

<p align="center">The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 TITLE IV – Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act</p>	<p align="center">Final Rules</p>	<p align="center">State AT Program Action Items</p>
<p>Sec. 412 STATE PLANS COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT (Page 595) The State Plan shall- (A) include a description (consistent with the purposes of this Act) of a comprehensive system of personnel development which shall include - A system for the continuing education of rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals within the designated State unit, particularly with respect to rehabilitation technology; including training implemented in coordination with entities carrying out State programs under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003)</p>	<p>§361.18 Comprehensive system of personnel development. (i) A system of staff development for rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals within the State unit, particularly with respect to assessment, vocational counseling, job placement, and rehabilitation technology, including training implemented in coordination with entities carrying out State programs under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003);</p>	<p>Work with your VR agency to coordinate AT training and continuing education activities for rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals. While there is no specific set-aside funding for this required training, such training must be provided and <u>Title I VR program funds can be used to do so.</u> Many State AT Programs have contracts or other agreements with the VR agency to support AT training activities.</p>
<p>Sec. 412 STATE PLANS COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND COORDINATION— (Page 604) (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES –The State plan shall include descriptions of interagency cooperation with, and utilization of the services and facilities of, Federal, State, and local agencies and programs including the State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003).</p>	<p>§361.24 Cooperation and coordination with other entities. Interagency cooperation. The vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan must describe the designated State agency's cooperation with and use of the services and facilities of Federal, State, and local agencies and programs, including the State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture, non-educational agencies serving out-of-school youth, and State use contracting programs, to the extent that such</p>	<p>As part of their State Plan, VR agencies must describe their cooperation with State AT Programs and must provide an assurance that the State AT Program lead agency and implementing entity (if any) have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of activities. VR agencies should reach out to State AT Programs regarding these coordination requirements and <u>State AT Programs should be prepared to</u></p>

<p>Sec. 412 STATE PLANS COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS <i>(Page 607)</i></p> <p>– The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit, and the lead agency and implementing entity (if any) designated by the Governor of the State under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of their activities, including the referral of individuals with disabilities to programs and activities described in that section.</p>	<p>Federal, State, and local agencies and programs are not carrying out activities through the statewide workforce development system.</p> <p>(h) Coordination with assistive technology programs. The vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan must include an assurance that the designated State unit, and the lead agency and implementing entity (if any) designated by the Governor of the State under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of their activities, including the referral of individuals with disabilities to programs and activities described in that section.</p>	<p><u>discuss their vision for the content/scope of a written working agreement.</u> If VR does not reach out, the State AT Program should take the initiative to connect. Agreements can range from a simple statement of how the two agencies will work together or a funded contract for specific work scope. State AT Programs should confirm that the description of coordination between VR and the State AT Program in the State Plan is appropriate and accurate.</p>
<p>Sec. 414 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES <i>(Page 627)</i></p> <p>(b) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS – Vocational rehabilitation services provided for the benefit of groups of individuals with disabilities may also include the following:</p> <p>(8) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.</p>	<p>§361.49 Scope of vocational rehabilitation services for groups of individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>The designated State unit may provide for the following vocational rehabilitation services for the benefit of groups of individuals with disabilities:</p> <p>(8) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.</p>	<p>VR agencies are permitted to provide generalized AT services to any individual with a disability and for the benefit of groups of individuals with disabilities. <u>VR funding can be used to support core State AT Program activities via contract or other agreements as a generalized AT service or as a service to groups of individuals.</u> VR funding is NOT limited to use only for eligible individual clients (as has been cited by some VR agencies as the reason they could not fund State AT</p>

		Program activities.)
<p>SEC. 415 STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (c) FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL.—The Council shall, after consulting with the State workforce development board—</p> <p>(1) review, analyze, and advise the designated State unit regarding the performance of the responsibilities of the unit under this title, particularly responsibilities relating to—</p> <p>(A) eligibility (including order of selection);</p> <p>(B) the extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and</p> <p>(C) functions performed by State agencies that affect or that potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under this title;</p> <p>(2) in partnership with the designated State unit—</p> <p>(A) develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(C); and</p> <p>(B) evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Commissioner in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(E);</p> <p>(3) advise the designated State agency and the designated State unit regarding activities authorized to be carried out under this title, and assist in the preparation of the State plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by this title;</p> <p>(4) to the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with—</p>	<p>§361.17 Requirements for a State Rehabilitation Council.</p> <p>(h) Functions. The Council must, after consulting with the State workforce development board—</p> <p>(1) Review, analyze, and advise the designated State unit regarding the performance of the State unit's responsibilities under this part, particularly responsibilities related to—</p> <p>(i) Eligibility, including order of selection;</p> <p>(ii) The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and</p> <p>(iii) Functions performed by State agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under this part;</p> <p>(2) In partnership with the designated State unit—</p> <p>(i) Develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with §361.29(c); and</p> <p>(ii) Evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Secretary in accordance with §361.29(e);</p> <p>(3) Advise the designated State agency and the designated State unit regarding activities carried out under this part and assist in the preparation of the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by this part;</p> <p>(4) To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with—</p> <p>(i) The functions performed by the designated State</p>	<p>The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) must coordinate with a variety of other Councils and with the State AT Program. This does not mean there must be a membership slot on the SRC for the State AT Program. In some states there is such representation but it is not a federal requirement. Since coordination is required as part of the VR State Plan, the SRC should be kept informed about the activities of the State AT Program and as part of their role in assisting in the development of the VR State Plan the SRC should be familiar with those sections that describe coordination and agreements with the State AT Program. Many State AT Programs present activity updates to the SRC especially when there is a strong working agreement between the two agencies.</p>



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<p>(A) the functions performed by the designated State agency;</p> <p>(B) vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under this Act; and</p> <p>(C) employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services under this title, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with such employment outcomes;</p> <p>(5) prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Commissioner on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State, and make the report available to the public;</p> <p>(6) <u>to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State,</u> including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under section 705, the advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (as amended by section 101 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997; Public Law 105-17), the State Developmental Disabilities Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6024), the State mental health planning council established under section 1914(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-3(a)) and the State workforce development board, <u>and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 300119 et seq.);</u></p> <p>(7) provide for coordination and the establishment of</p>	<p>agency;</p> <p>(ii) The vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the Act; and</p> <p>(iii) The employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services under this part, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with those employment outcomes;</p> <p>(5) Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary no later than 90 days after the end of the Federal fiscal year an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public through appropriate modes of communication;</p> <p>(6) <u>To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State,</u> including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under chapter 1, title VII of the Act, the advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the IDEA, the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the State mental health planning council established under section 1914(a) of the Public Health Service Act, and the State workforce development board, <u>and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998;</u></p> <p>(7) Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated</p>	
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<p>working relationships between the designated State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and (8) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this title, as the State Rehabilitation Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.</p>	<p>State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and (8) Perform other comparable functions, consistent with the purpose of this part, as the Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.</p>	
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