

**Questionnaire 2:  
Chairperson of the State Rehabilitation Council**

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the U.S. Department of Education has awarded a contract to Development Associates, Inc. to assess the technical assistance needs of State VR agencies and State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) and to determine the most effective means of providing assistance to address those needs. This questionnaire is designed to gather the opinions of SRCs on these questions. The results of this needs assessment will be used by RSA to design a technical assistance system that best meets technical assistance needs within existing resources.

The Chairperson of the SRC may wish to consult with other members of the Council in completing the questionnaire, based on their backgrounds and length of time on the council. However, there is no expectation that individual members be surveyed. Each SRC chairperson should make an individual determination of how much input should be solicited from other SRC members.

**Paperwork Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-~~xxxx~~. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 120 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. **If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. **If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to:**

U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services  
Attn: Charles Sadler, Room 5002  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-2800

1. RSA’s goal in providing technical assistance to State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) is to improve the performance of those councils. Presented below is a list of potential topic areas for technical assistance. Please rate each of these topic areas of assistance in terms of the extent of need for assistance **in the next two years** in order to improve council performance, using a scale from 1 (little need) to 5 (great need). Use a rating of 1 if the item is not relevant to your council. Please try to use as many of the scale points as possible to illustrate the relative need for these topic areas of assistance.

|   | Rating                 |   |   |   |                       |
|---|------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
|   | <u>Little<br/>Need</u> |   |   |   | <u>Great<br/>Need</u> |
| <b>A. <u>VR Act, Regulations, etc.</u></b>                                  |                        |   |   |   |                       |
| (1) Understanding of the Rehabilitation Act and current regulatory language | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (2) Role of the SRC in RSA monitoring and compliance reviews                | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (3) Title I Standards and Indicators  | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| <b>B. <u>VR Services Offered by the State Agency</u></b>                    |                        |   |   |   |                       |
| (1) Structure of the State VR system  | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (2) State VR policies   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (3) The VR process  | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (4) State VR consumer population  | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (5) Services offered to consumers   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (6) State political environment relating to VR                              | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| <b>C. <u>Role of the SRC</u></b>  |                        |   |   |   |                       |
| (1) SRC role and responsibilities under Section 105                         | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (2) SRC relationship with State agency                                      | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (3) How to work with the State VR agency                                    | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (4) How to retain SRC members   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |
| (5) Succession planning for SRC chairpersons                                | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                     |

| Rating        |  |  |  |              |
|---------------|--|--|--|--------------|
| <u>Little</u> |  |  |  | <u>Great</u> |
| <u>Need</u>   |  |  |  | <u>Need</u>  |

D. Implementing SRC Activities

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Statewide needs assessment  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (2) Strategic planning  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (3) Input into State Plan development                                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (4) Input into State policy development                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (5) Measurement of customer satisfaction                                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (6) Assessment of agency performance and input into service improvement | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (7) Holding public hearings   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (8) Holding effective meetings  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (9) Development of annual reports                                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

E. SRC Networking

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Working within the Workforce Investment Act system   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (2) Working with other State agencies (e.g., health, social service, education)                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (3) Working with other councils (e.g., State Independent Living Council)                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (4) Working with consumer organizations (e.g., disability rights organizations)                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (5) Advocacy for VR in State (e.g., with legislators)  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (6) Working with the Governor's Office to get timely appointments and maintain full membership | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

2. Are there any other topic areas of technical assistance that are of significant need for improving the performance of your council?

a.

b.

c.

3. A number of individuals in the VR system have suggested that technical assistance to SRCs should distinguish between the needs of new and continuing SRC members. What topic areas of technical assistance from those described in Items 1 and 2 above are of highest priority for **new members** of your council?
- a.
- b.
- c.
4. A number of individuals in the VR system have also suggested that technical assistance to SRCs should include examples of effective SRC practices. Which of the following statements best describes how you believe that such practices should be identified? (Check one)
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. RSA should provide examples from SRCs only after the effectiveness of practices has been documented through independent evaluation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. RSA should make professional judgments about which practices appear to be worthy of replication, and disseminate those practices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. RSA should not judge the effectiveness of the practices, and should disseminate all practices described as effective by SRCs.
5. There are a variety of ways in which technical assistance can be provided to SRCs. Please indicate **your perceptions** of the effectiveness of various types of technical assistance for providing assistance to SRCs using a scale from 1 (not very effective) to 5 (highly effective). Please try to use as many of the scale points as possible to illustrate the relative effectiveness of these types of assistance.

|  | Rating                              |   |   |   |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
|  | <u>Not very</u><br><u>Effective</u> |   |   |   | <u>Highly</u><br><u>Effective</u> |
| a. In-person visits                                      | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| b. General conferences (e.g., CSAVR)                     | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| c. Specialized conferences for SRC members               | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| d. Videoconferences                                      | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| e. Teleconferences                                       | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| f. Personal e-mail                                       | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| g. Telephone conversations                               | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| h. Website resources                                     | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| i. Web-based training                                    | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| j. Webcasts  | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| k. Listservs   | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| l. Information circulars or bulletins, policy directives | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |
| m. Information on CDs                                    | 1                                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                                 |

6. In addition to the understanding the technical assistance needs of SRCs, Development Associates would like to get the opinions of SRCs concerning the most important technical assistance needs of the State VR agencies. What do you believe are the most important content areas of technical assistance needed by your State VR agency?

a.

b.

c.