

Cooperative Agreement

I. Introduction

A. Parties Involved

The Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Great Lakes Inter Tribal Council.

B. Purpose

This Agreement is established between Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as WDVR) and Great Lakes Inter Tribal Council (hereinafter as GLITC VR) to enhance, to the greatest extent possible, the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to eligible American Indians (hereinafter as individuals) individuals with disabilities who live on or near nine (9) of eleven (11) federally recognized Indian Tribes (Tribal Reservations) maintaining their status as sovereign Nations in the State of Wisconsin.

WDVR has the responsibility to provide vocational rehabilitation services to all qualified residents of the State of Wisconsin. However, GLITC VR, the recipient of a "Section 121" grants from the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration to provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities residing on or near nine (9) reservations. Because of the long and historic relationship (May 13, 1963) that exists between the WDVR and GLITC VR, this is seen as a renewal between WDVR and GLITC VR to enter into this collaborative Agreement to ensure cooperation and coordination.

II. Joint Agreement

The Parties Mutually Agree:

- A. To have regular meetings between the staff of WDVR and GLITC VR for the purpose of collaborating in delivering services to qualified applicants and consumers.
- B. To cooperate in the operation of a system of service provision which ensures a smooth interface and sharing of cases and information between WDVR and GLITC VR.
- C. The primary responsibility for serving a given consumer living on or near the reservation will be GLITC VR. However, GLITC VR may transfer the consumer to WDVR or have the consumer access resources that may not be available from GLITC VR, so the consumer may use those resources for an employment outcome. WDVR may also transfer applicants and or eligible consumers who live on or near the reservation and are enrolled tribal members to GLITC VR.
- D. In situations identified in C above, each agency will maintain separate case files on mutual or joint consumers during the course of service delivery. All appropriate and necessary documentation and information will be maintained and shared by each agency.

- E.** GLITC VR will be responsible for funding of all eligible individuals living on or near nine of the eleven Tribal Reservations, and WDVR will have responsibility for funding eligible individuals with disabilities that do not live on reservations. Nothing in this section will preclude WDVR from funding individuals on the reservations. Both GLITC VR and WDVR will work jointly and collaboratively to ensure that no obstacles interfere with the provision of vocational rehabilitation services.
- F.** Determination of eligibility, Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) development and Plan implementation is the sole responsibility of GLITC VR or individuals residing on or near Tribal Reservations. American Indians living off Tribal Reservations will have their eligibility, IPE and Plan implementation completed by WDVR unless the individual chooses to be served by GLITC. Both GLITC and WDVR will share each others eligibility determination to ensure timely services.
- G.** WDVR and GLITC VR may take credit for action on a case and each may close the case successfully if each has provided significant services for an appropriate employment outcome.
- H.** Resources of both agencies are available to ensure that the case is properly managed. See E above.
- I.** Individuals served by GLITC VR and WDVR shall be informed about their right to make informed choices. Individuals who require or request assistance in exercising informed choice shall be offered support services to assist them in this process.

III. WDVR Agrees To:

- A.** Provide technical assistance and consultation regarding case service issues and documentation requirements to GLITC VR.
- B.** Provide services to mutual consumers of GLITC VR and consider them eligible for WDVR services if they are certified eligible by GLITC VR.
- C.** Assign VR counseling staff throughout the State as liaison to the 9 Tribal Reservations and provide direct services to GLITC VR referred consumers.
- D.** Continue to provide training to WDVR counselors and specifically, its liaison counselor staff, so referrals from GLITC VR will be served in a timely manner. Provide additional training to WDVR staff on cultural issues relative to American Indian concerns and sensitivity to their special needs.

IV. GLITC VR Agrees To:

- A.** Utilize a service delivery system similar to the system used by WDVR. This will assure the provision and transition of services for mutual consumers and be responsive to reporting requirements under the Section 121 grant criteria.
- B.** As part of GLITC VR outreach efforts, refer non-tribal residents to WDVR to be assessed and served if eligible.
- C.** Seek technical assistance from WDVR as appropriate.
- D.** Provide cultural sensitive training and other cultural issues to WDVR liaison staff.
- E.** Both WDVR and GLITC VR agree to have joint training, to participate in cooperative statewide studies and needs assessment and other collaborative efforts to improve the provision of services to American Indians with disabilities.

V. This Cooperative Agreement is in effect from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2008. This Cooperative Agreement can be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice from either party.

For WDVR: _____ **Date:** _____

Charlene Dwyer
Administrator
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

For GLITC VR: _____ **Date:** _____

Michael W. Allen
Executive Director
GLITC