

State's Goals and Plans Regarding Distribution of Funds Received Under Title VI, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act

BRS will continue to use supported employment Title VI, Part B funds to allow maximum options in providing services to meet individual consumer needs. The Bureau will target service to those persons who are presently not served or are underserved, and who:

- Are individuals with the most significant disabilities and who have previously been unable to maintain competitive employment due to the severity of their disability;
- Are in need of ongoing support for the duration of their employment; and
- Will have extended support services available beyond BRS time-limited services.

Services will be provided on an individual case basis with emphasis on methods that provide maximum integration and consumer informed choice. Therefore, BRS will continue to focus on placing consumers in individual placements with maximum integration.

BRS will reimburse service providers on an hourly basis for supports provided in the "individual placement model". This arrangement enables persons with a most significant disability to have flexibility in obtaining intensive services. It also makes cost savings possible for persons needing less intensive supports and will permit a larger number of persons to be served. Other models of support that are integrated into various work settings and provide competitive pay in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act will be provided only in those instances where consumer choice or available supports render these models preferable. Services in models such as enclaves and work crews will only be considered in rare occasions when the position meets the integration and earnings level standard for supported employment. Reimbursement for these models will be made on a per diem basis. Bureau counselors and consumers together will determine the most individually appropriate program and service model.

BRS will stay informed about new trends in employment delivery services and make efforts to offer those services that will most benefit our consumers. The Bureau will continue to investigate methods of enhancing the degree of integration through increased utilization of natural supports and generic community resources.

In FFY 2006, the Bureau has explored a variety of funding options to ensure extended services to persons in the program beyond Title VI, part B. Those initiatives include continuation of state funding under the Employment Opportunities Program and use of Ticket to Work reimbursement funds where appropriate. These efforts have been highlighted by the lack of long-term supports beyond that which Title VI, part B can provide; without on-going, long-term supports, it has been difficult to spend these funds.

Bureau staff continues to actively seek long-term employment supports for our qualified consumers from the Department of Mental Health, Addiction Services, the Department of Mental Retardation and maintenance of the Employment Opportunities Program.