

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2800**

**Guidance for Development and Submittal of the
State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the
State Plan Supplement for Supported Employment Services**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For a state to participate in the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program authorized under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, ("the Act") and the State Supported Employment Services Program under Title VI, Part B of the Act, it must have an approved Title I State Plan and Title VI, Part B supplement to the Plan.

The Title I State Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement reflect a state's commitment to administer these two formula grant programs in compliance with the provisions of the plan and its supplement, and applicable federal legal requirements. The Plan and its supplement also describe a state's activities related to various administrative and operational considerations connected with these programs. As such, the Plan and its supplement serve as key elements in the Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA) monitoring of a state's administration of these two programs.

A state has the option of developing and submitting a separate "stand alone" State Plan for the statewide workforce investment system under Section 112 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) or a state unified plan under Section 501(b) of the WIA. If a state chooses to submit a separate WIA plan or a unified plan without the Title I State Plan, it must submit the Title I State Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement separately to RSA in accordance with the following guidance. If the state, however, chooses to include the Title I State Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement in the unified plan, the guidance issued by the Department of Labor (DOL) with respect to the unified plan should be followed. In this context, Section 501(c)(1) of WIA stipulates that all requirements applicable to the Plan and its supplement must be satisfied and this guidance provides useful content information on State Plan and supplement requirements.

FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE STATE PLAN AND ITS SUPPLEMENT

The Title I State Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement consist of a preprint in the form of affirmative assurances based on federal statutory requirements. The preprint also identifies optional assurances from which the state can choose. The preprint developed for the State Plan and supplement is designed to meet all of the applicable legal requirements for the Title I Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement while reducing burden as much as possible on the states.

In addition to the preprint assurances, the Act requires descriptions of the state's policies, procedures and activities relating to certain assurances in the Plan and its supplement. These descriptions provide greater operational detail for certain elements of the assurances and are

submitted in the form of attachments to the preprint. The number of attachments is contingent on options selected by the state in its preprint assurances. A careful reading of the preprint is necessary to ensure that all applicable State Plan descriptions are addressed and submitted.

Consistent with Section 101(a)(1)(B) of the Act, the state is not required to submit any policies, procedures, or descriptions that have been previously approved and demonstrate that the state meets the requirements of Title I or Title VI, part B of the Act. It is the responsibility of each state agency to determine which previously submitted materials meet these requirements.

Section 101(a)(23) of the Act, however, does require the submission of selected State Plan descriptions as annual updates to an approved plan. In addition, other descriptions are required by their very nature to be submitted on an annual basis. Additional information regarding state plan attachments is provided in the section of these instructions entitled “**State Plan and Supplement Descriptions.**”

PREPARATION OF THE PLAN AND ITS SUPPLEMENT

Preprint Assurances

- (1) The preprint and guidance for the Title I Plan and Title VI, Part B supplement are available in electronic format at <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/rehab/state-plans.html>.
- (2) Since the preprint assurances reflect the state's commitment to comply with applicable federal legal requirements, the assurances are not to be modified.
- (3) For optional assurances, indicate an option by marking "Yes" or "No" with a "X".
- (4) If an assurance requires documentation or implementation of an activity not addressed in any of the required descriptions, supporting documentation must be maintained by the state and made available to RSA for monitoring purposes.

Attachments

- (1) The attachments are to be clear, succinct and informative narratives that describe operational considerations relating to corresponding preprint assurances. Manuals, bulletins, memoranda, budgets, and similar materials are not to be submitted unless specifically required or clearly suitable to the purpose of a specific attachment.
- (2) Each attachment is to identify the corresponding section of the preprint, be paginated and show an effective date. The identification is to be placed in the lower right hand corner of the page as follows:

Attachment X: Page 1 of 4 Pages
Effective Date: XXXXX, XX, XXXX

ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Public Participation

Prior to the adoption of any substantive policies or procedures (or any substantive amendment to such policies and procedures) governing the provision of vocational rehabilitation services under the Title I State Plan or the provision of supported employment services under the Title VI, Part B supplement to the Title I State Plan, the designated state agency must conduct public meetings throughout the state, after providing adequate notice of the meetings, to provide the public, including individuals with disabilities, an opportunity to comment on the policies and procedures, and must actively consult with the director of the client assistance program, and, as appropriate, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

State Review Process

- (1) The Title I Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 pertaining to state processes for review and comment. In a state where the Title I Plan and its supplement are subject to the state review process, it is suggested that a draft copy of the materials be submitted to RSA simultaneously with its submission for state review. This will afford RSA staff the opportunity to review the materials and resolve potential problems prior to the submission of the official State Plan materials.
- (2) In a state in which the plan and supplement are subject to the state review process, the official materials should be transmitted to RSA upon receipt of a response from the state review process, or a minimum of 60 days from the date of submittal to the state's review process, whichever comes first.

TRANSMITTAL OF OFFICIAL STATE PLAN AND SUPPLEMENT MATERIALS

Submission Date

Section 101(a)(1)(A) of the Act requires the submittal of the Title I Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement on the same date that the state submits its State Plan under Section 112 of WIA. If a state submits a WIA unified plan without including the Title I Plan, RSA expects the Title I Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement will be submitted to RSA on the same date the state submits its unified plan.

Methods of Submission

The official Title I State Plan and Title VI, Part B supplement materials can be submitted either electronically or in hardcopy.

Electronic Transmission Options

- (1) States are encouraged to submit the Plan and its supplement to RSA electronically through the Internet. The plan together with its transmittal letter can be sent to: osers.rsa.vrstateplans@ed.gov. If a state chooses this option for the submission of the Plan, the submission must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format.
- (2) States can also submit the Plan and its supplement on a CD-ROM. If a state chooses this option, the submission must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

If the CD-ROM is mailed through the United States Postal Service (USPS), it should be sent to:

United States Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
Rehabilitation Services Administration
Attention: Pedro Romero
400 Maryland Avenue SW, PCP Room 5007
Washington, DC 20202-2800

If the CD-ROM is sent by Federal Express or similar overnight delivery organizations, it should be sent to:

United States Department of Education
Attention: Pedro Romero
Mail Stop 2800
PCP Room 5007
7100 Old Landover Road
Landover, Maryland 20785-1605

- (3) If the Plan submitted electronically either through the Internet or the CD-ROM does not include the signature of the state official authorized to submit the Plan and its supplement, the state must submit to RSA a separate hardcopy of the transmittal letter and Section 1 of the Plan signed by the state official authorized to submit the Plan and its supplement. These materials can be transmitted to RSA at the same address identified above for a CD-ROM either mailed through the USPS or sent through an overnight delivery service.

Hardcopy Transmission

The original and two copies of the Plan together with a transmittal letter signed by the state official authorized to submit the Plan are to be transmitted to RSA at the same address identified above for a CD-ROM either mailed through the USPS or sent through an overnight delivery service.

ANNUAL UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS

(1) Annual Updates

A state must annually update certain portions of an approved State Plan or supplement as required by Section 101(a)(23) of the Act or by the very nature of a state plan requirement itself.

(2) Amendments

- (a) 34 CFR 76.140(b) requires that an approved State Plan or supplement be amended if there is a significant and relevant change that materially affects the:
- Information or assurances in the Plan or supplement;
 - Administration or operation of the Plan or its supplement; or

- Organization, policies, or operations of the state agency that receives the funds under the Plan or the supplement.
- (b) Section 101(a)(1)(C) of the Act also requires that the Plan or its supplement be amended in the instance of a change in state policy or federal law, including regulations; an interpretation by a federal court or the highest court in the state of a Title I or Title VI, Part B provision; or, by a non-compliance finding by the RSA commissioner. Within this context, each state agency needs to periodically review its approved Plan and supplement to ensure its consistency with the state's policies, priorities, and administration relating to its vocational rehabilitation and supported employment programs.
- (3) The procedures applicable to the development and submission of annual State Plan updates and amendments to the approved Title I Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement are the same as those described for the development and submission of the original Plan and supplement. If, subsequent to the approval of the Plan, a state amends its choice of optional assurances, it must submit the page(s) of the preprint affected by the amendment(s). The amended page(s) should clearly identify which assurance(s) is affected and the effective date(s) of the amendment(s).

INFORMATION ON SELECTED COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN AND ITS SUPPLEMENT

The following provides basic information on key Title I Plan and Title VI, Part B supplement provisions.

4.1 Designated state agency and designated state unit

Prior to the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, the statute provided limited optional organizational settings for the designated state agency responsible for the administration of the Title I Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement. A state now has the flexibility to locate the vocational rehabilitation program wherever it chooses within the state organizational structure. In those instances in which the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency is not primarily concerned with vocational rehabilitation, or vocational and other rehabilitation, of individuals with disabilities, such a vocational rehabilitation agency must have a vocational rehabilitation bureau, division, or other organizational unit that is primarily concerned with vocational rehabilitation, or vocational and other rehabilitation, of individuals with disabilities.

The designated organizational unit must be responsible for the vocational rehabilitation program of the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency and must have a full-time director and staff of whom all or substantially all are employed full-time on the rehabilitation work of the organizational unit. In addition, the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit must be located at an organizational level and must have an organizational status within the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency comparable to that of other major organizational units of that agency.

4.2 Summary of Input Provided by the State Rehabilitation Council

Section 101(a)(21)(A)(ii)(III) of the Act requires the State Plan or any update or amendment to the plan to include a summary of input provided by the State Rehabilitation Council, if the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit has a Council. Accordingly, **Attachment 4.2(c)** summarizes the Council's input, including the Council's recommendations from its annual report, the review and analysis of consumer satisfaction, and other reports prepared by the Council. The attachment is also to include the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit's responses to the Council's input and recommendations, including explanations for rejecting any of the Council's input or recommendations.

4.5 Local administration

Section 101(a)(2)(A) of the Act provides the option for the administration of the Title I plan by a local agency under the supervision of the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency. This option provides a state the flexibility to have the Title I Plan administered by a local agency(ies), as that term is defined in Section 7(24) of the Act, under the supervision of the state vocational rehabilitation agency in a defined political subdivision(s) of the state.

If the State Plan provides for local administration, the local agency is responsible, under the supervision of the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency, for the administration of all provisions of the Title I Plan within its geopolitical area. The requirement that each local agency is subject to the supervision of the designated vocational rehabilitation state unit means that the state unit is responsible for ensuring that the vocational rehabilitation program of the local agency is administered in accordance with the approved Title I Plan. This provision does not extend to the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit supervising the day-to-day operations of the local agency's program staff.

4.6 Shared funding and administration of joint programs

Section 101(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the Act authorizes joint programs in which the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency shares its programmatic and fiscal responsibilities and control with another agency. The focus of such a joint program is not on the expansion of services or the introduction of innovative approaches to the delivery of services; rather it is on better coordination of existing services of the participating agencies through the mechanism of shared funding and administration of the services.

If a state chooses the option for shared funding and administration, it must submit a Plan to RSA that describes, consistent with the requirements of 34 CFR 361.27, the:

- Nature and scope of the joint program;
- Services to be provided;
- Respective roles of each participating agency in the provision of services and in their administration; and
- Share of the costs to be assumed by each agency.

4.7 Statewideness and waivers of statewideness

Section 101(a)(4) of the Act requires that the Title I Plan be in effect in all political subdivisions of the state. A state vocational rehabilitation agency, however, may provide a program in one or more political subdivisions that increases or expands the scope of services that are available statewide under the State Plan **if** the:

- Nonfederal share of the cost of the services is met from funds provided by a local public agency, including funds contributed to a local public agency by a private agency, organization, or individual;
- Services are likely to promote the vocational rehabilitation of substantially larger numbers of individuals with disabilities or of individuals with disabilities with particular types of impairments; and
- State includes in its Plan, and the secretary approves, a request for a waiver of the statewideness requirement.

If a state requests a waiver of the statewideness requirement, **Attachment 4.7(b)(3)**, consistent with the requirements of 34 CFR 361.26(b), must:

- Identify the types of services to be provided;
- Contain a written assurance from the local public agency that it will make available to the state unit the nonfederal share of funds;
- Contain a written assurance that state unit approval will be obtained for each proposed service before it is put into effect; and
- Include a written assurance that all other State Plan requirements, including a state's order of selection, will apply to all services approved under the waiver.

Consistent with the provisions of Section 101(a)(4)(B) of the Act, if the state cannot provide the full nonfederal share without the use of privately earmarked funds for particular geographic areas within the state, the state is required to notify RSA of this fact but there is no requirement for a waiver of statewideness.

4.8 Cooperation, collaboration, and coordination

Section 101(a)(11)(A) of the Act requires the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency to enter into cooperative agreements with other entities that are components of the statewide workforce investment system and to replicate these agreements at the local level between individual offices of the designated state unit and the local entities carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system. These agreements, particularly those at the local level, are important mechanisms to ensure effective communication, collaboration, coordination and cooperation between the vocational rehabilitation program and its partners in the statewide workforce investment system.

The Act describes in Section 100(a)(1) that the provision of workforce investment activities and vocational rehabilitation services can enable individuals with disabilities, including individuals with the most significant disabilities, to pursue meaningful careers by securing gainful employment commensurate with their abilities and capabilities. It also states that linkages between the vocational rehabilitation program and other components of the statewide workforce investment system are critical to ensure effective and meaningful

participation by individuals with disabilities in workforce investment activities carried out through one-stop centers established under Section 121 of WIA.

Section 121(b)(1)(B)(iv) of WIA identifies the vocational rehabilitation program as a required partner in one-stop activities. As a required partner, the vocational rehabilitation program must make available to participants, through the one-stop delivery system, the core services that are applicable to the vocational rehabilitation program to the extent not inconsistent with the requirements of the Act, and to participate in the operation of the one-stop delivery system consistent with the memorandum of understanding required by Section 121(c) of WIA and the requirements of the Act. RSA fully promotes the partnership envisioned in the WIA and encourages and supports the efforts of state vocational rehabilitation agencies to establish effective and productive collaborative relationships with their WIA partners so that individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with significant disabilities, can benefit from such collaboration.

The purpose of the WIA is the creation of a seamless job training and preparation system to better serve individuals, including individuals with disabilities, in need of services available under the WIA. In support of this intent, the provisions of Section 101(a)(11)(A) identify the following key elements to be considered in the development of the required cooperative agreements between a designated state unit and the other components of the statewide workforce investment system.

- Provision of intercomponent training and technical assistance on the role, function and requirements of the vocational rehabilitation program so as to promote the equal, effective and meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities in workforce investment activities;
- Use of information and financial management systems that link all components of the statewide workforce investment system;
- Use of customer service features such as common intake and referral procedures, customer databases, resource information, and human services hotlines;
- Establishment of relationships with employers to support the employment of individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with the most significant disabilities;
- Identification of staff roles, responsibilities, and available resources together with the specification of financial responsibility of each component of the statewide workforce investment system for paying for services; and
- Specification of dispute resolution procedures.

To ensure that individuals with disabilities have complete, equal, effective and meaningful participation in the activities of the statewide workforce investment system, particularly at the local levels through the one-stop centers, it is very important that the state vocational rehabilitation agency partner with the other components of the statewide workforce investment system and the local one-stops in the planning and implementation of WIA related activities and advocate with these components on the behalf of individuals with disabilities, particularly those with significant disabilities.

Several required State Plan descriptions detailing cooperative efforts on the part of the vocational rehabilitation agency with other programs are consolidated in **Attachment 4.8(b)**. The descriptions included in this attachment encompass:

- Interagency cooperation with agencies and entities that are not carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system;
- Coordination with education officials to facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services;
- Cooperative agreements with private non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers; and
- Collaboration with other state agencies and other entities regarding the provision of supported employment services and extended services for individuals with the most significant disabilities.

4.10 Comprehensive system of personnel development

Attachment 4.10 describes the state procedures and activities with respect to the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive system of personnel development (CSPD), as required by Section 101(a)(7) of the Act, to ensure an adequate supply of qualified professionals and paraprofessionals for the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit.

The description must address all of the CSPD content areas identified in 34 CFR 361.18 and Section 4.10 of the Plan. Of particular importance are the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit's personnel standards. The agency's standards must be based on the highest requirements in the state applicable to a particular profession. If personnel do not meet that standard, the State Plan must identify the steps the state unit is taking to ensure the retraining or hiring of personnel, particularly vocational rehabilitation counselors, so that such personnel meet appropriate professional standards in the state.

The primary factor that RSA will consider in determining the approvability of a state's plan to retrain and/or hire staff, particularly vocational rehabilitation counselors, to meet the highest requirements in the state applicable to a particular profession will be the reasonableness of the plan in terms of the applicable provisions of Section 101(a)(7) of the Act and the requirements at 34 CFR 361.18(c) vis-à-vis the particular circumstances of the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit. In addition, RSA will take into consideration the following factors in terms of the extent to which the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit has:

- Established its personnel standards, particularly for vocational rehabilitation counselors, on the highest requirements in the state, or is making progress to that end;
- Analyzed the needs of its staff, particularly vocational rehabilitation counselors, with respect to how many either meet or do not meet the highest requirements in the state applicable to a particular profession;
- Examined factors, such as pay scales or qualified personnel shortages, that may adversely affect its ability to hire qualified staff, and developed a strategy to address such barriers;
- Identified the number of personnel, particularly the number of vocational rehabilitation counselors, who do not meet the required personnel standards and developed a plan to assist such personnel to meet the required standards in a reasonably timely manner;

- Committed funds for the implementation of a retraining plan to assist personnel, particularly vocational rehabilitation counselors, to meet the highest requirements in the state applicable to a particular profession; and
- Evaluated the results of its planned recruitment and retraining efforts to ensure that all personnel, particularly vocational rehabilitation counselors, meet the highest requirements in the state applicable to a particular profession.

Consistent with the requirements of Section 101(a)(23) of the Act, the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit must submit to RSA a report containing an *annual update of the information required by Section 101(a)(7) of the Act.*

4.11 Assessments; Annual Estimates; Goals and Priorities; Strategies; and Reports of Progress

The Act in Section 101(a)(15) requires the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit to identify in its State Plan the:

- Findings of its statewide assessment of the rehabilitation needs of individuals that is to be conducted at least on a triennial basis;
- Annual estimates of the number of eligible individuals in the state, the number who will receive services under the Title I and Title VI, Part B programs, and the costs of the services;
- Goals and priorities for the vocational rehabilitation that are jointly developed by the state agency and the State Rehabilitation Council, if the state has a Council;
- Strategies to address the findings of the needs assessment and to achieve the identified goals and priorities; and
- Evaluation and progress report on the improvement in the program’s effectiveness compared to the previous year.

Attachment 4.11 consolidates a variety of required State Plan descriptions. Some of the required descriptions are contingent on the options selected by the state and one of the descriptions is not required by the Act but by the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). Information on this description can be found at the end of this guidance.

The attachment is divided into discrete components that include the following descriptions:

- 4.11(a)** Results of Comprehensive Statewide Assessment of the Rehabilitation Needs of Individuals with Disabilities and Need to Establish, Develop, or Improve Community Rehabilitation Programs
- 4.11(b)** Annual Estimates of Individuals to Be Served and Costs of Services
- 4.11(c)** Goals and Priorities
 - (1)** State’s Goals and Priorities for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Programs
 - (3)** Order of Selection (if applicable)
 - (4)** Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds
- 4.11(d)** State’s Strategies and Use of Title I Funds for Innovation and Expansion Activities to:

- (1) Address Needs Identified in the Comprehensive Assessment and to Achieve Identified Goals and Priorities
 - (2) Carry out Outreach Activities to Identify and Serve Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities Who are Minorities
 - (3) Overcome Identified Barriers Relating to Equitable Access to and Participation of Individuals with Disabilities in the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and the State Supported Employment Services Program
- 4.11(e)(2)** Evaluation and Report of Progress in Achieving Identified Goals and Priorities and Use of Title I Funds for Innovation and Expansion Activities

Consistent with the requirements of Section 101(a)(23) of the Act, the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit must submit to RSA a report containing an *annual* update of the information relating to the estimates, goals and priorities whenever the state revises the goals and priorities, and progress in achieving the identified goals and priorities, and on how the reserved Title I funds for innovation and expansion activities were used in the previous year.

4.12 Innovation and Expansion

Section 101(a)(18) of the Act requires a state unit to reserve and use a portion of the funds allotted to the state under Section 110 of the Act for the development and implementation of innovative approaches to expand and improve vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the state plan and for the support of the State Rehabilitation Council and/or the Statewide Independent Living Council.

Attachment 4.11(d) describes how the state unit will utilize the reserved funds.

Attachment 4.11(e)(2) describes how the funds reserved for innovation and expansion activities were utilized in the preceding year.

Consistent with the requirements of Section 101(a)(23) of the Act, the designated state vocational rehabilitation unit must submit to RSA a report containing an *annual* update of information relating to the innovation and expansion activities undertaken by the state vocational rehabilitation unit.

5.3 Ability to serve all eligible individuals; order of selection for services.

Sections 12(d) and 101(a)(5) of the Act and 34 CFR 361.36 contain the provisions related to the order of selection when the state agency is not able provide the full range of rehabilitation services as identified in Section 103(a) of the Act and 34 CFR 361.48 to all individuals eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. If the state agency makes the determination that it cannot provide the full range of rehabilitation services to all eligible individuals, **Attachment 4.11(c)(3)** must contain:

- The order to be followed in selecting eligible individuals to be provided vocational rehabilitation services;
- A justification of that order of selection; and
- The service and outcome goals and the time within which these goals may be achieved for individuals in each priority category within the order.

STATE PLAN AND SUPPLEMENT DESCRIPTIONS

The Act requires that the Title I State Plan and its Title VI, Part B supplement include descriptions related to certain assurances made by the state. These descriptions take the form of attachments and information about the attachments is provided in the discussion under the section of these instructions entitled "**Preparation of the Plan and its Supplement.**" More specific information relating to some attachments is provided in the section of these instructions entitled "**Information on Selected Components of the Plan and its Supplement.**"

ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED OF ALL AGENCIES

- Attachment 4.9(c):** Cooperation and Coordination with Other Agencies and Other Entities
- (1) Cooperation with Agencies that Are Not in the Statewide Workforce Investment System and with Other Entities
 - (2) Coordination with Education Officials
 - (3) Cooperative Agreements with Private Non-profit Vocational Rehabilitation Service Providers
 - (4) Evidence of Collaboration Regarding Supported Employment Services and Extended Services
- Attachment 4.10:** Comprehensive System of Personnel Development
Attachment 4.11: Assessments; Estimates; Goals and Priorities; Strategies; and Progress Reports
- (a): Results of Comprehensive Statewide Assessment of the Rehabilitation Needs of Individuals with Disabilities and Need to Establish, Develop, or Improve Community Rehabilitation Programs
 - (b): Annual Estimates of Individuals to Be Served and Costs of Services
 - (c)(1): State's Goals and Priorities
 - (c)(4): Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds
 - (d): State's Strategies and Use of Title I Funds for Innovation and Expansion Activities
 - (1) To Address Needs Identified in the Comprehensive Assessment and to Achieve Identified Goals and Priorities
 - (2) To Carry Out Outreach Activities to Identify and Serve Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities Who are Minorities
 - (3) To Overcome Identified Barriers Relating to Equitable Access to and Participation of Individuals with Disabilities in the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and the State Supported Employment Services Program
 - (e): Evaluation and Report of Progress in Achieving Identified Goals and Priorities and Use Of Title I Funds for Innovation and Expansion Activities
- Attachment 6.3:** Quality, Scope, and Extent of Supported Employment Services

ATTACHMENTS CONTINGENT ON OPTIONS SELECTED

- Attachment 4.2(c):** Summary of Input and Recommendations of the State Rehabilitation Council; Response of the Designated State Unit; and Explanations for Rejection of Input or Recommendations
- Attachment 4.7(b)(3):** Request for Waiver of Statewideness
- Attachment 4.11(c)(3):** Order of Selection

REPORTING BURDEN FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather and maintain the data needed, conduct public hearings, and complete and review the information collection.

If you have any comments concerning this time burden estimate or related to the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, please write to:

U.S. Department of Education
Information Management and Compliance Division
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-4651

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) is a statute that requires all federal agencies to manage their activities with attention to the consequences of those activities. Each agency is to clearly state what it intends to accomplish, identify the resources required, and periodically report its progress to Congress. In so doing, it is expected that the GPRA will contribute to improvements in accountability for the expenditure of public funds, improve Congressional decision-making through more objective information on the effectiveness of federal programs, and promote a new government focus on results, service delivery, and customer satisfaction.

Some of the performance indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program include the percentage of individuals obtaining employment and the percentage of individuals obtaining competitive employment. To obtain a copy of the GPRA standards and indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program, write to:

United States Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration
Ms. Carol Dobak, Chief
Vocational Rehabilitation Program Unit
400 Maryland Avenue SW, PCP Room 5014
Washington, DC 20202-2800

GENERAL EDUCATION PROVISIONS ACT

Section 427 GEPA requires applicants for new grant awards under Department of Education programs to describe their proposed steps to ensure equitable access to and participation in federally funded programs for program beneficiaries. Applicants have discretion in developing the required description within the framework of the six types of barriers that GEPA identifies as potential impediments to equitable access or participation in federally funded programs. The six identified potential barriers are: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

Based on the unique circumstances in each state, the required description should identify, in a clear yet succinct manner, the steps the designated state vocational rehabilitation agency is taking to overcome the identified barriers relating to equitable access to and participation of individuals with disabilities in the Title I program of vocational rehabilitation and the Title VI, Part B program of supported employment. The description should be addressed in **Attachment 4.11(d)**.

The time to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response. This estimate includes the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather and maintain the needed data, and complete and review the information collection. Comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimates or suggestions for improving this information collection can be sent to:

United States Department of Education
Information Management and Compliance Division
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-4651