

## **Kansas Rehabilitation Services**

### **State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation & Supported Employment Services FFY 2014-2016**

#### **Attachment 4.8(b)(1) Cooperative agreements with agencies not carrying out activities under the Statewide Workforce Investment System**

Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) collaborates and coordinates services with federal, state and local employment and rehabilitation agencies that contribute to the vocational rehabilitation (VR) of Kansans with disabilities.

At the local level such collaborations are individualized according to each person's needs and interests. This individualized approach is one of the cornerstones of VR services.

At the state level, KRS collaborates with other units within the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) and with other state departments. For example:

- KRS and DCF Economic and Employment Services collaborate to serve recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who have disabilities. Consumers benefit by being able to receive the coordinated and specialized services they need to achieve employment before their time-limited TANF benefits cease.
- KRS and DCF Prevention and Protection Services will coordinate to address the employment and/or post-secondary education needs of youth with disabilities who have been in foster.
- Cooperative working relationships between the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services oversight units for community developmental disability organizations and community mental health centers facilitate discussions about the importance of competitive, integrated employment, an employment-first strategy, evidence-based practices, and supported employment services.

- KRS maintains an active presence on numerous councils and committees, including:
  - The Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas.
  - The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns.
  - The Vocational Sub-Committee of the Governor's Behavioral Health Planning Council.
  - The Governor's Commission on Autism.
  - The Working Healthy (Medicaid buy-in program) Advisory Council.
  - The Assistive Technology Advisory Committee.
- A memorandum of understanding with the Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation VR program addresses the coordination of services to help consumers achieve employment.
- To maximize limited resources and to help consumers access needed services, KRS works cooperatively with numerous other local and state programs, including Working Healthy and independent living centers.
- KRS collaborates with the Department of Corrections and individual correctional institutions to assist individuals with disabilities who are being released from custody to become employed.

## **New initiatives**

KRS continues to work with a variety of service provider organizations to expand community-capacity to meet the employment service needs and goals of Kansans who are blind or visually impaired. A systems change initiative with community developmental disability organizations or their affiliates, addresses competitive, integrated employment as the preferred outcome within that service delivery system, rather than sheltered employment or non-work day activities.

Consistent with the Goals and Priorities identified in Attachment 4.11(c)(1), Rehabilitation Services (RS) will pursue opportunities to establish third-party cooperative agreements with other state programs. The purpose of such an initiative will be to increase the use of evidence-based practices resulting in competitive, integrated employment for persons eligible for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. Through such agreements, the partnering state programs would furnish non-federal funds to match available federal VR dollars. This collaborative approach would allow RS and other state programs serving persons with disabilities to strategically invest funds to pursue increased employment and reduced reliance on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers and other public assistance

programs. The target populations would include persons receiving services or on the waiting lists for the Developmental Disabilities and Physical Disabilities HCBS waivers, persons with mental illness, and persons receiving SSI, SSDI or other public assistance.

If such third-party cooperative agreements would be established, RS anticipates working with the partnering programs to issue competitive Requests for Proposals to provide funding for evidenced based employment services to Community Developmental Disability Organizations, Community Mental Health Centers, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and affiliated service providers statewide. Employment focused performance-based contracts would be issued and monitored under the administrative supervision of RS as specified in 34 CFR 361.28.

### **Rural economic development and state use contracts**

When consistent with the Rehabilitation Act and regulations, KRS may use the Rural Development Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the extent these programs are available to local communities.

Interaction with state use contracting programs is consistent with the Rehabilitation Act and regulations.