing
- Corrective Action/Sanctions

Congressional Expectation

VR AND GENERIC SYSTEM

- Reauthorization of WIA and Rehab Act
- Disability-Related Provisions in Previous Bills.

National Initiatives

Civil Rights Center, DOL

- WIA Section 188 Disability Checklist
- CRC Power Point Training accompanying Checklist
- CRC Power Point Training on Disability-Related Inquiries

National Initiatives

Employment and Training Administration, DOL

- One-Stop Toolkit for Serving People with Disabilities
- Disability Program Navigator Technical Assistance Project

National Initiatives

Office of Disability and Employment Policy and RSA

- National Center on Workforce and Disability, Institute for Community Inclusion
- Access for All: A Resource Manual for Meeting the Needs of One-Stop Customers with Disabilities
- Policy briefs and papers by Bobby Silverstein
- Universal Design Initiatives

State Initiatives

Office of Disability and Employment Policy and RSA

- Job Accommodation Network (JAN)
- DBTAC network of ADA centers “at your service—welcoming customers with disabilities”

Southeast Region State Initiatives

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Florida
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

State Initiatives in other Regions

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Iowa
- Maine
- Missouri
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Utah
- Wisconsin

Questions...

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THANK YOU!

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Disclaimer

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