

## **Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds (Supported Employment): Attachment 4.11(c)(4)**

Federal Title VI, Part B funds for supported employment services were initially used to develop model programs to determine the most effective structure for supported employment and to determine the types of services and supports that work best with different populations. However, in New York State (NYS), these funds alone are not sufficient to meet the overall demand for supported employment services. The Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation's (ACCES-VR) total funding level for supported employment contracts for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 was \$21 million. The Title VI, Part B funds to serve approximately 10,000 individuals accounted for \$1.2 million. At present, Title VI, Part B funds represent less than six percent of the total funds ACCES-VR uses for intensive supported employment services. ACCES-VR will continue the operation of the supported employment services established under Title VI, Part B and use the funds to supplement, but not supplant, Title I funds.

ACCES-VR combines Title VI, Part B and Section 110 funds to provide supported employment services to individuals with the most significant disabilities. Individuals served through supported employment services include individuals with all types of disabilities. ACCES-VR maintains agreements (Memorandum of Understanding and Integrated Employment Implementation Plan, Chapter 515 of the NYS Laws of 1992) with the Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), which define ACCES-VR as the source for intensive funding. Program evaluation includes a review of data from interagency quarterly reports and on-site reviews by ACCES-VR Quality Assurance Unit. Successful and exemplary practices have been disseminated to the staff of the State agencies involved and to other project sites.

### **Supported Employment Programs**

On December 31, 2013 ACCES-VR concluded its five year hourly fee-for-service supported employment contracts with approximately 200 supported employment providers. Effective January 1, 2014 ACCES-VR began a performance-based contracting system with payments being based on the attainment of specific milestones and outcomes for supported employment.

Through the authority of Chapter 515 of the NYS Laws of 1992, ACCES-VR is assigned the responsibility for administering, establishing standards for and monitoring the intensive services component of all supported employment programs in New York State. ACCES-VR also has the responsibility for the provision of extended services to individuals who are not eligible for such services through other sources.

ACCES-VR, with the cooperation of OMH, OPWDD and NYSCB, established the Chapter 515 Interagency Implementation Team in October 2006 for ongoing coordination of the implementation of supported employment intensive and extended services in New York State. The Chapter 515 Interagency Implementation Team consists of employment program managers from the respective State agencies. The Team meets regularly to discuss program, data and funding issues, facilitate cross-systems implementation and identify opportunities for program improvements.

### **Supported Employment Goals and Priorities**

ACCES-VR's Title VI, Part B program goals are to:

- provide services to individuals with the most significant disabilities who might not be traditionally considered appropriate for competitive employment;
- develop techniques for unserved and underserved populations, such as persons with acquired brain injuries, deafness, multiple disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, significant learning disabilities and significant mental illness;
- develop quality programs that could be used for replication purposes; and
- establish successful supported employment programs that will provide technical assistance to other programs.

Discussions that occur in the Chapter 515 Interagency Implementation Team meetings help to achieve the above goals, as well as to meet our challenge to close the employment gap between individuals without disabling conditions and individuals with disabilities. Program performance and costs are reviewed at least annually. Service re-negotiations occur based on overall performance, including performance on projected outcomes agreed to by ACCES-VR and the provider.

ACCES-VR vocational rehabilitation counselors manage the individual program of each consumer participating in intensive supported employment. This includes developing the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and monitoring its implementation. The programs funded under Title VI, Part B represent previously underserved individuals. Every effort is made to improve the project's performance through continuing technical assistance and service delivery improvements.