

Attachment 4.8(b)(1)

Cooperation with Agencies that are not in the Statewide Workforce Investment System and with Other Entities

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 of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and with other state departments. For example:

- Cooperative working relationships between the SRS oversight units for community developmental disability organizations and community mental health centers have increased community program capacity to provide supported employment services. Currently efforts are underway to cross-match information from data systems to better address the provision of services to mutual customers, to maximize the use of resources to help them achieve employment, and to avoid duplication in the provision of services.
- KRS and SRS Economic and Employment Support continue to demonstrate leadership in collaborating to serve recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who have disabilities. Consistent with the SRS focus on integrated service teams, these two programs can coordinate in the delivery of services to best meet the rehabilitation and employment needs of the individuals served. 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 collaborates with the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning to carry out the RSA literacy demonstration project. The project, which will run through December 2008, is designed to test the impact of improved literacy skills on the employment outcomes of VR consumers with learning disabilities. It is also designed to identify strategies for effectively integrating literacy instruction into the VR service delivery system.
- 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 Kansas Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities.
 - * The Vocational Sub-Committee of the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council

- 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.

Pending initiatives and future collaborative activities

In addition to maintaining the collaborative efforts currently underway, key activities looking forward will include:

- * Greater collaboration with the Department of Corrections to assist individuals with disabilities who are being released from custody to become employed.
- * Implementation of a new screening/referral tool designed to identify youth with previously unidentified disabilities who may be able to benefit from VR services. Working in collaboration with SRS Children and Family Services, it is anticipated that the screening/referral tool may be especially useful for youth in foster care.
- * Collaboration with SRS Economic and Employment Support and the state's Medicaid agency to address future plans for a state-funded general assistance and medical program now that the presumptive disability process for SSI and SSDI has been implemented.

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.