

DRRP on VR: Transition Services that Lead to Competitive Employment Outcomes for Transition-Age Individuals with Blindness or Other Visual Impairments

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ABSTRACT

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University (MSU) proposes to establish a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to investigate transition services that lead to competitive employment outcomes for transition-age individuals with blindness or other visual impairments. This 3-year project will include the following activities:

1. the completion of a comprehensive review of research in the area of VR transition services that lead to successful employment outcomes for transition-age individuals with blindness or other visual impairments;
2. an analysis of the RSA-911 Case Service Report data and other appropriate data, including longitudinal data sets, to identify all pertinent information related to transition services for individuals with blindness or other visual impairments;
3. a further examination of factors that affect employment outcomes, including the types of transition services provided by VR agencies throughout the country and services provided by special education agencies. Information will be gathered through the review of state VR agency case records and interviews with consumers, rehabilitation professionals, teachers, post secondary support service providers, Social Security Administration (SSA) representatives, and other individuals involved in providing transition services;
4. the development, demonstration, and evaluation of intervention methods to identify practices that support and lead to improved outcomes for transition-age individuals with blindness or other visual impairments. Practices that support and lead to improved outcomes for transition-age individuals with blindness or other visual impairments will be evaluated using a rigorous quasi-experimental design; and
5. the dissemination of research findings to state VR agencies, education agencies, consumers, researchers and other key stakeholders.

All research and dissemination activities will be closely coordinated with the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and Effectiveness, the Research Triangle Institute, the Office of Special Education Programs, and the Study Group, Inc. in North Carolina, including its subcontractor, which is managing the VR Transition Study for RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration). The proposed DRRP will involve individuals who are blind or have severe visual impairments in the planning, implementing, and evaluating project activities.