

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION WITH AND USE OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS NOT CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM

General Introduction

Wisconsin DVR is required to establish agreements with a variety of public and private agencies in order to meet its State Plan obligations. **All service agreements described in these attachments meet the statewideness requirements specified in 34CFR, Part 361.25 unless a waiver of statewideness has been authorized.**

This introduction applies to the following required State Plan attachments as well as other sections of the State Plan:

- 4.8(a) - Cooperative agreements with other components of statewide workforce investment system;
- 4.8(b)(1) - Interagency cooperation with agencies and entities that are not carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system;
- 4.8(b)(2) - Coordination with education officials to facilitate the transition of students with disabilities from school to the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services;
- 4.8(b)(3) - Cooperative agreements with private non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers; and
- 4.8(b)(4) - 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.

1. Guiding Principles and Mechanisms for Cooperation and Coordination with Other Agencies and Other Entities

All of these agreements, in addition to all other services and activities of the Wisconsin DVR, are to be guided by:

Our Mission: The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a federal/state program designed to obtain, maintain, and improve employment for people with disabilities by working with VR consumers, employers, and other partners.

Results of a comprehensive assessment of the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities and the need to establish develop or improve community rehabilitation programs [attachment 4.11(a)].

Established annual goals and priorities [attachment 4.11(c)(1)].

(i) Mechanisms Implementing Cooperative Agreements

The primary mechanism for interagency coordination and cooperative agreements including the collaborative or cooperative arrangement funding portion of those agreements is the State Plan interagency coordination parameters as defined in 1(i), (ii), (iii);(iv) of this attachment.

The primary mechanism for interagency coordination parameters as defined in this attachment does not require a written agreement between cooperating or collaborating agencies or entities.

The secondary mechanisms for interagency coordination and cooperative agreements may include a written agreement. A secondary mechanism in the form of a written agreement must comply with the following:

As the Division deems appropriate, and with approval from the Rehabilitation Council, secondary interagency agreement mechanisms that expand the availability of services and support the interagency coordination parameters of the State Plan may be employed.

Such mechanisms require a signed agreement between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the respective officials of the public and private entities that clearly identifies the responsibilities of each entity for the provision of services.

Secondary cooperative interagency mechanisms may include third-party cooperative arrangements or non-third-party collaborative agreements involving funds from other public agencies (34 CFR section 361.28), cooperative arrangements or collaborative agreements with private nonprofit vocational rehabilitation service provider organizations (34 CFR section 361.31), or agreements to establish or expand the scope of VR services for groups of individuals (34 CFR section 361.49). Such arrangements or agreements may or may not involve funding contributions from the Division of Vocational rehabilitation. As a complement to the primary interagency coordination parameters of the State Plan, such agreements may take the form of a memorandum of understanding or agreement, a letter of agreement, or a contractual agreement.

As deemed appropriate by the Division, and when approved by the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council, short-term waivers from the State Plan primary interagency coordination parameters may be granted. Such waivers will be granted for the purpose of facilitating the transition of secondary cooperative or collaborative interagency mechanisms and funding to full compliance with the interagency coordination parameters of the State Plan, should such a transition be determined necessary to provide continuous and timely services to DVR consumers.

(ii). Agency financial responsibility

The DVR is primarily responsible for assuring that services within the Scope of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (34 CFR section 361.48) are available to assist eligible individuals with an individualized plan for employment (IPE) in achieving their employment goals.

As needed to assure the timely and continuous provision of IPE services, the agency's financial responsibility priority will be to expend Title I-B operational and discretionary case aid funds to assure the timely and continuous availability and delivery of services to these individuals. In FFY 2010, a period where the DSU's Order of Selection actions will impact persons with significant disabilities, a minimum of 98% of the Title I-B funds, exclusive of carryover, the IPE obligation reserve, and funds allocated to DSU operations and the Section 121 Native American VR services partnership shall be designated to the discretionary case aids budget to support IPE services and to develop and activate employment plans for eligible individuals with significant and most significant disabilities from the DVR wait list in a continuous and timely manner.

After the Division is assured that eligible individuals are adequately supported in their annual plan costs, and that Title I-B funds have been used to activate individuals with significant and most significant disabilities from the OOS wait list in a timely manner, up to 2% of Title I-B discretionary case aids funds may be used for other allowable purposes, if such purposes are funded under an interagency mechanism in accordance with the minimum financial responsibilities of a public or private partner specified in this section.

In FFY '10, such allowable purposes may include service innovation or service expansion projects co-funded by another public entity that positively impact the state agency employment rate of individuals with the most significant and significant disabilities, and other priorities established by the comprehensive statewide needs assessment.

For both public and private entities

A guarantee that the Division funds will not be used to supplant funding for existing services.

A guarantee that Division funds will not be used to cover the costs of otherwise comparable services and benefits as described in 34 CFR section 361.53.

A guarantee that the Division's funding is limited to the timeframe of the project which is not to exceed 36 months, unless the project is funded in part or whole under federal appropriation in which case, the project timeframe is not to exceed 60 months.

A predetermined strategy for service sustainability and a project funding conversion schedule, to be determined by the Division that may include the conversion of project revenue to DVR fee-for-service revenue.

(iii) Conditions, terms, and procedures of reimbursement

If any entity other than the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is obligated under federal or state law, or assigned responsibility under state policy or under this paragraph, to provide or pay for any services that are also considered to be vocational rehabilitation services (other than those specified in paragraph (5)(D) and in paragraphs (1) through (4) and (14) of section 103(a) of the Rehabilitation Act), such entity shall fulfill that obligation or responsibility, either directly or by contract or other arrangement.

If an entity other than the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation fails to provide or pay for comparable benefits or services for an eligible individual, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation shall provide or pay for such services to the individual.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will claim reimbursement for the services from the entity that failed to provide or pay for such services. Such entity shall reimburse the DVR pursuant to the terms of the interagency agreement or other mechanism described in this paragraph according to the procedures established in such agreement or mechanism.

(iv) Coordination of services procedures

The service delivery timeframes within the Act and those referenced in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Policy Manual shall establish the minimum standard for the timely delivery of vocational rehabilitation services. At its discretion, the Division may create additional requirements for the coordination and timely delivery of services when establishing mechanisms for interagency coordination that impact the delivery of services.

The Division shall maintain primary responsibility for assuring the coordination and timely delivery of services. The Division will meet this responsibility through its purchasing agreements and in all other mechanisms used for establishing interagency coordination for the delivery of services.

Agreements for FFY 2010

Department of Corrections

In FFY09 DVR is developing an agreement with the Department of Corrections to pilot a project at the Racine Correctional Facility to coordinate service activities for individuals with disabilities who are scheduled for release. The agreement is anticipated to be in place throughout FFY 10.

All Wisconsin State Agency Departments

During FFY 10, WDVR will seek collaborative agreements with all State Agency Departments to target and increase paid internship opportunities for DVR job-seekers in state positions. This initiative is designed to expand the number of state employment opportunities that contribute to the skills and work experience of persons with disabilities served by DVR. The goal of the OJT paid internship is that upon successful completion, the DVR sponsored intern will have valuable experience and references for their resume and will be ready for consideration to fill available LTE or permanent positions on a competitive basis. DVR will use ARRA funds to financially support 6 month paid internships for DVR consumers who are employed as OJT interns. As agreed to by the intern and requested by the partner agency, include a renewable option up to one year. Funding for internships is available through 12/30/11.

Institutions of Higher Education

DVR has a Memorandums of Understanding through June 30, 2010 regarding the provision of services to students with disabilities who are DVR consumers enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) and the Wisconsin Technical College Systems Board (WTCSSB) higher education institutions. The MOUs are published on the DVR public website. DVR also has an agreement to coordinate IHE financial aid resources with DVR resources.

Client Assistance Program

DVR has an on-going Memorandum of Understanding with the Client Assistance Program. The MOU is posted on the DVR public website.

State Use Contracting agency and other agencies

The DSU will, when appropriate, develops agreements with other federal, state and local agencies that are not part of the statewide workforce investment system, including programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture and State use programs, when such agreements will benefit the vocational rehabilitation of persons with significant disabilities. The Division also maintains a permanent seat on the Wisconsin State Use Board.