

Attachment 4.8(b)(3) Cooperative Agreements with Private Nonprofit Organizations

This attachment describes the manner in which the designated state agency establishes cooperative agreements with private non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers.

ACCES-VR works continuously with non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers to increase access to integrated employment opportunities. ACCES-VR's district offices work with non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers to target resources to meet the consumer demand for employment outcomes. These programs assist consumers in achieving community-focused outcomes, such as supported employment, situational assessment, direct placement services and community-based training.

ACCES-VR currently manages over 400 Unified Contract Services (UCS) and Supported Employment (SE) contracts with non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers across the State. ACCES-VR has redesigned the UCS and will be issuing a new request for proposal (RFP) in 2009 for Supported Employment. ACCES-VR has initiated the following activities to inform the network of non-profit vocational rehabilitation service providers about these changes to improve the delivery of vocational rehabilitation contractual services to consumers:

- **UCS RFP:** ACCES-VR issued an RFP in May 2008 for organizations and individuals able to provide vocational rehabilitation entry, assessment, assistive technology/rehabilitation technology, work readiness, job placement, driver rehabilitation and related adjunct services for individuals with disabilities throughout New York State. Current and new providers were invited to apply.
 - Contracts were awarded effective January 1, 2009 and will continue for a five-year period through December 31, 2013 with annual performance reviews; and
 - Training was provided to all possible applicants during statewide information meetings and a bidder's conference. Training was provided to all approved vendors in Fall 2008.
- **Supported Employment:** A new five-year Supported Employment RFP is being issued for implementation on October 1, 2009, which will continue the hourly based payment methodology. ACCES-VR has also begun reviewing the concept of a performance based approach to the provision of Supported Employment services in New York State. This approach will be vetted with ACCES-VR providers across the State and incorporated into the SE system sometime during the five-year RFP. At that point, a new RFP will be issued.