

# Archived Information

Department of Education

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request

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## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and the Helen Keller National Center Act, \$3,184,263,000, of which \$2,837,160,000 shall be for grants for vocational rehabilitation services under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act.<sup>1</sup>

### NOTES

A regular 2007 appropriation for this account had not been enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, this account is operating under a continuing resolution (P.L. 109-289, Division B, as amended). The amounts included for 2007 in this budget reflect the levels provided by the continuing resolution.

Each language provision that is followed by a footnote reference is explained in the Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes document which follows the appropriation language.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

**Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes**

Language Provision	Explanation
<sup>1</sup> <u>...of which \$2,837,160,000 shall be for grants for vocational rehabilitation services under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act.</u>	This language earmarks funds for Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants, including funds set aside for grants to American Indian tribes.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Amounts Available for Obligation (\$000s)

	2006	2007	2008
Discretionary appropriation:			
Appropriation	\$409,446	0	\$347,103
Across-the-board reduction	-4,094	0	0
CR annual rate	0	\$405,350	0
Discretionary modification of a mandatory appropriation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-36,883</u>
Subtotal, discretionary appropriation	405,352	405,350	310,220
Mandatory appropriation	<u>2,720,192</u>	<u>2,837,160</u>	<u>2,874,043</u>
Subtotal, discretionary and mandatory appropriation	3,125,544	3,242,510	3,184,263
Recovery of prior year obligations	198	0	0
Unobligated balance, expiring	<u>-200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total, obligations	3,125,542	3,242,510	3,184,263

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Obligations by Object Classification (\$000s)

	2006	2007	2008
Contractual services and supplies:			
Advisory and assistance services .....	\$9,155	\$10,174	\$10,522
Peer review .....	1,484	1,553	1,488
Purchases of goods and services .....	<u>297</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>297</u>
Subtotal .....	10,936	12,024	12,307
Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	<u>3,114,606</u>	<u>3,230,486</u>	<u>3,171,956</u>
Total, direct obligations.....	3,125,542	3,242,510	3,184,263

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Summary of Changes (\$000s)

2007 .....	\$3,242,510
2008 .....	<u>3,184,263</u>
Net change.....	-58,247

	<u>2007 base</u>	<u>Change from base</u>
<b>Increases:</b>		
<u>Program:</u>		
Increase in funding for the Demonstration and Training programs to cover the continuation costs of grants awarded in previous fiscal years.	\$6,511	\$329
Increase in the Evaluation program to support a study of the Helen Keller National Center.	1,473	<u>+500</u>
Subtotal, increases		+829
<b>Decreases:</b>		
<u>Program:</u>		
Eliminates funding for the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program consistent with the Administration's reform of the Federal Government's overlapping training and employment programs.	2,279	-2,279
Eliminates funding for Recreational programs, which are more appropriately financed by State and local agencies and the private sector.	2,518	-2,518
Eliminates funding for Projects With Industry consistent with the Administration's reform of the Federal Government's overlapping training and employment programs.	19,538	-19,538
Eliminates funding for Supported Employment State Grants consistent with the Administration's reform of the Federal Government's overlapping training and employment programs.	29,700	-29,700
Decrease in funding for Program Improvement to reflect current plans.	833	-200

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Summary of Changes (\$000s)

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	<u>2007 base</u>	<u>Change from base</u>
<b>Decreases:</b>		
<u>Program:</u>		
Reduces funding for the Helen Keller National Center to support a comprehensive study of the Center under the Evaluation program.	\$8,511	-\$500
Eliminates funding for Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology because these services can be and are provided by other existing P&A programs.	4,341	<u>-4,341</u>
Subtotal, decreases		-59,076
Net change		-58,247

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## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Authorizing Legislation (\$000s)

Activity	2007 Authorized	2007 Estimate	2008 Authorized	2008 Request
Vocational rehabilitation State grants:				
Grants to States (RA-I A, B-110 and 111)	0 <sup>1,2</sup>	\$2,802,716	To be determined <sup>1,3</sup>	\$2,802,716
Grants for Indians (RA-I-C)	---	34,444	---	34,444
Client assistance State grants (RA-I-112)	0 <sup>1</sup>	11,782	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	11,782
Training (RA-III-302)	0 <sup>1</sup>	38,438	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	38,438
Demonstration and training programs (RA-III-303(b)-(d))	0 <sup>1</sup>	6,511	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	6,840
Migrant and seasonal farmworkers (RA-III-304)	0 <sup>5</sup>	2,279	0 <sup>5</sup>	0
Recreational programs (RA-III-305)	0 <sup>5</sup>	2,518	0 <sup>5</sup>	0
Protection and advocacy of individual rights (RA-V-509)	0 <sup>1</sup>	16,489	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	16,489
Projects with industry (RA-VI-A)	0 <sup>5</sup>	19,538	0 <sup>5</sup>	0
Supported employment State grants (RA-VI-B)	0 <sup>5</sup>	29,700	0 <sup>5</sup>	0
Independent living:				
State grants (RA-VII-1-B)	0 <sup>1</sup>	22,588	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	22,588
Centers (RA-VII-1-C)	0 <sup>1</sup>	74,638	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	74,638
Services for older blind individuals (RA-VII-2)	0 <sup>1</sup>	32,895	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	32,895
Program improvement (RA-12(a))	0 <sup>1</sup>	833	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	633
Evaluation (RA-14)	0 <sup>1</sup>	1,473	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	1,973
Helen Keller National Center for				
Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNCA)	0 <sup>1</sup>	8,511	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	8,011
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation				
Research (RA-II)	0 <sup>1</sup>	106,705	To be determined <sup>1</sup>	106,705
Assistive technology: (ATA)				
Assistive technology programs (ATA-4,5, and 6)	Indefinite <sup>6</sup>	30,452	Indefinite <sup>6</sup>	26,111 <sup>7</sup>



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Authorizing Legislation—continued (\$000s)

Activity	2007 Authorized	2007 Estimate	2008 Authorized	2008 Request
<u>Unfunded authorizations:</u>				
Demonstration projects to increase client choice ( <i>RA-III-303(a)</i> )	<u>0<sup>8</sup></u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0<sup>8</sup></u>	<u>0</u>
Total definite authorization				
Total appropriation		\$3,242,510		\$3,184,263
Portion of request subject to reauthorization				3,158,152

<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

<sup>2</sup> The authorizing legislation mandates funding for VR State grants at least at the level of \$2,837,160 thousand, which is the 2006 appropriation adjusted by the 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPIU) published in October 2005.

<sup>3</sup> The authorizing legislation mandates funding for the VR State grants at least at the level of \$2,874,043 thousand, which is the 2007 appropriation adjusted by the 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPIU) published in October 2006.

<sup>4</sup> The Rehabilitation Act requires that 1.0 percent to 1.5 percent of the appropriation for Vocational Rehabilitation State grants be set aside for Grants for Indians.

<sup>5</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. The Administration is not proposing appropriations language for FY 2008, nor seeking reauthorizing legislation.

<sup>6</sup> Such sums as are necessary are authorized, however not more than \$1,235 thousand may be used for section 6 National Activities, unless the amount available for section 4 AT State grants exceeds \$20,953,534, in which case not more than \$1,900 thousand may be used for section 6.

<sup>7</sup> No funds are requested in FY 2008 for section 5, the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology program.

<sup>8</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration is not seeking reauthorizing legislation.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

**Appropriations History  
(\$000s)**

	Budget Estimate to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriation
1999	\$2,645,266	\$2,646,640	\$2,645,266	\$2,652,584
2000	2,717,114	2,687,150	2,692,872	2,707,522
Rescission	0	0	0	-533
2001	2,798,651	2,776,803	2,799,519	2,805,339
2002	2,930,117	2,942,117	2,932,617	2,945,813
2003	3,001,840	2,956,676	2,959,838	2,953,633
Transfer	0	0	0	-587
Technical correction	0	0	0	+487
2004	3,002,913	2,999,165	3,004,360	3,011,270
2005	3,047,197	3,054,587	3,077,328	3,074,574
2006	3,059,298	3,128,638	3,133,638	3,125,544
2007	3,180,414			3,242,510 <sup>1</sup>
2008	3,184,263			

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<sup>1</sup> A regular 2007 appropriation for this account had not been enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, this account is operating under a continuing resolution (P.L. 109-289, Division B, as amended). The amounts included for 2007 in this budget reflect the levels provided by the continuing resolution.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2008 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(in thousands of dollars)					2008 President's Request	
Account, Program, and Activity	Category Code	2006 Appropriation	2007 Current Estimate	2008 President's Request	Compared to 2007 Current Level	
					Amount	Percent
<b>Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research</b>						
1. Vocational rehabilitation State grants:						
(a) Grants to States (RA I Part A, sections 110 and 111)	M	2,687,168	2,802,716	2,802,716	0	0.0%
(b) Grants to Indians (RA I-C)	M	33,024	34,444	34,444	0	0
Subtotal		2,720,192	2,837,160	2,837,160	0	0.0%
Discretionary	D	0	0	(36,883)	(36,883)	---
Mandatory baseline	M	2,720,192	2,837,160	2,874,043	36,883	1.3%
2. Client assistance State grants (RA section 112)	D	11,782	11,782	11,782	0	0.0%
3. Training (RA section 302)	D	38,438	38,438	38,438	0	0.0%
4. Demonstration and training programs (RA section 303)	D	6,511	6,511	6,840	329	5.1%
5. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers (RA section 304)	D	2,279	2,279	0	(2,279)	-100.0%
6. Recreational programs (RA section 305)	D	2,518	2,518	0	(2,518)	-100.0%
7. Protection and advocacy of individual rights (RA section 509)	D	16,489	16,489	16,489	0	0.0%
8. Projects with industry (RA VI-A)	D	19,538	19,538	0	(19,538)	-100.0%
9. Supported employment State grants (RA VI-B)	D	29,700	29,700	0	(29,700)	-100.0%
10. Independent living (RA VII):						
(a) State grants (Chapter 1, Part B)	D	22,588	22,588	22,588	0	0.0%
(b) Centers (Chapter 1, Part C)	D	74,638	74,638	74,638	0	0.0%
(c) Services for older blind individuals (Chapter 2)	D	32,895	32,895	32,895	0	0.0%
Subtotal		130,121	130,121	130,121	0	0.0%
11. Program improvement (RA section 12(a))	D	835	833	633	(200)	-24.0%
12. Evaluation (RA section 14)	D	1,473	1,473	1,973	500	33.9%
13. Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNCA)	D	8,511	8,511	8,011	(500)	-5.9%
14. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (RA II)	D	106,705	106,705	106,705	0	0.0%
15. Assistive technology (ATA):						
(a) Assistive technology programs (sections 4, 5 and 6)	D	26,730	30,452	26,111	(4,341)	-14.3%
(b) Alternative financing (section 4(b)(2)(D))	D	3,722	0	0	0	---
Subtotal		30,452	30,452	26,111	(4,341)	-14.3%
Subtotal		405,352	405,350	347,103	(58,247)	-14.4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,125,544</b>	<b>3,242,510</b>	<b>3,184,263</b>	<b>(58,247)</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>
Discretionary	D	405,352	405,350	310,220	(95,130)	-23.5%
Mandatory	M	2,720,192	2,837,160	2,874,043	36,883	1.3%
<i>Outlays, Total</i>		<i>3,115,842</i>	<i>3,553,019</i>	<i>3,216,816</i>	<i>(336,203)</i>	<i>356.2%</i>
Discretionary	D	436,949	705,105	358,972	(346,133)	-87.4%
Mandatory	M	2,678,893	2,847,914	2,857,844	9,930	-37.0%

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Summary of Request

The Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account supports formula grants to States for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services and a variety of smaller research, demonstration, and service programs, including the programs authorized under the Helen Keller National Center Act and the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (the AT Act). The purpose of the programs in this account is to develop and implement, through research, training, and direct services, comprehensive and coordinated programs of vocational rehabilitation and independent living services for individuals with disabilities.

The Administration's \$3.184 billion request for the Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account supports the Department's objective to prepare individuals with disabilities for higher education, employment, and productive independent lives. The Administration is requesting \$2.837 billion for the VR State Grants program, the same as the 2007 level. These funds will assist States to strengthen the employment skills of VR consumers and increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in the general workforce. The request would set aside \$34.444 million for grants for Indian tribes.

Beginning with its 2003 request, the Administration launched a wide-ranging multi-year reform of the Federal Government's overlapping training and employment programs. Consistent with this crosscutting reform, the Administration is not requesting funding for three vocational rehabilitation programs in this account (Supported Employment State Grants, Projects with Industry, and the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program). These programs provide services to individuals with disabilities that can be provided by the larger VR State Grants program.

The request includes \$26.111 million for the Assistive Technology (AT) State grant program and the National Activities technical assistance, authorized under the AT Act. These programs enable individuals to acquire technology they might not otherwise be able to obtain—technology that improves their quality of life, and in many cases, enables them to work or participate in other productive activities. No funds are requested for the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) for Assistive Technology program, which provides services that are authorized and can be provided by other P&A programs.

The budget request does not include funds for Recreational programs. While the Administration strongly supports helping individuals with disabilities become full and active members in society, this program has limited national impact. The Administration believes continued funding would be more appropriately financed by State and local agencies and the private sector.

The Administration requests \$6.84 million for the Demonstration and Training programs, an increase of \$329,000 over the 2007 level. A total of \$1.337 million of the request would be used to continue four State grants expected to be funded in fiscal year 2007 that will assist States to demonstrate the use of promising practices of collaborative transition planning and service delivery in improving the postsecondary education and employment outcomes of students with disabilities.

The request includes \$1.973 million for the Evaluation program, an increase of \$500,000 over the 2007 level. The increase would be used to conduct a comprehensive study of HKNC to evaluate the effectiveness of the Center's operations and how well it is addressing its statutory

## **REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

### **Summary of Request**

purpose and the needs of its service population. The request for the Helen Keller National Center has been reduced, as compared to the 2007 level, to offset the cost of the study.

The Administration requests \$633,000 for Program Improvement activities, a decrease of \$200,000 from the 2007 level. This level would provide sufficient funding to support technical assistance and other activities focused on improving program performance.

The Administration proposes to fund the remaining programs in the Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account at the 2007 level. We believe that this level will provide sufficient funds for the activities in these programs.

The Rehabilitation Act requires that 1 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for programs authorized in Titles II, III, VI, and VII be used for minority outreach activities. In fiscal year 2008, this amount would total \$2.821 million, and we expect that the requirement would be implemented by reserving 1 percent of the funds provided for each of the specified programs.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title I, Parts A, B (Sections 110 and 111), and C))

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1,2</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
State grants	\$2,802,716	\$2,802,716	0
Indian set-aside	<u>34,444</u>	<u>34,444</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,837,160	2,837,160	0

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

<sup>2</sup> The authorizing language specifies that the amount to be appropriated for a fiscal year be at least the level of the prior fiscal year adjusted by the 12-month change from October to October in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published in November of the current fiscal year. In FY 2008 this would be \$2,874,043 thousand. The authorizing language also requires that not less than 1.0 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the appropriation for each fiscal year for Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants be set aside for Grants for American Indians.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program supports VR services through formula grants to State VR agencies. These agencies provide a wide range of services designed to help persons with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment to the extent of their capabilities. Individuals with a physical or mental impairment that results in a substantial impediment to employment who can benefit in terms of an employment outcome and require VR services are eligible for assistance. The VR State Grants program is a required partner in the local one-stop service delivery systems under section 121 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Program services are tailored to the specific needs of the individual through an individualized plan for employment (IPE). An eligible individual, or as appropriate, the individual's representative, may develop all or part of the IPE with or without assistance from a qualified rehabilitation counselor, or with technical assistance from other outside resources. The IPE must be agreed to by the individual and approved and signed by a qualified rehabilitation counselor employed by the State VR agency. The program may provide a variety of services, such as vocational evaluation, counseling, mental and physical restoration, education, vocational training, job placement, rehabilitation technology, and supported employment services. Priority is given to serving individuals with the most significant disabilities.

This is a current-funded formula grant program that provides financial assistance to States to cover the cost of direct services and program administration. The authorizing legislation requires an increase in funding equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPIU) over the past year. States may carry over unobligated Federal funds for an additional year, if a State has met all matching requirements for the fiscal year in which funds were appropriated.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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An allotment formula that takes into account population and per capita income is used to distribute funds among the States. The fiscal year 2006 allotments were based on the July 1, 2004 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2004. The fiscal year 2007 State allotments are based on the July 1, 2005 estimates published in December 2005. The fiscal year 2008 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2006 estimates released on December 22, 2006. Per capita income averages for fiscal year 2006 and 2007 are based on Bureau of Economic Analysis revised estimates for calendar years 2001, 2002, and 2003 as reported by the Department of Commerce on September 28, 2004. Per capita income averages for fiscal year 2008 are based on Bureau of Economic Analysis revised estimates for calendar years 2003, 2004, and 2005 as reported by the Department of Commerce on September 26, 2006. Fiscal year 2008 distributions are subject to minor revision if new population estimates become available for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Grant funds are administered by VR agencies designated by each State. There are currently a total of 80 State VR agencies. Thirty-two (32) States operate a “combined” agency serving all disability categories. Twenty-four (24) States operate a separate agency for individuals who are blind or visually impaired and a “general” agency for all other disability categories. The State matching requirement is 21.3 percent, except the State share is 50 percent for the cost of construction of a facility for community rehabilitation program purposes. States are required to maintain the level of State expenditures made under the State plan from non-Federal sources at least at the level spent during the fiscal year 2 years earlier. Each State is also required to reserve and use a portion of the Federal funds received under the VR State grant program for innovation and expansion activities authorized in section 101(a)(18).

Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act requires the establishment of evaluation standards and performance indicators for the VR program that include outcome and related measures of program performance. The two published evaluation standards each have two or more implementing performance indicators by which to measure State agency performance. Each State VR agency must report program performance data 60 days after the end of each fiscal year to determine if it is in compliance with the evaluation standards and performance indicators. A State agency failing to meet the standards must develop a program improvement plan outlining specific actions to be taken to improve program performance. The Department provides technical assistance to those State agencies that perform below the established evaluation standards to assist them to improve their performance.

In addition, the Department is partnering with six other Federal agencies on a new Job Training Common Measures initiative. Under this initiative, several common performance measures have been identified that clarify core goals of Federal job training programs. Programs serving postsecondary students and adults, such as the VR State Grants program, will be measured by the percentage of participants entering employment, the percentage of those employed who retain employment, the percentage change in earnings, and the efficiency of program operations.

The Rehabilitation Act requires that not less than 1.0 percent or more than 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the VR State grants program be set aside for grants under the American Indian VR Services program (section 121 of the Act). Service grants for up to 60 months are awarded to Indian tribes on a competitive basis to help tribes develop the capacity to provide VR services to American Indians with disabilities living on or near reservations. Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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(\$000s)

2003 .....	\$2,533,492
2004 .....	2,584,162
2005 .....	2,635,845
2006 .....	2,720,192
2007 .....	2,837,160

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$2.837 billion, the same as the 2007 level, to assist States and tribal governments to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. This amount does not include the CPIU adjustment specified in the authorizing law, which would increase the total by \$36.883 million over the 2007 level.

The VR program is the primary Federal vehicle for assisting individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with the most significant disabilities, to prepare for, obtain, or retain employment. Although many people with disabilities are obtaining jobs and remaining employed, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is still unacceptably high. According to the recently released report by Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute (October, 2005), of those aged 21-64, people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities are much less likely to be employed (either full-time or part-time) than people without such disabilities (38.3 percent versus 77.2 percent respectively).

Nationally, there are about 1 million individuals with disabilities in various phases of the vocational rehabilitation process within the VR system. State VR agencies are facing numerous challenges. If a State VR agency cannot serve all eligible persons, it must serve first those individuals with the most significant disabilities under an "order of selection." In fiscal year 2006, 62 percent of the 56 general and combined State VR agencies were on an "order of selection." In addition 21 percent of the State VR agencies serving blind individuals were on an order of selection. There were approximately 45,000 individuals on waiting lists at the end of fiscal year 2006. However, the number of individuals on a waiting list varies considerably among State agencies operating under an order of selection. For example, 15 agencies had 11 or fewer individuals, while 4 agencies had over 5,000 individuals,

The percentage of individuals with significant disabilities served by VR State agencies has increased annually since the 1992 reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. In 1992, about 70 percent of the individuals served were individuals with significant disabilities. In fiscal year 2005, the most recent year for which final data are available, 92 percent of the persons served by the program were individuals with significant disabilities. The percentage of individuals with significant disabilities as a proportion of all individuals with disabilities achieving an employment outcome has increased considerably (from 73.5 percent in fiscal year 1994 to 91 percent in fiscal year 2005). In addition, the percentage of individuals with disabilities obtaining competitive employment who are individuals with significant disabilities has increased annually from 78 percent in fiscal year 1997 to 91 percent in fiscal year 2005.

State VR agencies also play a major role under the Ticket to Work program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Under this program, most Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries between the ages



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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of 18 and 64 are offered a “ticket,” which they may use to obtain employment services, VR services, and other support services from an employment network of their choice to enable them to enter the workforce. State VR agencies have the option of participating in the Ticket to Work program as an employment network or remaining in the current reimbursement system, including the option to elect either payment method on a case-by-case basis. Under the current system, the VR program is reimbursed for the costs of services provided to SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with a single payment after the beneficiary performs substantial gainful activity (for 2007, earnings in excess of \$900 per month for non-blind disabled beneficiaries and \$1,500 per month for blind beneficiaries) for at least 9 consecutive months. As of December 1, 2006, about 93 percent of the 153,697 tickets that have been assigned, have been assigned to State VR agencies, and only about 5.3 percent have been assigned to other employment networks.

### Grants for American Indians

The Administration requests \$34.444 million for grants under the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) program, the same as the 2007 level. The fiscal year 2008 requested set-aside is 1.2 percent of the amount requested for VR State grants. The request will assist tribal governments to provide a program of VR services, in a culturally relevant manner, to American Indians with disabilities residing on or near reservations. Fiscal year 2008 funds would be used to support 73 projects, including 20 new projects and 53 continuations.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

#### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Individuals receiving services <sup>1</sup>	984,100	990,000	990,000
Individuals with significant disabilities as a percent of all individuals receiving services	92%	92%	92%
Total number of cases closed	501,000	502,000	502,000
Individuals whose cases were closed and received VR services	352,100	353,000	353,300
Individuals achieving an employment outcome <sup>2</sup>	205,700	206,700	207,000
Individuals with significant disabilities as a percent of all individuals achieving an employment outcome	91%	92%	92%

NOTE: Data for fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008 are projections based on preliminary data for fiscal 2006 and actual data for fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005 from the RSA Quarterly Cumulative Caseload Report (RSA-113).

<sup>1</sup> Includes all eligible individuals who received VR services during the fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup> Number of individuals who exited the program after receiving services and achieved an employment outcome.

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#### American Indian vocational rehabilitation services

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Project funding:			
New project funding	\$3,010	\$3,416	\$9,995
Continuation funding	29,990	31,005	24,410
Peer review of new award applications	24	23	39
Number of projects:			
New projects	6	8	20
Continuation	<u>67</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>53</u>
Total projects	<u>73</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>73</u>

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

#### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

#### VR State Grants

**Goal:** Individuals with disabilities served by the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant program will achieve high quality employment.

**Objective:** *Ensure that individuals with disabilities who are served by the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant program achieve employment consistent with their particular strengths, resources, abilities, capabilities, and interests.*

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that assist at least 55.8 percent of individuals receiving services to achieve employment.		
Year	Target	Actual
<b>2003</b>	81	66
<b>2004</b>	83	66
<b>2005</b>	75	71
<b>2006</b>	70	
<b>2007</b>	71	
<b>2008</b>	73	

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**Measure:** Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that assist at least 68.9 percent of individuals receiving services to achieve employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	81	58
2004	83	63
2005	75	54
2006	70	
2007	65	
2008	65	

**Assessment of progress:** This measure assesses the performance of State VR agencies in meeting program performance indicator 1.2 established in program regulations pursuant to Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act. Indicator 1.2 measures the percentage of individuals who the State VR agency determines to have achieved an employment outcome of all individuals who exit the VR program after receiving services. In order to pass indicator 1.2, a general/combined agency must achieve an employment outcome rate of 55.8 percent, while an agency for the blind must achieve a rate of 68.9 percent.

In fiscal year 2001, the baseline year for this measure, 75 percent of general/combined agencies and 75 percent of agencies for the blind met the performance criteria for indicator 1.2. The performance targets established for this measure for 2003 and 2004 were based on fiscal year 2001 performance data and assumed that the proportion of State agencies meeting the performance criteria would increase. However, performance did not improve as predicted. In fact, employment outcome rates for many State agencies declined each year from 2000 to 2004 and the proportion of both general and combined State agencies and agencies for the blind that met the measure's performance criteria significantly declined. This decline was primarily the result of annual declines in the number of employment outcomes due, in part, to labor market conditions and to the elimination of extended employment as an acceptable employment outcome.

In 2005, the program's overall employment outcome rate increased from 55 to 58 percent and the performance of general and combined agencies on this measure improved as compared to the past 2 previous years. However, the 2005 performance of the agencies for the blind decreased below its 2003 level after an increase in performance in 2004. Preliminary 2006 data show a slight increase in the employment outcome rate for both general and combined agencies and agencies for the blind as compared to 2005 and an increase in the percentage of agencies meeting the performance criteria for this measure. Performance targets for 2007 and 2008 assume that the decline in employment outcomes will stabilize with improving economic conditions, and States will improve their performance on this measure. In addition, the Department revised its performance targets to reflect a more realistic goal.

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### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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**Measure:** Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that assist at least 85 percent of individuals with employment outcomes to achieve competitive employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	65	93
2004	67	95
2005	89	95
2006	96	
2007	98	
2008	98	

**Measure:** Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that assist at least 65 percent of individuals with employment outcomes to achieve competitive employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	45	54
2004	48	71
2005	54	75
2006	71	
2007	75	
2008	75	

**Assessment of progress:** This measure is derived from Section 106 performance indicator 1.3, which measures the percentage of individuals who achieve competitive employment of all individuals who achieve employment. Competitive employment is defined under the State VR program as work in the competitive labor market that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis in an integrated setting, and for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals who are not disabled. In order to pass indicator 1.3, a general/combined agency must achieve a rate of 72.6 percent, while an agency for the blind must achieve a rate of 35.4 percent. In fiscal year 2005, all of the general/combined agencies (with the exception of two of the territories) and 92 percent of the agencies for the blind passed this indicator.

The GPRA measure is more ambitious and has a higher performance criterion as compared to the State VR agency performance indicator 1.3. Under this measure, general and combined agencies must assist at least 85 percent of individuals with employment outcomes to achieve competitive employment and agencies for the blind must assist at least 65 percent of individuals with employment outcomes to achieve competitive employment. Although State VR agencies achieved fewer employment outcomes in the aggregate, States have achieved an increase in the percentage of competitive employment outcomes and exceeded performance targets in fiscal years 2002 through 2005. In 2005, 95 percent of general/combined agencies met the performance criterion. The percent of agencies for the blind that met the performance criterion increased significantly from 54 in 2003 to 75 in 2005. The target for 2006 was raised from 56 to

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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71 percent to reflect this increase. Excluding the territories, the percentage of individuals with employment outcomes who achieved competitive employment reported by general/combined agencies in 2005 ranged from 83 percent to 100 percent.

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies for which at least 80 percent of the individuals achieving competitive employment have significant disabilities.		
Year	Target	Actual
<b>2003</b>		82
<b>2004</b>		86
<b>2005</b>	86	88
<b>2006</b>	88	
<b>2007</b>	89	
<b>2008</b>	90	

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind for which at least 90 percent of the individuals achieving competitive employment have significant disabilities.		
Year	Target	Actual
<b>2003</b>		88
<b>2004</b>		100
<b>2005</b>	92	100
<b>2006</b>	96	
<b>2007</b>	100	
<b>2008</b>	100	

**Assessment of progress:** This measure is derived from Section 106 performance indicator 1.4, which measures the percentage of individuals achieving competitive employment who have significant disabilities. In order for a general/combined agency to pass this indicator, at least 62 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment must have a significant disability. In fiscal year 2003, all general/combined agencies, with the exception of one agency in a territory, achieved a rate of 65 percent. For an agency for the blind, at least 89 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment must have a significant disability. In fiscal year 2003, 96 percent of agencies for the blind passed this indicator.

Based on past performance, the Department decided to increase the threshold for meeting the GPRA indicator. Beginning with the fiscal year 2006 performance plan, the measure is the percentage of general/combined agencies for which at least 80 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment have a significant disability and the percentage of agencies for the blind for which at least 90 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment have a significant disability. In fiscal year 2005, 88 percent of general/combined agencies and 100 percent of agencies for the blind achieved these levels and thus exceeded the targets for these measures.

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#### Efficiency Measures

**Objective:** *Ensure that State VR agencies demonstrate effective fiscal management.*

The Department has established three efficiency measures to ensure that State VR agencies demonstrate effective fiscal management. These include cost per employment outcome, cost per participant, and consumer expenditure rate.

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that demonstrate an average cost per employment outcome between \$6,000 and \$16,500.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		71 (baseline)
2006		
2007	73	
2008	75	

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that demonstrate an average cost per employment outcome of no more than \$38,000.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		67 (baseline)
2006		
2007	71	
2008	75	

At the national aggregate level, the cost per employment outcome can be calculated by dividing the total appropriation (minus the set-aside for Grants to Indians) by the total number of individuals who achieved an employment outcome. Using this methodology, the average annual cost per employment outcome for the VR program in fiscal year 2005 was \$12,598. However, there is significant difference in the cost per employment outcome between general and combined State VR agencies and agencies serving the blind. The average cost per employment outcome for general and combined State VR agencies was \$12,044 compared with \$28,193 for agencies for the blind. There is also wide variation in the cost per employment outcome across these agencies. The cost per employment outcome for general and combined State VR agencies (excluding the outlying areas) ranged from about \$4,557 to \$32,934. The cost per employment outcome for agencies for the blind ranged from \$10,312 to \$114,658.

The *Study of Variables Related to State VR Agency Performance* indicates that whatever measure of cost efficiency is used, large differences are evident by agency type (blind, combined, general). For example, agencies for the blind are much smaller and still must maintain the same core administrative infrastructure. They also do not benefit from economies of scale available to larger agencies. In addition, on average, blind consumers spend more time in the program and the average cost of purchased services tends to be higher.

The Department intends to use the cost per employment outcome measure in monitoring State VR agency performance. In general, agencies with very high costs can be evaluated in terms of the agency operating decisions relative to agencies of similar size. If two agencies receive grant

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awards of similar size, and one assists more individuals at a lower cost than the other, we can examine the organizational structure, resource allocation, and service delivery decisions that make this agency more efficient. For example, the percentage of the grant award spent on direct services compared to the percentage spent on administrative costs can be examined.

This measure may also help in monitoring the provision of services to individuals with the most significant disabilities and the requirement to provide all needed services based on the VR needs and informed choice of the individual. These individuals generally need more services and more expensive services. Agencies with unusually low costs per outcome will also be examined to ensure that individuals with the most significant disabilities are given priority for services and to determine if the agency is implementing any inappropriate policies regarding service provision.

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that demonstrate an average cost per participant between \$1,200 and \$3,300.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		73 (baseline)
2006		
2007	75	
2008	77	

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that demonstrate an average cost per participant of no more than \$8,000.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		67 (baseline)
2006		
2007	71	
2008	75	

The VR State grants program is a part of the Administration's Job Training Common Measures Initiative. The common efficiency measure for job training programs is the cost per participant. For FY 2005, the average annual cost per participant for general and combined State vocational rehabilitation agencies was \$2,520 with a range (excluding the outlying areas) of \$1,080 to \$4,149. For agencies for the blind, the average annual cost per participant ranged from \$2,741 to \$21,343, with an average of \$6,265.

The Department believes that this output-based common measure of the cost per participant will have less utility in guiding policy decisions or improving performance in these programs as compared to the outcome-based efficiency measure of the cost per employment outcome. In general, the variation in the cost per participant among programs reflects the range and cost of the particular services provided, as well as average grant size, economic factors, and definition of participant. In particular, differences in the definition of the term "participant" limit the measure's usefulness in comparing performance across programs. For example, under some programs, individuals who are determined eligible and receive any service funded by the program are considered participants. In some cases, participants may have only received information and referral services through an Internet Website.

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It is also appropriate to note that a measure of cost per participant may create an incentive to fund low-cost services or to engage in “creaming,” unless it is accompanied by, and is considered secondary to, a strong measure of program outcomes. Federal officials, going back 2 or 3 decades, have tried to steer State and local administrators away from investing in low-cost training programs that are unlikely to achieve lasting results and also from directing services to eligible participants who are the cheapest to serve (and thus the most likely to achieve favorable employment outcomes without the services provided by a program), rather than individuals who have the greatest need and require more expensive services. The Department intends to keep that history in mind as it implements performance measures for its job training programs and to use the common measure in concert with other performance information.

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that demonstrate an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 83 percent.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		75 (baseline)
2006		
2007	77	
2008	78	

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that demonstrate an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 70 percent.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		67 (baseline)
2006		
2007	71	
2008	75	

The third efficiency measure examines the percentage of State VR agencies whose consumer service expenditure rate is at or above a specified level. Under this measure, the consumer service expenditure rate is calculated by dividing the State VR agency's total program expenditures by consumer service expenditures. The sources of data for this measure are Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) State agency data from the RSA-2 report and RSA final State agency allocation tables. For FY 2005, the average annual consumer service expenditure rate for general and combined State vocational rehabilitation agencies was 87.8 percent with a range (excluding the outlying areas) of 65.8 to almost 100 percent. For agencies for the blind, the average annual consumer service expenditure rate ranged from 36.8 percent to 85.1, with an average of 72.7 percent. In fiscal year 2005, 42 of the 56 general and combined VR agencies (75 percent) had an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 83 percent. In 2005, 16 of the 24 agencies for the blind (67 percent) had an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 70 percent.



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#### Grants to Indians

#### Performance Measures

**Goal:** To improve employment outcomes of American Indians with disabilities who live on or near reservations by providing effective tribal vocational rehabilitation services.

**Objective:** Ensure that eligible American Indians with disabilities receive vocational rehabilitation services and achieve employment outcomes consistent with their particular strengths, resources, abilities, capabilities, and interests.

<b>Measure:</b> The percentage of individuals who leave the program with employment outcomes, after receiving services under an individualized plan.		
Year	Target	Actual
2003	64.0	66.0
2004	64.5	62.0
2005	65.0	66.0
2006	65.0	
2007	65.0	
2008	65.0	

**Assessment of progress:** The number of American Indians with disabilities served and the number of individuals achieving an employment outcome continue to increase annually along with the number of projects funded under the program. The number of projects funded has increased from 22 in fiscal year 1993 to 73 in fiscal year 2006. In fiscal year 2005, the projects served 6,245 American Indians with disabilities and assisted 1,573 American Indians with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome. The percentage of individuals achieving an employment outcome of all individuals who exited the program after receiving services increased from 57.1 percent in 1998 to 61.7 percent in 2004. Data for fiscal year 2005, based on the 70 projects operating in that fiscal year (projects funded with fiscal year 2004 appropriations), show that 66 percent of such individuals achieved an employment outcome, exceeding the program's long-term goal.

However, as discussed below in the Follow-up on PART Findings, these outcomes may be inflated, since some grantees are reluctant to close the service records of individuals who have not obtained an employment outcome. In recent years, the program has increased the average number of individuals served per project and the average number of individuals achieving an employment outcome per project. In fiscal year 2005, the average number of individuals served per project was 89.2 and the average number of individuals achieving an employment outcome per project was 22.5. However, these averages are somewhat misleading given variability in the range and medians of 65.6 and 16, respectively. With the 1998 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act, the project period increased from 3 years to 5 years, providing more program stability. As a result, the program and its grantees have matured, and the projects have been able to significantly improve their effectiveness. In addition, cross-training and resource coordination through annual conference and cluster training sessions have added to program effectiveness. Monitoring and technical assistance have enhanced the projects' abilities and expertise in the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians.

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#### Efficiency Measures

**Objective:** *Ensure that AIVRS projects demonstrate effective fiscal management.*

<b>Measure:</b> The percentage of AIVRS projects that demonstrate an average annual cost per employment outcome of no more than \$35,000.		
Year	Target	Actual
2005		72 (baseline)
2007	73	
2008	74	

This AIVRS program efficiency measure examines the percentage of AIVRS projects having a cost per employment outcome within a specified range. Baseline data for this measure were collected for fiscal year 2005 and used to establish performance criteria and set performance targets for fiscal years 2007 through 2011. The source of data for this measure is the AIVRS Annual Reporting Form.

At the national level, the average cost per employment outcome for this program is calculated by dividing the amount of the set-aside, excluding peer review costs, by the total number of individuals who achieved an employment outcome. Using this method for the AIVRS program in fiscal year 2005, the cost per employment outcome was \$19,557. However, the cost per employment outcome varied significantly across projects, ranging from \$5,109 to over \$110,447. The range excludes two projects that did not have any employment outcomes during the reporting period.

The Grants to Indians program also participates in the Administration's Job Training Common Measure Initiative. The common efficiency measure for job training programs is the cost per participant. At the national level, the average annual cost per participant for this program is calculated by dividing the amount of the set-aside, excluding peer review costs, by the total number of individuals who received services under an Individualized Plan for Employment. For fiscal year 2005, the average annual cost per participant ranged from \$1,864 to \$24,654, with an average of \$4,926 and a median of \$5,837. The Department is in the process of analyzing the data, identifying the performance criteria, and setting performance targets.

#### Follow-Up on PART Findings and Recommendations

##### VR State Grants

The VR program was assessed using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) in 2002 and received an overall rating of "Adequate." The program was one of the first programs in the Department to be assessed using the PART. The PART assessment noted that that results of the Longitudinal Study of the VR program indicate the program has been successful in achieving results. Data from the Longitudinal Study show benefits to program participants, particularly in terms of improvements in employment and earning status. The study also found that VR consumers had very good job retention over time. The assessment also pinpointed a number of areas needing improvement, including the development of long-term goals, use and timeliness of

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performance data, and effective coordination with related programs that share similar goals and objectives.

At the time the PART assessment was conducted, the Department had not begun the process of developing long-term goals for its programs. The PART review noted that the VR program has performance goals that focus on outcomes and meaningfully reflect the purpose of the program, but they are not ambitious long-term performance goals. Since that time the Department has revised the program's annual goals and adopted a long-term performance goal. In addition, the Department revised its VR program measures to address the wide variation in individual State agency performance. The measures now focus on the percentage of agencies that meet an established criterion rather than overall program averages. In addition, the Department is working to assist States to collect the necessary data to implement the Job Training Common Measures.

The PART assessment acknowledged that the agency regularly collects credible performance information. Evaluation standards and performance indicators are used by the Department to increase State accountability and in monitoring and in providing technical assistance to States. However, the PART review identified the following concerns about the performance data: (1) use of the performance data in managing the overall program; (2) delays in the receipt and reporting of the data, including its accessibility to the public; (3) wide variation in individual State agency performance; and (4) use of the data to increase Federal accountability. Program recommendations resulting from the PART assessment and the Department's progress in implementing those recommendations are described below.

1. Take significant steps to improve program management using existing outcome data and make these data available to the public in a more timely manner.

Effective management of the VR program has long been hindered by the Department's inability to produce timely and transparent data on program performance. Over the past 2 years, the Department has made significant progress in improving the timeliness of its VR data and in promoting the use of the data for program improvement. The fiscal year 2004 and 2005 Case Service Report databases were completed within 5 months of the close of the fiscal year, a 10 month improvement as compared to data for fiscal year 2002 and prior years. This result was achieved by improving the data editing process, including use of an expanded user-friendly State VR agency computerized edit program, and by dedicating additional staff to the cleaning of the data early in the fiscal year. In addition to posting the performance of States on the program's standards and indicators on the Department's website (<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/rehab/standards.html>), RSA has developed detailed data tables and outcome reports that are being used by both program staff and State VR agencies to manage the program.

Since review of State performance data is a primary element in conducting reviews of State VR agencies, more rapid availability of such data enhances program management and monitoring, particularly in the case of State agencies that are failing or are in jeopardy of failing the program's required standards and performance indicators. Increased timeliness will allow VR State agencies to correct problems faster and improve services to consumers.

2. Improve program management by using performance data to monitor State agency performance and to provide the State agencies with technical assistance.

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RSA has implemented a comprehensive approach to monitoring with more consistency and improved management controls. The redesign of the monitoring process will assist the Department in improving VR agency performance by providing feedback, technical assistance, and timely monitoring reports to our grantees. The approach includes the creation of State teams that conduct the monitoring activities with a single point of contact to interact with individual State agencies. Functional units work collaboratively to develop the monitoring protocols and State information that will be used as the basis for the monitoring activities. The Monitoring division is using data to monitor State performance and provide technical assistance. State profiles have been developed containing program and fiscal data. Increased access to RSA's management information system has also been provided allowing staff, grantees, and others to view State data. A State database of stakeholders and partners who will receive regular updates on RSA and State agency activities and performance is also being developed.

3. Establish specific performance targets in the out-years. Also, consider whether any additional measures are appropriate for this program.

Specific long-term performance targets have been established. Performance measures are being reassessed in conjunction with the development of a strategic program performance plan to improve employment outcomes that was initiated in fiscal year 2006. As a part of this effort, the Department is assessing the current indicators established in program regulations. The final plan will identify goals, objectives, and performance measures designed to increase the program's success in obtaining high quality outcomes for its consumers. RSA plans to propose new performance measures after soliciting input on proposed goals and objectives.

4. Collect data to allow comparison with other job training programs, including necessary data to support new common measures.

A field test of a data collection to support the common measures was conducted in fiscal year 2004. There were numerous difficulties in collecting the necessary *Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records* data, including confidentiality issues and access to the UI database. Following the field test, RSA worked with States experiencing difficulties to facilitate access and reporting of data. RSA is in the process of following up with State agencies to determine whether these issues have been resolved. RSA also plans to develop a new data collection package for State reporting.

### AIVRS

The AIVRS program was assessed using the PART as part of the fiscal year 2006 budget review and received an overall rating of "Adequate." The PART assessment found that the design of the program, a hybrid of a State-administered program and a discretionary program, has challenged program managers at both the Federal and project level. The grantees are tribal governments that administer a program similar to the State VR Services program. However, the projects are awarded as discretionary grants and grantees must re-compete for a grant every 5 years. In general, annual data and a recent evaluation show that the AIVRS program successfully meets its goals. However, these outcomes might be inflated since some grantees are reluctant to close the service records of individuals who have not obtained an employment outcome. The assessment also found that program's use of data to assist in strategic planning has been limited.

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Program recommendations resulting from the PART assessment and the Department's progress in implementing those recommendations are described below.

1. Examine reporting inconsistencies and develop guidance to grantees in time to collect 2006 data.

The Department is taking a number of steps to improve data collection and reporting in the AIVRS program. A uniform online data collection was implemented just prior to the PART assessment to assist in program management and assessment. However, many grantees did not use the web-based system to report their 2004 data. The Department revised the annual grantee reporting form to make it easier to complete, clarify instructions, and eliminate duplicative items. The revised annual report form was available to grantees for submission of their 2005 annual performance report. Problems with the program's online data collection system have been corrected. In FY 2005, program staff worked with individual grantees to resolve data entry issues and most grantees were successful in reporting their data into the Web-based reporting system.

The Department is in the process of identifying problems associated with data collection, including inconsistencies in the closure of consumer service records. In addition to conducting discussions with grantees, the Department is analyzing 2005 and 2006 data to identify reporting problems and inconsistencies. The Department will use these analyses and information obtained from grantees to develop guidance to improve the consistency in the closure of consumer service records. The guidance will be disseminated to grantees and training will be provided to all AIVRS projects through a teleconference session.

2. Develop a strategy for collecting data to support the Administration's job training common measures and establish performance targets.

There are a number of challenges in implementing the job training common measures in the AIVRS programs. These include grantees' overall capacity for data collection and reporting; grantees' ability to access and use UI records; the adequacy of those data for representing program outcomes; and the need for consistency in reporting requirements. To assist in the implementation of the common measures, the Department recently conducted a study to assess the capacity of grantees to collect and report the required data. The final draft report of the study's findings and recommendations was submitted by the contractor in December 2005. The study recommended that the measures be implemented using supplemental data since most grantees do not have access to UI wage records and program consumers are frequently employed in jobs that are not covered by Unemployment Insurance. The Department first plans to test out the use of supplemental measures in the Projects with Industry program.

3. Implement an outcome efficiency measure.

The Department has established an efficiency measure that will examine the percentage of projects whose cost per employment outcome is within a specified range. Under this measure, the cost per employment outcome is calculated by dividing total Federal grant funds by the number of individuals who attain an employment outcome. Baseline data have been collected and used to establish performance criteria and set performance targets.

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4. Improve use and transparency of project data to manage and improve the program, including posting summary analyses and key data on the Web.

We anticipate that improvements in the collection and reporting of data, including effective use of the new web-based reporting system, will greatly improve the Department's ability to use program data to manage and improve program performance, including improving the transparency of the data. A web format for display of AIVRS data is under development. As a first step, the Department will post FY 2005 and 2006 aggregate information for a limited set of performance data. The next step will be to post individual grantee performance data on the Web.

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### Client assistance State grants

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title I, Section 112)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$11,782	\$11,782	0

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) provides grants to States for services to assist eligible individuals and applicants of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State grants program and other programs, projects, and services funded under the Rehabilitation Act (the Act). Services are provided to help eligible individuals and applicants understand the rehabilitation services and benefits available under the Act, and to advise them of their rights and responsibilities in connection with those benefits. Assistance may also be provided to help eligible individuals and applicants in their relationships with those providing services under the Act, including assistance and advocacy in pursuing legal and administrative remedies to ensure the protection of their rights. State VR agencies must inform VR consumers about the services available from the CAP and how to contact the CAP. States must operate a CAP in order to receive VR State grant funds.

States and outlying areas have adopted different organizational structures for meeting the requirement to establish a CAP in each State. Each Governor designates a public or private agency to operate a CAP. This designated agency must be independent of any agency that provides services under the Act, except in cases where the Act “grandfathered” agencies providing services under the Act. In the event one of these “grandfathered” agencies is restructured, the Act requires the Governor to redesignate the CAP in an agency that does not provide services under the Act.

Current designations include the following:

- 28 of the Governors have designated their State Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system to provide CAP services;
- 12 of the Governors have designated the VR agency to provide services; and
- the remaining 16 Governors have designated other entities to provide CAP services.

Of the 16 CAPs located outside State VR agencies and not within the P&A system, 5 are located in the Governor’s Office; 6 are located in another State agency, office, or government-sponsored commission or group; 4 are located in legal aid and nonprofit organizations; and 1 is located in a private law firm.

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### Client assistance State grants

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The CAP is a current-funded formula grant program. When appropriations exceed \$7.5 million, funds are distributed on the basis of population, with a minimum allotment of \$100,000 to each of the 50 States, D.C., and Puerto Rico and \$45,000 to each of the outlying areas. When the appropriation increases, the Act also requires the Secretary to increase the minimum allotments for States and outlying areas by a percentage not greater than the percentage increase in the appropriation. The fiscal year 2006 allotments were based on the July 1, 2004 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2004. The fiscal year 2007 allotments are based on the July 1, 2005 population estimates published in December 2005. The fiscal year 2008 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2006 population estimates released on December 22, 2006. Grantees may carry over unobligated Federal funds for an additional year.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

	(\$000s)
2003.....	\$12,068
2004.....	11,997
2005.....	11,901
2006.....	11,782
2007.....	11,782

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$11.782 million for the Client Assistance program (CAP) in fiscal year 2008, the same as the fiscal year 2007 level. This request will help ensure that individuals with disabilities who are applying for or receiving services funded under the Act will receive appropriate services and have access to administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies when needed to protect their rights.

Overall, in FY 2005, CAPs nationwide responded to 57,809 requests for information and provided extensive services to 7,677 individuals. More than 98 percent of cases in which extensive services were provided involved applicants for, or recipients of, services from the VR program. These data also demonstrate that in 21 percent of the cases closed, CAPs provided explanations of policies which assisted the individuals in advocating for themselves; that 13 percent of these cases resulted in the reestablishment of communication between the individuals and other parties; and 14 percent resulted in the development or implementation of an Individualized Plan for Employment.

A specific example of CAP activities during FY 2005 involves Kathy, a 22-year-old Louisiana native, who has worked and lived on her own since she was 17. Both parents live out of state and neither provides any financial support to her. When she requested financial assistance from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) in order to attend college, she was told that because she is only 22 years old, her parents' income must be considered in her request for financial assistance. Her total income, including her parents' income, was over the limit for financial assistance from LRS.

The CAP advocate assisted Kathy in developing a request for an exception to the age requirement. They asked that she be considered a single student, receiving no parental support. Kathy provided



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Client assistance State grants

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all information and documentation necessary to support the request. The research and documentation paid off—both the school and LRS agreed to identify Kathy as a “single student.” She is now receiving financial aid, assistive technology equipment and the necessary VR services. As a result of the extra funding, she has been able to enroll as a full-time student, and she has a 3.0 grade point average.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Information inquiries/referrals	57,810	57,810	57,810
Individuals provided case services	7,680	7,680	7,680

NOTE: Data for fiscal years 2006 through 2008 are projected from actual data collected for fiscal year 2005. Data for fiscal year 2006 will be available in April of 2007.

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

#### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

**Goal: To provide assistance and information to help individuals with disabilities secure the benefits available under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program and other programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.**

**Objective:** *Accurately identify problem areas requiring systemic change and engage in systemic activity to improve services under the Rehabilitation Act.*

**Measure:** The percentage of CAPs that report changes in policies and practices as a result of their efforts.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	47	48
2004	49	57
2005	50	
2006	57	
2007	60	
2008	60	

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Client assistance State grants

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**Assessment of progress:** CAPs address numerous systemic issues related to the provision of VR and other services under the Act. CAPs utilize a variety of methods to achieve changes in policies and practices, including individual advocacy, participation in the policymaking process, and negotiation with State agencies. Permanent systemic change is very difficult to achieve, and some States undertake activities that may take years to accomplish. All 56 CAPs currently are engaged in work that should ultimately result in systemic change, but this indicator measures only those States that report their activity as complete. Data are compiled from narrative reports submitted by all CAPS. The baseline was established in fiscal year 1999, when 24 of the 56 CAPs reported changes in practice or policy due to their efforts. In fiscal year 2004, 32 of the 56 CAPs reported success with their efforts, exceeding the target for the third successive year. In light of these data the Department has raised the targets for fiscal years 2006 through 2008. The revised 2007 and 2008 target of 60 percent would require 34 CAPs to be successful. The data for fiscal year 2005 will be available in March 2007.

**Objective:** *Resolve cases at lowest possible level.*

**Measure:** The percentage of cases resolved through the use of ADR.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	84	82
2004	84	82
2005	84	84
2006	84	
2007	84	
2008	84	

**Assessment of progress:** The performance targets are based on fiscal year 2001 data, which showed 84 percent of cases resolved through ADR. The target was met in fiscal year 2005 when 4,924 of the 5,855 closed cases were resolved through ADR techniques. Annually, Department program specialists review data reported by CAPs. On-site compliance reviews are conducted and a random sample of on-site files is cross-checked with reported data for verification.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Training

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III, Section 302)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$38,438	\$38,438	0

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Training program is to ensure that skilled personnel are available to meet the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities assisted through the vocational rehabilitation (VR), supported employment, and independent living programs. The program supports training and related activities designed to increase the number of qualified personnel providing rehabilitation services. Grants and contracts are awarded to States and public and nonprofit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, to pay all or part of the cost of conducting training programs.

Awards may be made in any of 31 long-term training fields, in addition to awards for continuing education, short-term training, experimental and innovative training, and training interpreters for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons who are deaf-blind. These training programs vary in terms of content, methodology, and type of trainee. For example, the Long-Term Training program supports academic training grants that must direct 75 percent of the funds to trainee scholarships. The statute requires trainees who receive assistance either to work for a period of time in public or private nonprofit rehabilitation agencies or related agencies, including professional corporations or professional practice groups that have service arrangements with a State agency, or to pay back the assistance they received.

The Training program authority requires recipients of grants under the Long-Term Training program to build closer relationships between training institutions and VR State agencies, promote careers in the public vocational rehabilitation program, identify potential employers who would meet students' payback requirements, and assure that data on student employment are accurate. Training of statewide workforce systems personnel is authorized under the Training program, and such training may be jointly funded by the Department of Labor. Statewide workforce systems personnel may be trained in evaluative skills to determine whether an individual with a disability may be served by the VR State grants program or another component of the statewide workforce system.

Of the funds appropriated for the Training program, 15 percent must be used to support the In-Service Training program. This program is intended to assist VR State agencies in the training

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Training

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of State agency staff consistent with the State's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). Under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act, each State is required to establish procedures to ensure there is an adequate supply of qualified staff for the State agency, to assess personnel needs and make projections for future needs, and to address the current and projected personnel training needs. States are further required to develop and maintain policies and procedures for job-specific personnel standards that are consistent with certification, licensure, or other State personnel requirements for comparable positions. If a State's current personnel do not meet the highest requirements for personnel standards within the State, the CSPD must identify the steps a State will take to upgrade the qualifications of their staff, through retraining or hiring. Title I VR State grant funds may also be used to comply with these requirements.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

	(\$000s)
2003 .....	\$39,371
2004 .....	39,139
2005 .....	38,826
2006 .....	38,438
2007 .....	38,438

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$38.438 million for the Training program in fiscal year 2008, the same as the fiscal year 2007 level. Funds are requested for this program in order to address the need for skilled personnel to provide rehabilitation services, particularly through programs supported under the Rehabilitation Act. For years, the demand for new State VR agency counselors has far exceeded the supply, and 43 percent of State VR counselors are expected to retire by 2007. According to a study conducted by the American Institutes for Research (*A Profile for the Demand for and Supply of Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors*, January 2006) the number of students currently graduating from rehabilitation counseling programs who enter VR employment (approximately 31 percent of all new graduates) are expected to meet only about 30 percent of the need for new VR counselors. In addition, 27 percent of existing State VR agency staff do not meet their State's personnel standard under their CSPD and require retraining. In addition, 88 percent of those who meet their State's personnel standard will require continuing education to maintain their credentials.

Of the funds requested, \$19.415 million (151 awards) will be directed towards 10 long-term academic training fields, of which \$11.083 million (74 awards) will support training projects that produce graduates with masters degrees in rehabilitation counseling, and \$2.276 million will support projects designed to increase the credentials of existing State agency staff. Overall, the fiscal year 2008 request will support \$28.985 million for 204 ongoing awards that began in previous fiscal years and \$8.794 million for 57 new awards.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Training

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#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Program funding:</b>			
New awards	\$2,890	\$2,582	\$8,794
Continuation awards	35,347	35,321	28,985
Minority outreach	59	384	384
Peer review of new award applications	50	75	100
Conferences	<u>92</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>175</u>
Total	38,438	38,438	38,438

<b>Number of awards:</b>			
New awards	15	14	57
Continuation awards	<u>254</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>204</u>
Total	269	267	261

Program detail	Funding			Number of awards		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<u>Long-term training:</u>						
New awards	\$1,125	\$768	\$5,900	11	10	50
Continuation awards	<u>18,528</u>	<u>18,391</u>	<u>13,515</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>101</u>
Total	19,653	19,159	19,415	159	157	151
<u>Continuing education:</u>						
New awards	1,500	1,500	2,894	3	3	7
Continuation awards	<u>8,471</u>	<u>8,571</u>	<u>6,870</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>
Total	9,971	10,071	9,764	24	24	24
<u>In-Service:</u>						
New awards	265	0	0	1	0	0
Continuation awards	<u>5,501</u>	<u>5,766</u>	<u>5,766</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>77</u>
Total	5,766	5,766	5,766	77	77	77
<u>Short-term:</u>						
New awards	0	250	0	0	1	0
Continuation awards	<u>750</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	750	750	750	3	3	3
<u>Interpreter training:</u>						
Total, continuation awards	2,097	2,093	2,084	6	6	6

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Training

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#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

**Goal: To provide the public vocational rehabilitation (VR) sector with well-trained staff and to maintain and upgrade the skills of current staff.**

**Objective:** *Maintain and upgrade the knowledge and skills of personnel currently employed in the public VR system.*

<b>Measure:</b> The percentage of currently employed VR state agency counselors who meet their State's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) standard.		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
2003	77	67
2004	79	67
2005	70	73
2006	71	
2007	72	
2008	73	

**Assessment of progress:** Beginning in 2005, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has compiled these data from State plans submitted under the VR State grant program. Data for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were collected by the American Institutes for Research through surveys of State agencies. Data for fiscal year 2006 will be available in April 2007. The data suggest that there has been some improvement in performance, but the data may not be comparable because they are derived from different sources, using different methodologies.

##### Efficiency Measures

The efficiency measure established for the LTT program during the PART review is the cost per graduate. Currently, the average grant size under the LTT program is \$100,000, and grantees are required to set aside 75 percent of their Federal funds for scholarship support. We know that the average cost per masters-level counseling graduate in 2001 was \$10,030. In 2005, this figure increased to \$11,328. RSA will calculate and analyze the data for this measure at the grantee level in order to be able to compare projects.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Training

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#### Follow-Up on PART Findings and Recommendations

In 2006, the Training program underwent a PART review and received a rating of “Adequate”. The assessment found that the program addresses a specific problem—rehabilitation personnel shortages—and is the only Federal program designed to do so through a payback requirement. This requirement mandates scholars must re-pay their Federal scholarship support by working in public or private nonprofit rehabilitation agencies or related agencies 2 years for every 1 year of assistance or re-pay the scholarship in full if they go to work in an unrelated field. The assessment further found that the program established ambitious targets for its long-term measures, developed an efficiency measure, and has taken steps to improve its data collection. For example, the program seeks to increase the percentage of counseling graduates who fulfill their payback requirements through appropriate employment to 88 percent by 2011 and to raise the percentage of currently employed VR agency counselors who meet their State’s CSPD standard from 73 percent to 76 percent by 2011. In order to better assess performance on payback, RSA has developed an internal system that will allow RSA to track the employment status of individual scholars and obtain data not otherwise available through web-based reporting by grantees.

In response to these findings, the Department will: determine whether the Training program should be restructured in order to address emerging needs; take steps to improve the accuracy of grantee-reported data and make such data available to the public; and calculate and analyze the efficiency measure data (cost per graduate) at the grantee level in order to establish targets and identify potential candidates for technical assistance.

#### Other Performance Information

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) recently conducted an evaluation of the Training program. The evaluation was designed to assess the responsiveness of the Long-Term training program to the need for qualified rehabilitation personnel, with a particular focus on the largest profession in the field—rehabilitation counseling. AIR looked at: issues of demand and supply of qualified personnel; the types of agencies or organizations that employ RSA scholars upon graduation; the variables graduates consider when choosing to enter careers in State vocational rehabilitation agencies and other acceptable employment settings; the current status of each State's CSPD standards; and the number of counselors that meet those standards and the projected demand for qualified rehabilitation counselors in each State over the next 10 years. AIR used six surveys to gather information. AIR issued two reports from this study—*An Evaluation of the Rehabilitation Services Administration Training Program's Responsiveness to State VR Agency Needs for Qualified Personnel* (August 2005) and *A Profile of the Demand for and Supply of Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors* (January 2006). RSA used the results of the study to redistribute funds to areas of greatest need and improve accountability systems, such as the payback reporting system. The Department is in the process of posting these studies online.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

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**Demonstration and training programs**

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III, Section 303(b)-(d))

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$6,511	\$6,840	+\$329

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 though appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Demonstration and Training programs provide competitive grants to, or contracts with, eligible entities to expand and improve the provision of rehabilitation and other services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act (the Act) or to further the purposes and policies of the Act. These current-funded discretionary grant programs also support activities that increase the provision, extent, availability, scope, and quality of rehabilitation services under the Act, including related research and evaluation activities.

Section 303(b) of the Rehabilitation Act authorizes the support of activities to demonstrate methods of service delivery to individuals with disabilities, as well as activities such as technical assistance, systems change, special studies and evaluation, and dissemination and utilization of project findings. Eligible entities include State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies, community rehabilitation programs, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, other public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, and for-profit organizations. Competitions may be limited to one or more type of entity.

Sections 303(c) and (d) of the Act authorize a parent information and training program and a Braille training program.

The majority of projects currently supported under Demonstration and Training programs are designed to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities by expanding and improving the availability and provision of rehabilitation and other services. These projects should help increase employment outcomes for individuals for whom vocational rehabilitation services were previously unavailable or who previously did not take advantage of such services.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

	(\$000s)
2003 .....	\$21,392
2004.....	24,286
2005.....	25,607
2006.....	6,511
2007.....	6,511



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Demonstration and training programs

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#### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$6.84 million for Demonstration and Training programs in fiscal year 2008, an increase of \$329,000 over the fiscal year 2007 level. The increase is needed to order to cover continuation costs of grants awarded in previous fiscal years.

A total of \$1.337 million of the request would be used to continue four State grants expected to be funded in fiscal year 2007 that will assist States to demonstrate the use of promising practices of collaborative transition planning and service delivery in improving the postsecondary education and employment outcomes of students with disabilities.

In addition, \$5.335 million in fiscal year 2008 funds would continue support for activities that began in fiscal years 2006 and earlier. Approximately \$1.727 million would be used to continue support for statewide systems of device reutilization to meet the assistive technology (AT) needs of individuals with disabilities. In fiscal year 2006, RSA awarded 10 3-year grants with a declining Federal share to States to initiate or expand device reutilization programs. In addition, RSA awarded an accompanying 5-year technical assistance (TA) center that would disseminate information about promising practices and successful models for reutilization programs and facilitate information exchange among AT reutilization grantees. The TA center will also address reutilization issues at the national level and support the development of a national network of device reutilization systems, including device reutilization systems not developed under this priority. Fiscal year 2008 funds would also be used to provide the fifth and final year of funding for the nine Mentoring Project grants (\$2.488 million) and two Braille Training grants (\$200,000), the second year of funding for the seven 5-year Parent Training and Information Center grants (\$770,000) and the Parent Training and Information Center Technical Assistance grant (\$150,000).

#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Program funding:</b>			
Transition initiative	0	\$3,165 <sup>1</sup>	\$1,337
AT Reutilization			
New	\$4,650 <sup>2</sup>		
Continuations		258	1,727
Parent Training and Information Centers			
New	0	920	0
Continuations	0	0	920
Braille Training			
Continuations	0	0	200
Literacy Demonstration Projects			
Continuations	258	826	0

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Demonstration and training programs

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	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mentoring Projects			
Continuations	<u>\$984</u>	<u>\$1,127</u>	<u>\$2,488</u>
Subtotal—Program funding	5,892	6,296	6,672
<b>Other program costs:</b>			
TA for Telework grantees	100	100	100
NIDRR supplements	400	0	0
Peer review of new award applications	54	50	0
Minority outreach	<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>68</u>
Subtotal—Other program costs	619	215	168
<b>Total—Program funding and other program costs</b>	<b>\$6,511</b>	<b>\$6,511</b>	<b>\$6,840</b>
<b>Number of projects:</b>			
New	11	12	0
Continuation	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>21</u>
<b>Total—Number of projects</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>

<sup>1</sup>This figure includes \$914,792 of the FY 2008 continuation costs of projects funded under this program.

<sup>2</sup>This figure includes \$2.430 million in FY 2007 continuation costs of projects funded under this program

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

#### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

**Goal: To expand, improve or further the purposes of activities authorized under the Act.**

**Objective:** *Expand and improve the provision of rehabilitation services that lead to employment outcomes.*

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Demonstration and training programs

**Measure:** The percentage of individuals referred to or from VR agencies will be maintained or increased as a result of interactions with, presentations for, and information provided to VR agencies.

Year	Target		Actual	
	Referrals to VR from Projects	Referrals from VR to Projects	Referrals to VR from Projects	Referrals from VR to Projects
2003	10	60	11	28
2004	10	62	9	31
2005	13	33	9	41
2006	13	33		
2007	13	33		
2008	13	33		

**Assessment of progress:** Grantees report on the number of presentations conducted for targeted audiences about their projects and the percent of project participants who were active VR consumers, referred from VR to the project, or referred to VR from the project. Targets established for the measures for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 were based on data that has since been corrected. Therefore, targets for referrals set for those years were not appropriate—they were not ambitious in the case of referrals to VR or realistic in the case of referrals from VR.

Actual data reflect information provided by projects funded through the Special Demonstrations program that use the web-based reporting system and that provide direct services leading to employment outcomes. The fiscal year 2004 data were based on 26 projects that reported serving 2,830 individuals of whom 261 were referred to VR and 890 were referred from VR. The fiscal year 2005 data are based on 9 projects that reported serving 1,248 individuals of whom 118 were referred to VR and 508 were referred from VR. These data cannot be used to directly assess the impact the projects had on VR service providers but do provide some insight into the relationship between these projects and VR providers. In addition, grantees report on their impact through narrative responses.

**Measure:** The percentage of individuals who were provided employment services through projects and who were placed into employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	Baseline	39
2004	Baseline	36
2005	24	31
2006	35	
2007	35	
2008	35	

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Demonstration and training programs

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**Assessment of progress:** The fiscal year 2004 data reflect information provided by 15 grantees that use the web-based reporting system and that provide direct services leading to employment outcomes. The percentage of consumers placed in 2004 is based on 1,018 placements and 2,830 individuals served. The percentage of consumers placed in 2005 is based on 392 placements and 1,248 individuals served by 9 projects.

### Efficiency Measures

The efficiency measure for this program is the percentage of projects that met their goals and objectives as established in their original applications, or as modified during the first year. RSA staff will review applications, grant files, and final reports to compile the information needed for this measure. This efficiency measure is designed to determine whether the grantees are providing the services for which they were awarded funding through the competitive process. Fiscal year 2006 data will be available in April 2007.

### Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations

The Demonstration and Training programs underwent a PART review during 2005 and received a rating of "Results Not Demonstrated." The PART assessment found that the program lacks any sort of strategic process for identifying and establishing priority areas. The program's strength is in its flexibility to target funds in any direction that supports the purposes of the Act, but a long-range plan must be developed to ensure funds are directed to identified needs. In addition to the need for a comprehensive long-range plan (including a plan for program evaluation), the PART review noted that RSA needs procedures for identifying multi-year initiatives and annual priority areas. The annual priorities should be based on: objectives and strategies identified in the forthcoming Strategic Performance Plan for the VR program; evaluations, data analyses, and research findings; results from Program Improvement activities; and the Department's goals and objectives.

While the program has a few annual measures that focus on employment, the PART noted that the Department needs to establish one or more long-term goals and measures that reflect the priority areas identified in a comprehensive plan as well as an efficiency measure. In addition, the program has not conducted a comprehensive evaluation of its activities. Although discrete project evaluations have been done, the program has not used the findings to change program practices. Finally, program managers have not developed a system to use program data to manage the program, assess management deficiencies, or make data available to the public.

In response to the PART findings, RSA has established a planning process that includes a new Demonstration Program Priority Team. The team will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive examination of service programs supported under the Rehabilitation Act and will prepare options and a 5-year comprehensive plan based on an analysis of issues and needs. RSA intends to have the Demonstration Program Priority Team operating by Spring 2007. Once the comprehensive plan is drafted, RSA will develop long-term measures and examine current annual measures to determine whether they should be maintained or revised in line with the comprehensive plan.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### **Demonstration and training programs**

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RSA's Web-based reporting system, which is used to collect data for the program's current measures, is now operational but continues to only apply to a portion of the grantees. Therefore, RSA is working to examine alternative measures that might be used for the program, eliminating the need for the current electronic reporting system.

Finally, RSA has developed a protocol for review of annual performance reports and data submissions. RSA will test the protocol, develop and test procedures for comparing performance data for the current and previous years, and analyze the results in Spring 2007.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

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**Migrant and seasonal farmworkers**

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III, Section 304)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): 0 <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$2,279	0	-\$2,279

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The program was authorized in FY2007 through appropriations language. No appropriations language or new authorizing legislation is sought.

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**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) program makes comprehensive vocational rehabilitation (VR) services available to migrant and seasonal farmworkers with disabilities, with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for them. Projects also develop innovative methods for reaching and serving this population. Emphasis is given in these projects to outreach, specialized bilingual rehabilitation counseling, and coordination of VR services with services from other sources. Projects provide VR services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and to members of their families when such services will contribute to the rehabilitation of the worker with a disability. Discretionary grants are limited to 90 percent of the costs of the projects providing these services. This is a current-funded program.

The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program is administered in coordination with other programs serving migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including programs under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

	(\$000s)
2003.....	\$2,335
2004.....	2,321
2005.....	2,302
2006.....	2,279
2007.....	2,279

**FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST**

No funds are requested for the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) program in fiscal year 2008. The Administration recognizes that specialized services, such as those provided through the MSFW program, can be beneficial in meeting the complex needs of migrant or seasonal farmworkers with disabilities. However, the services provided through this program can be, and in many States are, provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State grants

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

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program. Therefore, a need no longer exists for a separate program to provide specialized services to this population, which is served by the VR State grants program.

In all State VR agencies, migrant and seasonal farmworkers with disabilities are eligible for the full range of services that are available to all VR consumers. The specialized services provided under the MSFW program are activities all State VR agencies should be conducting to reach and appropriately serve underserved populations and should not depend on the availability of separate funding. The authorizing legislation for the VR State Grants program contains many provisions to ensure that State VR agencies reach and serve all individuals with disabilities within the State, including minority, unserved, and underserved populations--

- States must provide for the cooperation, collaboration, and coordination with other components of the Statewide workforce investment system. Specifically, States must describe their interagency cooperation with, and utilization of the services and facilities of, Federal, State and local agencies and programs, including programs carried out by the Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Rural Development.
- States must provide an assurance that the State will not impose a residence requirement that excludes from services any individual who is present in the State.
- States must conduct comprehensive, statewide assessments describing the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities residing within the States, particularly the VR service needs of individuals with disabilities who are minorities and individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by the VR State Grants program. Using the statewide assessment, the States must identify the goals and priorities in carrying out their programs.
- States must provide a description of the strategies they will use to address the needs identified in the comprehensive, statewide assessment and to achieve the identified goals and priorities, including outreach procedures to identify and serve individuals with disabilities who are minorities and individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by the VR program.

The activities needed to successfully serve the migrant and seasonal farmworker population do not differ from those that benefit a much wider group of VR consumers. For example, outreach activities in churches and community centers may be effective for identifying farmworkers with disabilities, but they also assist in identifying other persons with disabilities who visit these places. The hiring of bilingual counselors will assist all consumers who are monolingual in a non-English language, whether those consumers are farmworkers or not. And, the provision of transportation services for rural areas will benefit all rural residents, whether farmworkers or not.

This program was established as a demonstration program in the mid-1970s and is no longer needed to demonstrate the benefits of these strategies to serve underserved populations such as migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Many of the same States have received continued funding over the past 30 years and should be able to effectively serve this population under the VR State Grants program.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

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#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Program funding:</b>			
New projects	\$583	\$851	0
Continuation projects	1,665	1,396	0
Minority outreach	31	22	0
Peer review of new award applications	<u>0</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Number of projects:</b>			
New projects	3	4	0
Continuation projects	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> No peer review costs were incurred in fiscal year 2006 because RSA funded applications approved for funding, but not funded, in the fiscal year 2005 competition.

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program is currently part of the Administration's Job Training Common Measures initiative. The common measures for job training and employment programs targeting adults are: entered employment (percentage employed in the first quarter after program exit); retention in employment (percentage of those employed in the first quarter after exit that were still employed in the second and third quarter after program exit); earnings increase (percentage change in earnings pre-registration to post-program and first quarter after exit to third quarter after exit); and efficiency (annual cost per participant).

In addition, the Department is developing a uniform data collection instrument for use by grantees in order to obtain data on: (1) successful employment outcomes of individuals served exclusively by the project, (2) those served by the Designated State Unit and the project, and (3) the number of individuals where cases were closed not achieving employment outcomes.

**Goal: To increase employment opportunities for migrant and seasonal farmworkers who have disabilities.**



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

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**Objective:** *Ensure that eligible Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers with disabilities receive Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and achieve employment.*

**Measure:** The percentage of migrant or seasonal farmworkers with disabilities served by both vocational rehabilitation (VR) and the VR Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers projects who were placed in employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2003		66
2004	62	59
2005	65	67
2006	65	
2007	65	

**Assessment of progress:** States with Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) grants continue to place in employment those served at a higher rate than States without projects. According to fiscal year 2004 data reported by States through Rehabilitation Services Administration's form 911, MSFW projects served 217 individuals, placing 127 in employment (59 percent), while all other States placed 36 percent of the 3,705 migrant and seasonal farmworkers served in employment. During fiscal year 2005, the 13 States with MSFW projects served 322 individuals, placing 216 in employment (67 percent). States without projects reported placing 60 percent of the 1,626 migrant and seasonal farmworkers served in employment. RSA has begun to work with States to ensure data are reported correctly by States without projects. Incorrectly reported data are not reflected in the percentages described here for States without projects. No target is shown for 2008, since this program is proposed for termination.

### Efficiency Measures

The common efficiency measure for job training programs is the cost per participant. The Department believes that this output-based common measure will have limited utility in guiding policy decisions or improving performance in these programs relative to the outcome-based efficiency measure of the cost per employment outcome. The Department believes that an outcome-based measure is more useful in programs with well-defined measures of success, such as this program. RSA will calculate project-level efficiency data by dividing the annual Federal grant amount by the number of successful employment outcomes reported by the project during the project period. RSA will use these data to establish targets for the percentage of projects whose costs per employment outcome is within a specified range. Projects conduct their activities in the year following the Federal funding. For example, outcomes reported for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 were achieved with grant funds obligated during 2003 and 2004. Projects operating during fiscal year 2004 spent \$18,543 per employment outcome and projects operating in fiscal year 2005 spent \$10,413 per employment outcome. RSA will establish targets once the 2006 data are available.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### **Migrant and seasonal farmworkers**

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#### **Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations**

The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program underwent a PART review in 2006 and received a rating of "Results Not Demonstrated." The PART assessment found that the MSFW and the much larger VR State grants program serve the same target population, and that the services provided by the MSFW program may be provided by the VR program. However, it noted that the MSFW project funds are traditionally used to conduct extensive outreach tailored to specific needs while VR State grants support the services provided to the migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

The program only has 2 years of data to assess its progress in relation to established targets. However, the percent of individuals served by a MSFW project and the VR State grants program who were placed into employment has consistently been higher than the percent of farmworkers achieving successful outcomes in States without projects. In fiscal year 2005, the 13 States with MSFW projects placed 67 percent of the individuals served into employment. VR State agencies in States without MSFW projects reported placing 60 percent of the migrant and seasonal farmworkers they served into employment, not including 356 migrants served by these agencies that were incorrectly reported as being served by a MSFW project.

In response to PART findings, the Department will develop long-term performance measures, use efficiency data to determine how project costs are linked to achieving employment outcomes, and improve the use of project data to manage the program. To improve the transparency of its data, RSA will post summary analyses and key data on the Web.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Recreational programs

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III, Section 305)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): 0 <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$2,518	0	-\$2,518

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The program was authorized in FY2007 through appropriations language. No appropriations language or new authorizing legislation is sought.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program provides recreational and related activities to individuals with disabilities to aid in their employment, mobility, independence, socialization, and community integration. Programs are designed to promote the development of social skills that can help individuals with disabilities integrate into the community.

This current-funded program awards discretionary grants on a competitive basis to States, public agencies, and nonprofit private organizations, including institutions of higher education. The statute requires the Federal contribution for projects funded under this authority to decrease over the 3-year project period. Grantees are required to maintain services during the second and third years of the project at the level provided in the first year. The Federal share of the costs of the project is 100 percent for the first year, 75 percent for the second year, and 50 percent for the third. The applicant is required to include a description in the application of how the project will continue after Federal assistance ends.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

	(\$000s)
2003.....	\$2,579
2004.....	2,564
2005.....	2,543
2006.....	2,518
2007.....	2,518

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

No funds are requested for Recreational programs in fiscal year 2008. While the Administration strongly supports helping individuals with disabilities become full and active members in society, this program has limited national impact. The Administration believes recreational programs would be more appropriately financed by State and local agencies and the private sector. For example, the National Council for Support of Disability Issues—a nonprofit organization

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Recreational programs

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dedicated to providing a means for sharing information, resources, ideas, and support among individuals with disabilities—provides information for 19 national or international organizations that provide sports programs for individuals with disabilities. The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD), which began in 1970 as a one-time ski lesson for children with amputations for the Children's Hospital of Denver, is one of the largest outdoor therapeutic recreation agencies in the world. With specially trained staff and its own adaptive equipment lab, the NSCD teaches a variety of winter and summer sports and activities to individuals with disabilities. Over 17,000 lessons were provided in 2006 alone. The NSCD's primary source of revenue is contributions. Reported revenue for fiscal year 2005, \$3,836,169, includes \$2,546,812 in contributions—an amount that exceeds the entire appropriation for this Federal program.

#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>New awards:</b>			
Number	8	8	0
Average new award	\$141	\$129	0
Funding	\$1,131	1,033	0
<b>Continuation awards:</b>			
Number	25	24	0
Funding	\$1,371	1,360	0
<b>Other:</b>			
Minority outreach	\$16	\$25	0
Peer review of new award applications	<u>0</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,518	2,518	0

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<sup>1</sup> No peer review costs were incurred in fiscal year 2006 because RSA funded applications approved for funding, but not funded, in the fiscal year 2005 competition.

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The primary purpose of this program is to initiate recreational programs that will continue on their own after Federal funding ends. Grantees are required to provide an increased level of support from non-Federal sources over their 3-year project period. RSA measures the success of this program through the percentage of projects in operation 1, 2, and 3 years after Federal funding ceases. In fiscal year 2004, 83 percent of the 21 grantees whose projects received their last year of Federal support during fiscal years 2001 through 2003 were still in operation and providing recreational services to individuals with disabilities. In fiscal year 2005, 80 percent of the 25 grantees who projects received their last year of funding during 2002 through 2004 were still in operation and providing recreational services to individuals with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Services Administration has not conducted any third party evaluations of this program.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Protection and advocacy of individual rights (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 509)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$16,489	\$16,489	0

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) program supports a statewide system to protect the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities who are ineligible for protection and advocacy (P&A) services provided under Part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, or who need P&A services that are beyond the scope of the Client Assistance Program. The purpose of this program is to provide assistance and information to eligible individuals with disabilities and conduct advocacy to ensure the protection of their rights under Federal law. States may use these funds to plan and carry out P&A programs for eligible individuals with disabilities and to develop outreach strategies to inform individuals with disabilities of their rights.

Funds must be set aside under this program for two activities before awarding grants to eligible States and outlying areas with the remaining appropriation. If the appropriation is equal to or exceeds \$5.5 million, the Secretary must first set aside between 1.8 percent and 2.2 percent of the amount appropriated for training and technical assistance to eligible systems established under this program. In addition, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the Act) requires that in any year in which the total appropriation exceeds \$10.5 million, the Secretary must award \$50,000 to the eligible system established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to serve the American Indian consortium. The Secretary then distributes the remainder of the appropriation to the eligible systems within the States and outlying areas on a population basis after satisfying minimum allocations. The fiscal year 2006 allotments were based on the July 1, 2004 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2004. The fiscal year 2007 allotments are based on the July 1, 2005 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2005. The fiscal year 2008 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2006 population estimates released on December 22, 2006.

The Act also requires the Secretary to increase the minimum allotments for States and outlying areas by a percentage not greater than the percentage increase in the total amount appropriated for this program from the previous fiscal year. The Act establishes a minimum allotment of \$100,000 for States or one-third of 1 percent of funds remaining after the technical assistance set-aside and grant for the American Indian consortium, whichever is greater. The

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Protection and advocacy of individual rights

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outlying areas receive a minimum allotment of \$50,000. The program is current-funded but States and outlying areas may carry over unobligated Federal funds for an additional year.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

	(\$000s)
2003 .....	\$16,890
2004.....	16,790
2005.....	16,656
2006.....	16,489
2007.....	16,489

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$16.489 million for the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) program in fiscal year 2008, the same as the fiscal year 2007 level. Federal support for PAIR ensures that States can provide assistance and information to eligible individuals to ensure the protection of their rights under Federal law.

A successful PAIR program identifies priorities and objectives that meet the needs of a significant proportion of individuals with disabilities who seek its services. During FY 2005, PAIR programs reported representing 17,450 individuals and responding to 59,107 requests for information or referral. Of the cases handled by PAIR programs in that year, the greatest number of specified issues involved education (21 percent), employment (13 percent) and government benefits/services (13 percent). Because PAIR programs cannot address all issues facing individuals with disabilities solely through individual advocacy, they seek to change public and private policies and practices that present barriers to the rights of individuals with disabilities, utilizing negotiations and class action litigation. In FY 2005, 51 out of the 57 PAIR programs (89 percent) reported that these activities resulted in changes in policies and practices benefiting individuals with disabilities.

An example of PAIR activities during FY 2005 involved the State of Florida, which is experiencing a disturbing increase of children as young as 5 and 6 years being arrested in school. During July of FY 2005, the Florida PAIR program presented a 2-day training in collaboration with experts from the Florida Association of School Resource Officers (FASRO) in an effort to address the growing problem of children in the public school system being needlessly arrested. On September 21, 2005, the PAIR sent a proposal to the Secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education, and the President of the Florida Sheriffs for a partnership that would clarify the respective roles of education, law enforcement, juvenile justice and other officials in providing for the health, safety and education of Florida's children, including children with disabilities, while at the same time providing for community security. The Florida PAIR program estimated that approximately 150,000 children with disabilities are at risk of not receiving adequate supports and services and could benefit from such a partnership and agreement to implement proper procedures.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Protection and advocacy of individual rights

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#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Information inquiries/referrals	59,110	59,110	59,110
Individuals provided case services	17,450	17,450	17,450

NOTE: Data for fiscal years 2006 through 2008 are projected from actual data collected for fiscal year 2005. Data for fiscal year 2006 will be available in April of 2007.

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

**Goal: To provide assistance and information to individuals with disabilities eligible for the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights program and conduct advocacy to ensure the protection of their rights under Federal law.**

**Objective:** *Identify problem areas requiring systemic change and engage in systemic activities to address those problems.*

<b>Measure:</b> The percentage of PAIRs that report changes in policies and practices as a result of their efforts.		
Year	Target	Actual
2003	75	75
2004	77	86
2005	79	89
2006	83	
2007	83	
2008	83	

**Assessment of progress:** Because PAIR programs cannot address all issues facing individuals with disabilities solely through individual advocacy, they seek to change public and private policies and practices that present barriers to the rights of individuals with disabilities, utilizing negotiations and class action litigation. Of the 57 PAIRs, 43 reported successful systemic change in fiscal year 2003, 49 in fiscal year 2004, and 51 reported success on this measure in fiscal year 2005. The Department increased the targets for fiscal year 2006 through 2008 from 81 percent to 83 percent because the program has exceeded established targets since 2003. Fiscal year 2006 data will be available in April of 2007.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Protection and advocacy of individual rights

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#### Other Performance Information

In 1998, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) contracted for an independent evaluation of the PAIR program in order to learn more about the services each PAIR is providing to individuals with disabilities and how each PAIR grantee establishes its annual priorities. Each PAIR grantee must develop a statement of objectives and priorities, including a rationale for the selection of the objectives and priorities and a plan for achieving them, and must provide the public an opportunity to comment on its statement. PAIRs reported considerable difficulties in trying to serve the large numbers of persons with disabilities who are eligible for the program. PAIR staff could not estimate how many individuals eligible for PAIR go unserved but believe the numbers to be significant.



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Projects with industry

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI, Part A)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): 0<sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$19,538	0	-\$19,538

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. No appropriations language or new authorizing legislation is sought.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Projects with Industry (PWI) program is to create and expand job and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the competitive labor market by engaging the participation of business and industry in the rehabilitation process. PWI projects promote the involvement of business and private industry through Business Advisory Councils (BACs) that identify jobs and careers available in the community and provide advice on needed skills and training. BACs are required to identify job and career availability within the community, consistent with the current and projected local employment opportunities identified by the local workforce investment board for the community under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA).

This current-funded program provides job development, job placement, and career development services, and, to the extent appropriate, training services to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain or advance in employment in the competitive labor market. Projects must determine eligibility for services in a manner consistent with section 102 of the Rehabilitation Act.

PWI grants are made to a variety of agencies and organizations, including business and industrial corporations, community rehabilitation programs, labor organizations, trade associations, and foundations. Competitive grants are awarded for a period of up to 5 years and may not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of a project. New awards may be made only to projects proposing to serve geographic areas that are unserved or underserved by the PWI program.

PWI grantees must provide to the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) an annual evaluation of project operations in accordance with the established program standards and compliance indicators. Data and information contained in the report include the number of individuals with disabilities served, number of individuals with disabilities who achieved a competitive employment outcome, improvement of participants' employment status and earning power following services, and employment retention. In addition, continuation awards may be made only to grantees that are carrying out the provisions of their approved grant application. In order to receive continuation funding for the third and subsequent years, grantees must meet the above requirements and also demonstrate compliance with the

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Projects with industry

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performance indicators by submitting data for the most recent complete project year. If a grantee does not demonstrate compliance on the basis of the previous year's data, the grantee has an additional opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the standards by submitting data from the first 6 months of the current project year.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

(\$000s)

2003.....	\$21,928
2004.....	21,799
2005.....	21,625
2006.....	19,538
2007.....	19,538

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

No funds are requested for the Projects with Industry (PWI) program in fiscal year 2008. The request reflects the Administration's effort to streamline job training programs and eliminate duplicative and overlapping programs. The Administration believes that the PWI program is such a program, because PWI and the much larger Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program serve the same target populations. In addition, the services provided by the PWI program may be provided by the larger VR State Grants program. In fact, many of the individuals served by PWI grantees also receive services under the VR State Grants program.

The program was initiated under the 1968 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act under the demonstration authority in section 304 (d), and was first funded in 1970. When the Act was reauthorized in 1978, the program's authority was moved to the new Title VI, Employment Opportunities for Handicapped Individuals, and the program's requirements were expanded. The program, created to engage the talent and leadership of private industry as partners in the rehabilitation process, authorized jointly financed projects with individual employers and other entities to provide training and placement in realistic work settings. Unfortunately, few private businesses were interested in operating PWI projects. A 1985 Department-funded evaluation of the PWI program found that most PWI projects were operated by traditional rehabilitation service providers and only a small number of projects were operated by the business sector. To ensure the involvement of business and industry in the program, PWI was amended in 1986 to require the establishment of business advisory councils. Since that time, the Business Advisory Council (BAC) has been the distinguishing feature of the PWI program.

Today, the business community is routinely involved in job training and employment programs. In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was enacted with the purpose of consolidating, coordinating, and improving employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs. Recognizing the importance of involving the business sector in job training and employment programs, WIA provided for local workforce investment boards in each State that include business, industry, labor, and other representatives. Two of the major functions of the BAC, identification of job and career availability within the community and the skills necessary to perform the identified jobs and careers, are now functions of the local workforce investment board under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The State VR agency is represented on the

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Projects with industry

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local board as a partner of WIA's one-stop delivery system. In addition, since 1992, the VR State agency has been required to have four representatives of business, industry, and labor on its State Rehabilitation Council.

The Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) assessment conducted in 2004 found that the program design is duplicative of the much larger VR State Grants program, which serves the same target populations and provides similar services. The Department-funded evaluation of the PWI program, published in December 2003 found that the individuals served by the PWI program do not differ much from those served by VR at the aggregate program level and that typically, PWI projects serve a specific subset of the population served by one or more local VR offices. Typically, PWI is one of several programs operated by a host organization, and the specific role of the PWI project at many, especially larger, grantee organizations is shaped by the other programs available at the host organization.

As the program operates today, the major contribution of PWI projects to the VR system is the provision of job placement services. Few PWI projects currently provide job skill training. Where available, VR agencies often refer their consumers to local PWI projects for job placement services. If funding for the program is eliminated, as proposed, the Administration anticipates that State VR agencies will continue to refer individuals to effective PWI programs for placement services. However, like other VR service providers, these projects would be paid directly or by contract for their services by the State VR agency instead of being funded under a Federal PWI grant.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Continuation projects:	\$19,050	\$19,215	0
Number	74	74	0
Average Award	\$257	\$257	0
<u>Minority outreach</u>	\$488 <sup>1</sup>	\$323 <sup>1</sup>	0

<sup>1</sup> Funds remaining after making continuation awards are used to comply with the minority outreach requirement under section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act.

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### Projects with industry

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#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

**Goal: To facilitate the establishment of partnerships between rehabilitation service providers and business and industry in order to create and expand employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.**

**Objective:** *Ensure that PWI services (through partnerships with business and industry) result in competitive employment, increased wages, and job retention for individuals with disabilities.*

Measure: Percentage of individuals served who were placed into competitive employment		
Year	Target	Actual
2003	62.4	54.2
2004	62.7	61.5
2005	63.0	51.9
2006	63.0	
2007	55.0	

**Assessment of progress:** In response to a recommendation resulting from the program's PART assessment, RSA revised the program's data collection package used for reporting on FY 2005 and beyond to include additional data elements that are comparable to those collected by other job training programs. These data elements included the total number served and number of individuals exiting the program during the reporting period.

The revision of the data collection resulted in an unexpected problem with the reporting of data on the number of individuals served that directly affects the calculation of performance on this measure and the comparability of the FY 2005 data with previous year data. The new data collection requires grantees to report both the total number of individuals served in the reporting period and the number of "new" individuals served in the reporting period. The previous data collection required grantees to report data only on the number of "new" individuals served in the reporting period, but it appears, based on an analysis of 2005 and comparable 2004 data, that many of the grantees had previously been incorrectly reporting all individuals served. The more accurate reporting of individuals served in the new data collection resulted in a significant reduction in the number of "new" individuals served in FY 2005 as compared to previous years. To correct for this problem, the FY 2005 "placement rate" has been calculated as the percentage of individuals served who were placed into competitive employment of the total number of individuals served by the projects during the reporting period. This change in calculation resulted in a

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Projects with industry

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significantly lower placement rate as compared to previous years. The fiscal year 2007 target has been adjusted to reflect the change in the calculation of the measure.

In FY 2005, 92 percent of the projects completed the third and final year of their grant and 8 percent completed the second year of their grant. The 85 projects operating in FY 2005 served a total of 12,652 individuals with disabilities and placed 6,564 of those individuals (51.9 percent) in competitive employment.

In assessing program performance, it should be noted that there is wide variation among grantees in the data reported and in their performance. For example, although the average number of placements per project was 77.2, the number ranged from 1 to 325 with a median of 70. Project placement rates ranged from 5.5 percent to 90.6 percent with a median of 57.3 percent. Similarly, while the average number served per project was 148.8, the number ranged from 18 to 808 with a median of 129.

The Department has added a new outcome measure that will measure the percentage of PWI participants exiting the program who are placed in competitive employment. Data to support this indicator will be collected in the fiscal year 2006 reporting period.

**Measure:** Average increase in weekly earnings in dollars of individuals who are placed in competitive employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2002	\$226	\$234
2003	\$231	\$242
2004	\$233	\$247
2005	\$238	\$253
2006	\$242	
2007	\$247	

**Assessment of progress:** PWI projects continued to improve their performance in increasing the earnings of project participants. In fiscal year 2005, the average increase in earnings for program participants from time of project entry was \$253, about an 8 percent increase over the level reported for 2002. The average increase in earnings reported by projects ranged from \$0 to \$587 with a median of \$252.

### Efficiency Measures

Two efficiency measures have been established for the PWI program. These include average annual cost per placement and cost per participant. For the purpose of this measure, the annual cost per placement will be calculated as annual Federal project funds divided by the total number of placements in the reporting period. This indicator will measure the percentage of PWI projects whose cost per placement is within a specified range. The Department has collected baseline data and is working to establish the performance range and set performance targets for 2007. The

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Projects with industry

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average annual cost per placement for the 85 projects operating in fiscal year 2005 was \$3,004. However, the annual cost per placement ranged from \$582 to \$248,867, with a median of \$3,408.

PWI is part of the Job Training Common Measure initiative. The common efficiency measure for job training programs is the cost per participant. Cost per participant is calculated by dividing the annual appropriation, excluding peer review costs, by the total number of persons served during the reporting period. Historically, the program has only collected data on the number of new individuals served under the program in the reporting period. The data collection instrument was revised in 2005 to report all individuals served by the program during the reporting period. This indicator will measure the percentage of PWI projects whose cost per individual served is within a specified range. The Department has collected baseline data and is working to establish the performance range and set performance targets for 2007. For fiscal year 2005, the average annual cost per participant was \$1,558, with a range of \$234 to \$13,825, and a median of \$1,894.

### **Other Performance Information**

#### Grantee Performance On Program Compliance Indicators

PWI grantees must provide an annual evaluation of project operations in accordance with the established program standards and compliance indicators. In order to receive continuation funding for the third and subsequent years, grantees must demonstrate compliance with the performance indicators established in program regulations by submitting data for the most recent complete project year. Program compliance indicators place an emphasis on services to individuals who are considered most in need of PWI services due to their impaired capacity to obtain competitive employment. In 2005, approximately 79.7 percent (10,082) of the total number of individuals served and 89.6 percent (5,880) of the total number of individuals placed in competitive employment were individuals with significant disabilities. In 2005, 65 percent (8,226) of total individuals served and 78.2 percent (5,133) of the total number of individuals placed, had been unemployed at least 6 months at the time of project entry.

In FY 2005, about 8 percent of the projects failed the compliance indicators as compared to FY 2004, when about 12 percent of the projects failed to do so. Of the seven failed projects, all were in their final year of funding. Preliminary 2006 data indicate that about one-quarter of the projects reporting failed to meet the compliance indicators. The 74 projects awarded at the end of in fiscal year 2005 completed their first project period in September 2006. Preliminary fiscal year 2006 data indicate that about 30 percent of these projects failed to meet the compliance indicators. About 80 percent of these failing projects did not pass the placement indicator. To pass the placement indicator, a project must place at least 55 percent of the individuals they serve into competitive employment. If a grantee does not demonstrate compliance on the basis of the previous year's data, the grantee has an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the standards by submitting data from the first 6 months of the current project year.

#### Evaluation of The Projects With Industry Program

Assessment of the PWI program, as also noted in the recent PART assessment, is limited by the credibility of the data. In the Department-funded evaluation of the PWI program, published in December 2003, the evaluators documented numerous concerns with the data collected and

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Projects with industry

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reported by PWI projects. In their review of participant files maintained by the 30 PWI projects visited during the study, the evaluators frequently encountered files lacking essential information, raising doubts about the quality and accuracy of the data that projects submit in compliance indicators reports. The project survey asked all respondents to report “the number of persons who achieved placement (i.e., a competitive employment outcome for a minimum of 90 days) during FY 2001,” information identical to that required by the compliance indicators. A comparison of data submitted by projects on the two forms (i.e., project survey and compliance indicator reports), each of which asks for data from FY 2001, found that 19 of the 92 responding projects reported different numbers for persons placed during the year, including several that differed by more than 50 percent. The final report states that the fact “that one-fifth of the projects provided inconsistent information on such a fundamentally important variable as the number of persons placed raises serious questions about the accuracy of other data reported in compliance indicator submissions.”

### Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations

The PWI program was assessed using the PART in 2004 and received an overall rating of “Adequate.” As stated previously, the PART assessment found that the program design is duplicative of the much larger VR State Grants program, which serves the same target populations and provides similar services. The program has annual and long-term measures and targets and timely annual data are available. The PWI performance indicators include an efficiency measure (average cost per placement). Data on average cost per placement are reported by all grantees. However, the 2003 evaluation study of the program found that the data are not credible and that projects’ “data collection practices continue to undermine the program’s ability to accurately measure its achievements.” Although the statute requires RSA to conduct annual onsite compliance reviews of at least 15 percent of grantees, RSA has had difficulty meeting this requirement and did not conduct site reviews in fiscal year 2004. In addition, the data reported by grantees contained numerous errors. A Web-based system for grantee reporting was implemented with the 2004 data collection, which is expected to reduce the number of reporting errors.

At the aggregate level, the program’s outcomes appear to be comparable to those of the VR services program with respect to the percentage of persons who obtain employment and the average hourly earnings of those individuals. However, it was difficult to compare PWI performance with similar measures for other vocational rehabilitation employment programs because its employment measure is calculated differently. In calculating the placement rate, PWI uses a similar numerator (individuals who maintain employment for 90 days), but uses a different denominator (i.e., number served rather than number exiting the program after receiving services). In addition, the computation for persons served only includes individuals entering the program during the reporting period and does not include individuals receiving services who entered the program in the previous reporting period.

Program recommendations resulting from the PART assessment and progress on implementing those recommendations are provided below.

1. Implement a plan to improve grantee data collection and reporting.

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In January 2005, RSA distributed an Information Memorandum to provide technical assistance to PWI grantees on data collection, including a model intake form developed by a currently-funded PWI grantee and modified by RSA program staff and information on an online database system developed by a grantee. The PWI Web-based reporting system was also revised and updated to incorporate additional edit checks and incorporate the new data elements.

Grantees were sent guidance and instructions on form completion. Program staff conducted follow-up conference calls in January 2006 with PWI grantees to discuss data/reporting requirements, provide technical assistance, and respond to grantee questions. Future PWI grant announcements will require applicants to describe data collection methods.

Comparable measures were added to PWI's GPRA plan. Data collection was revised to include data elements to support the measures.

2. Revise program measures to be comparable to other job training programs.

The Department revised the program's data collection package to include data on total number served and number of individuals exiting the program. The data on the number of individuals exiting the program will allow the Department to calculate a measure of the competitive employment rate that can be compared with those for other RSA employment programs. Data on total number served will provide a count of both individuals who entered the project during the reporting period and those from the previous reporting cycle who continued to receive services. These data will be used in assessing performance using the common job training measure cost per participant. These new data elements were collected beginning with the fiscal year 2005 reporting cycle. Fiscal year 2005 and 2006 data will be used to establish baseline performance.

In addition, the PWI program will be implementing the job training common measures that will also provide for improved comparability across job training programs. To assist in the implementation of the common measures, the Department recently conducted a study to assess the capacity of grantees to collect and report the required data. Based on study findings, a data collection plan is being developed to implement the measures using supplemental data.

3. Improve use and transparency of project data to manage and improve the program, including posting summary analyses and key data on the Department's website

Aggregate program performance data are now available to the public on the Department's website (see <http://www.ed.gov/programs/rsapwi/performance.html>). The Department awarded a contract under Program Improvement at the end of fiscal year 2005 to develop the capacity of RSA to effectively use performance data in managing and improving program performance at the national and grantee level. Changes to RSA's Management Information System now allow project staff to query, generate reports, and review grantee reported data. Performance data will be discussed during quarterly conference calls between grantees and assigned program officers.

4. Develop and implement a plan to meet the program's statutory requirement for onsite compliance reviews.

A plan was developed to meet the program's statutory requirement to conduct onsite compliance reviews of 15 percent of the projects and all of the FY 2006 required reviews were conducted.



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### Supported employment State grants

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI, Part B)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): 0<sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$29,700	0	-\$29,700

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. No appropriations language or new authorizing legislation is sought.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Supported Employment (SE) State grants program is to assist States in developing collaborative programs with appropriate public and private nonprofit organizations to provide supported employment services for individuals with the most significant disabilities. Under this formula grant program, State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies receive supplemental funds to assist VR consumers with the most significant disabilities in achieving the employment outcome of supported employment. The term "supported employment" includes both competitive work and working in an integrated setting toward competitive work. Individuals in competitive employment must earn at the least the minimum wage.

Supported employment placements are achieved by augmenting short term vocational rehabilitation services (supported employment services) with ongoing support provided by other public or nonprofit agencies or organizations (extended services). State VR agencies provide time-limited services for a period not to exceed 18 months, unless a longer period to achieve job stabilization has been established in the individualized plan for employment. Once this period has ended, the State VR agency must arrange for "extended services" provided by other appropriate State agencies, private nonprofit organizations or other sources for the duration of that employment.

An individual's potential for supported employment must be considered as part of the assessment to determine eligibility for the Title I Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program. The requirements pertaining to individuals with an employment goal of supported employment are the same in both the Title I VR State Grants program and the Title VI-B SE State Grants program. A State VR agency may support an individual's supported employment services solely with VR State Grant funds, or it may fund the cost of SE services in whole or in part with funds under the SE State Grants program. Title VI-B SE funds may only be used to provide supported employment services and are essentially used to supplement Title I funds.

To be eligible for this current-funded formula grant program, States must submit a supplement to their Title I VR State Grants program plan. States may carry over unobligated funds to the next fiscal year. Funds are distributed on the basis of population, except that no State receives less than

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### Supported employment State grants

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\$300,000, or one-third of 1 percent of the sums appropriated, whichever is greater. The minimum allotment for Territories is one-eighth of 1 percent of the sums appropriated.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(\$000s)
2003 .....	\$37,904
2004 .....	37,680
2005 .....	37,379
2006 .....	29,700
2007 .....	29,700

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

Consistent with the Administration's initiative to reform the Federal government's overlapping training and employment programs, no funds are requested for the Supported Employment (SE) State Grants program. The Administration recognizes that supported employment can be an effective strategy in assisting individuals with the most significant disabilities to obtain competitive employment in integrated settings. However, supported employment is now an integral part of the VR State Grants program, and there is no longer a need for a separate funding stream to ensure the provision of such services.

The SE State Grants program was first authorized under the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 to provide supplemental grants to assist States in developing collaborative programs with public agencies and private nonprofit organizations to provide training and time limited post-employment services for individuals with the most significant disabilities. At that time, supported employment was a promising new practice in employing individuals who traditionally would not have achieved employment in the integrated labor market. Initially, many rehabilitation professionals were skeptical about its feasibility and concerned about the potential costs. As a supplemental source of dedicated funds, the SE State Grants program provided an incentive for State VR agencies to provide supported employment services.

In addition, from 1986 to 1996 the Department of Education funded a number of supported employment discretionary grant projects designed to further develop and expand the provision of supported employment services. These included 54 State-wide systems change projects, 2 national scope projects, 2 national technical assistance projects, and 66 community-based supported employment projects. Finally, in fiscal year 1997, the Department awarded a 3-year cooperative agreement to establish a Supported Employment Consortium whose purpose was to identify and disseminate replicable policies, models, and supported employment practices appropriate for dissemination and provide technical assistance.

These efforts, along with other State and local efforts, resulted in a significant increase in the number of individuals receiving supported employment services through the VR State Grants program between 1992 and 1999. In fiscal year 1992, State VR agencies were providing supported employment services (including those funded with Title I and Title VI funds) to about 39,000 individuals. By fiscal year 1999, over 88,000 VR consumers were receiving supported employment services. Of those individuals receiving SE services in 1992, about 43 percent

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### Supported employment State grants

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were funded exclusively with Title I funds and 57 percent received at least some support for their SE services from the Title VI supplemental funds. By 1996, more individuals were receiving supported employment services solely through the support of Title I funds than were supported in some part with Title VI funds.

The SE State Grants program has accomplished its goal. State VR agencies recognize supported employment as an integral part of the VR program and a viable employment option for individuals with the most significant disabilities. State VR agencies continue to spend Title I funds (including State matching funds) to provide supported employment services for those individuals who require such services to participate in the integrated labor market. Since State VR agencies must give priority to serving individuals with the most significant disabilities, the Administration does not expect the number of individuals receiving supported employment services to decline as a result of this budget proposal. The Department will continue to monitor the number and outcomes of individuals receiving supported employment services.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Individuals with a supported employment IPE goal who received services and exited the program.	38,700	38,700	38,700
Employment outcomes: <sup>1</sup>	22,300	22,300	22,300
Supported employment outcomes <sup>2</sup>	14,080	14,080	14,080
Employment without supports in an integrated setting <sup>3</sup>	8,000	8,000	8,000
Other employment outcomes <sup>4</sup>	220	220	220
 Minority outreach	 \$297	 \$297	 0

Note: Estimates are based on actual 2004 and 2005 closure data from the RSA-911 Case Service Report for all VR consumers with a supported employment goal identified on their IPE (includes consumers who received support for SE services under Title I and/or under Title VI-B) .

<sup>1</sup> Includes employment outcomes for VR consumers who had or are estimated to have a supported employment goal.

<sup>2</sup> Of the individuals who had a supported employment goal, the number who were employed in an integrated setting and receiving ongoing support services.

<sup>3</sup> Of the individuals who had a supported employment goal, the number who met the employment outcome criteria for the VR State Grants program but who were not receiving ongoing support services.

<sup>4</sup> Of the individuals who had a supported employment goal, the number who met the employment outcome criteria for the VR State Grants program who were either self-employed, employed in a Business Enterprise Program, a family worker, or a homemaker.

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### Supported employment State grants

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#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### Performance Measures

This section presents program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years for this program and the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by these programs.

**Goal: Individuals with significant disabilities with a goal of supported employment will achieve high quality employment.**

**Objective:** *Increase the competitive employment outcomes of individuals with significant disabilities who receive supported employment services.*

**Measure:** Percentage of individuals with significant disabilities who have a supported employment goal and who achieve an employment outcome, including individuals who receive supported employment services funded under the VR State Grants program and/or the Supported Employment State Grants program.

Year	Target	Actual
2003	78	93
2004	78	93
2005	93	93
2006	93	
2007	93	

**Assessment of progress:** Individuals with a supported employment goal who achieve an employment outcome may be working in competitive employment (employment at least at the minimum wage in an integrated setting) or may be working in an integrated setting toward competitive work (receipt of the minimum wage). The percentage of individuals with a supported employment goal and achieving an employment outcome who are working in competitive employment has increased significantly since the 1998 baseline level of 69 percent, and performance targets have been exceeded or met each year. Performance on this measure improved significantly after 2001 in part due to the fact that, beginning in fiscal year 2002, State VR agencies could no longer consider individuals who are working in non-integrated settings (e.g. extended employment or “sheltered employment”) to have achieved an employment outcome under the VR program. As a result, targets were increased for fiscal year 2005 and beyond. No targets are shown for 2008 because the program is proposed for termination.

Data from the FY 2005 RSA 911 Case Service Report show that a total of 38,679 individuals whose cases were closed that year after receiving services had a goal of supported employment on their individualized plan for employment at some time during their participation

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Supported employment State grants

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in the VR program. About half of those individuals received at least some support for their supported employment services from Title VI-B funds. These numbers do not include those individuals who were still receiving supported employment services at the close of the fiscal year.

Approximately 22,280 individuals, or 57.6 percent of individuals whose service records were closed after receiving services who had a SE goal, including both consumers who received support for SE services under Title I and under Title VI-B, achieved an employment outcome. Of those who achieved an employment outcome, 92.6 percent of individuals with a supported employment goal achieved a competitive employment outcome. Fiscal year 2005 data also show that about 63 percent of the individuals who had a SE goal and achieved an employment outcome obtained a supported employment outcome (employment in the integrated labor market and receiving ongoing supports) and about 90 percent of those obtaining a supported employment outcome were in competitive employment

Data indicate there is significant variation among State agencies in the percentage of individuals that have SE as an employment goal. For example, RSA-911 2005 State data show that the percentage of individuals with a SE goal of all individuals whose service records were closed after receiving services ranged from 0 to 30 percent. These data also show that, for 9 of the 56 general and combined agencies, 20 percent or more of all individuals receiving services had a SE goal, while for 13 of the agencies, less than 5 percent of all individuals receiving services had a SE goal.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Independent living

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII, Parts B and C, and Chapter 2)

Independent living State grants:	Chapter 1, Part B
Centers for independent living:	Chapter 1, Part C
Services for older individuals who are blind:	Chapter 2

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
Independent living State grants	\$22,588	\$22,588	0
Centers for independent living	74,638	74,638	0
Services for older individuals who are blind	<u>32,895</u>	<u>32,895</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	130,121	130,121	0

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the independent living programs is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and to integrate these individuals into the mainstream of American society. Independent living programs provide financial assistance to provide, expand, and improve independent living services; develop and support Statewide networks of centers for independent living; and improve working relationships among State independent living rehabilitation programs, centers for independent living, Statewide Independent Living Councils, Rehabilitation Act programs outside of Title VII, and other relevant Federal and non-Federal programs.

The independent living programs are current-funded. However, the Act contains a provision allowing all Title VII grantees to carry over funds that are not obligated and expended by the recipient for an additional fiscal year. States participating in the State Grants and Older Blind programs must match 10 percent of their grant with non-Federal cash or in-kind resources in the year for which the Federal funds are appropriated.

To be eligible for financial assistance under the Independent Living State Grants or Centers for Independent Living program, States are required to establish a Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Each State must also submit a State Plan for Independent Living that is jointly developed and signed by the director of the designated State vocational rehabilitation unit(s) (DSU) and the chairperson of the SILC.

The **Independent Living State Grants** program supports formula grants to States, with funds allotted based on total population. The fiscal year 2007 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2005 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2005. The

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### Independent living

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fiscal year 2008 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2006 population estimates released in December 2006. Fiscal year 2007 distributions are subject to minor revision if new population estimates become available for the American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. States may use these funds to provide resources to support the operation of the SILC and for one or more of the following purposes:

- to demonstrate ways to expand and improve independent living services;
- to provide independent living services;
- to support the operation of centers for independent living;
- to increase the capacity of public or nonprofit agencies and organizations and other entities to develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing independent living services;
- to conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and procedures, and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policymakers;
- to provide training on the independent living philosophy; and
- to provide outreach to populations who are unserved or underserved by programs under this title, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

The **Centers for Independent Living (CIL)** program provides grants for consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential, private nonprofit agencies that are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provide an array of independent living services. At a minimum, centers are required to provide the core services of information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and individual and systems advocacy. Most centers are also actively involved in one or more of the following activities: community planning and decisionmaking; school-based peer counseling, role modeling, and skills training; working with local governments and employers to open and facilitate employment opportunities; interacting with local, State, and Federal legislators; and staging recreational events that integrate individuals with disabilities with their non-disabled peers.

A population-based formula determines the total amount that is available for discretionary grants to centers in each State. In most cases, the Department awards funds directly to centers for independent living. If State funding for CIL operation exceeds the level of Federal CIL funding in any fiscal year, the State may apply for the authority to award grants under this program through its DSU. There are currently only two States, Massachusetts and Minnesota, that are both eligible and have elected to manage their own CIL programs.

In addition to funding centers for independent living, the Department must award between 1.8 and 2 percent of the funds appropriated under this part for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to provide training and technical assistance with respect to planning, developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating centers for independent living. Each State must submit an annual performance report providing information regarding the centers' and SILCs' most pressing training and technical assistance needs.

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The Rehabilitation Act establishes a set of standards and assurances that centers for independent living must meet and requires the Department to develop and publish indicators of minimum compliance with the standards. These standards and assurances are used in evaluating compliance in the following areas: philosophy, including consumer control and equal access; provision of services on a cross-disability basis; support of the development and achievement of the independent living goals chosen by consumers; advocacy to increase the quality of community options for independent living; provision of independent living core services; resource development; and community capacity-building activities, such as community advocacy, technical assistance, and outreach. Each year, the Department must conduct compliance reviews of at least 15 percent of the centers and one-third of the designated State units funded under this part.

The Rehabilitation Act requires the Department to award grants to any eligible agency that had been awarded a grant as of September 30, 1997. In effect, all centers funded by the end of fiscal year 1997 are "grandfathered in" and thus guaranteed continued funding as long as they continue to meet program and fiscal standards and assurances.

The **Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind** program supports services to assist individuals aged 55 or older whose recent severe visual impairment makes competitive employment extremely difficult to obtain, but for whom independent living goals are feasible. Funds are used to provide independent living services, conduct activities that will improve or expand services for these individuals, and conduct activities to improve public understanding of the problems of these individuals. Services are designed to help persons served under this program to adjust to their blindness by increasing their ability to care for their individual needs. Services provided under this program are typically not covered under private insurance or Medicaid.

Grantees are State vocational rehabilitation agencies for persons who are blind and visually impaired or, in States with no separate agency for persons who are blind, State combined vocational rehabilitation agencies. When appropriations for this program exceed \$13 million—as they have since fiscal year 2000—awards are distributed to States according to a formula based on the population of individuals who are 55 years of age or older. The fiscal year 2007 and 2008 allotments are based on the resident population of individuals 55 years of age or older as of April 1, 2006. 2008 allotments will be revised when new population estimates by age group become available.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(\$000s)
State grants	
2003.....	\$22,151
2004.....	22,020
2005.....	22,816
2006.....	22,588
2007.....	22,588



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Independent living

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	(\$000s)
Centers for independent living	
2003.....	\$69,545
2004.....	73,563
2005.....	75,392
2006.....	74,638
2007.....	74,638
Services for older individuals who are blind	
2003.....	\$27,818
2004.....	31,811
2005.....	33,227
2006.....	32,895
2007.....	32,895

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests level funding of \$130.121 million for independent living activities for fiscal year 2008. Of this amount, the Independent Living State Grants (State Grants) program, the Centers for Independent Living program (CIL), and the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (Older Blind) program would receive \$22.588 million, \$74.638 million, and \$32.895 million, respectively.

#### State Grants and Centers for Independent Living

The Administration requests \$22.588 million for the State Grants program and \$74.638 million for the CIL program, the same as 2007. Funds requested for the State Grants program would continue the Department's support of 78 designated State units (DSUs) that use grant funds to support Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), provide independent living services in unserved and underserved geographic areas, promote coordination among centers for independent living, and provide assistance to new centers for independent living. An estimated 60 percent of State Grant funds are used to provide independent living services, either directly or through grants and contracts with centers for independent living and other providers. These services include skills training, communication services, and the provision of assistive devices and equipment.

The Administration's request for the CIL program would support the continuation of 340 existing centers. Funding has increased by more than 56 percent from fiscal year 2000 to 2007, enabling the CIL program to support new centers and increase support for existing centers to better serve unserved and underserved populations. At the requested funding level, support for existing centers would continue, but the Department would not hold a competition for new centers. Without the demands of a competition for new centers, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) will be able to focus staff resources on grant monitoring and technical assistance.

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### Independent living

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Data from the revised reporting requirements will be available for the first time in May 2007 for both the State Grants and CIL program. The reporting requirements for grantees have been revised to address the need for outcome measures identified in 2003 during the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) review. The new reporting system will be supplemented by a renewed commitment to grant monitoring through on-site reviews. The program authority requires on-site reviews of 15 percent of all CIL grantees each year, but the program has not met this requirement for several years. As part of its Monitoring Redesign Initiative and administrative restructuring, RSA revised its site review protocol and realigned personnel to ensure that sufficient staff and other resources are dedicated to meeting this requirement. The Department has set quarterly milestones for FY 2007 to ensure that the program meets its monitoring requirements.

### Older Blind

The Administration requests level funding of \$32.895 million for the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind program for fiscal year 2008. According to the 2000 census, 14.2 percent (about 4.7 million) of individuals 65 and older report having trouble with vision or hearing. The occurrence of a sensory disability was more than six times greater among older adults than working-age people. For this reason, the Administration believes a sustained investment in this program is warranted.

When appropriations for this program exceed \$13 million—as they have since fiscal year 2000—awards for this program are distributed to States according to a formula based on the population of individuals who are 55 years of age or older. At the requested funding level, an estimated 16 States would receive the minimum award of \$225,000, and the Territories would continue to be funded at the minimum level.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Independent Living State Grants:			
Number of Grantees	78	78	78
Minimum State award	\$301	\$301	\$301
Average State award	\$428	\$428	\$428
Minority outreach	\$226	\$225	\$225
Centers for Independent Living:			
Minimum State Allocation	\$793	\$793	\$793
States over the minimum allotment	28	28	28
Average State allocation	\$1,381	\$1,381	\$1,381
Largest State allocation	\$7,341	\$7,326	\$7,327
Minority outreach	\$746	\$746	\$746
Training and Technical Assistance	\$1,493	\$1,493	\$1,493
Peer review of new award applications	0	\$6	0

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Independent living

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#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind:			
Number of Grantees	56	56	56
Average State award	\$623	\$623	\$623
Minority outreach	\$329	\$329	\$329

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

#### Performance Measures

**Goal:** To promote and support a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

**Objective:** *Through the provision of IL services (including the four IL core services), increase the percentage of consumers who report having access to services needed to improve their ability to live more independently and participate fully in their communities.*

**Measure:** The percentage of CIL consumers who report having access to previously unavailable transportation, assistive technology, and appropriate accommodations to receive health care services, as a result of direct services provided by an Independent Living Center (including referral to another service provider).

**Assessment of progress:** RSA previously assessed grantee performance in the delivery of independent living services to individuals by calculating the percentage of consumer goals that were met each year but did not distinguish between goals that can be accomplished within a short period of time and other, arguably more important, goals that require years to achieve. This approach could create a perverse incentive for grantees to encourage consumers to set easier goals or even to seek out consumers who needed less intensive services. RSA now plans to measure the percentage of consumers who report—as result of services provided by a CIL (including referral to another service provider), DSU, or DSU grantee or contractor—having access to previously unavailable transportation, appropriate accommodations to receive health care services, and/or assistive technology resulting in increased independence in at least one significant life area. Data for this measure will be collected annually, beginning at the end of the FY 2006 project period, through grantee performance reports. FY 2006 data that will be available in May

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### Independent living

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2007 will serve as a baseline for this indicator. Targets for the FY 2007 performance period will be based on these baseline data.

**Measure:** The percentage of CIL consumers who move out of institutions into a community-based setting through the provision of Independent Living services (including the four independent living core services).

**Assessment of progress:** RSA previously measured progress in deinstitutionalization by collecting data on the number of persons with disabilities who moved out of institutions as a result of receiving CIL services, but these data did not capture grantee improvement in this area. As a result, RSA proposes to assess each grantee's performance based on trends in the percentage of consumers moving out of institutions into a community-based setting. Data will be collected annually through grantee performance reports. Revised guidance for the section 704 reporting requirements was issued in fiscal year 2006 and will ensure that the data are valid by clearly defining the outcomes being measured and setting standards for collection and reporting. Data for FY 2006 will be available in May 2007.

**Objective:** *Increase access to community life for persons with disabilities through the provision of community services.*

**Measure:** The percentage of CILs with staff, board members and/or consumers participating in committees, advocacy initiatives, public information campaigns, or other community events designed to increase the accessibility of transportation, health care, assistive technology, and housing for persons with disabilities.

**Assessment of progress:** Since CILs are authorized to provide services at both the individual and community levels, this new measure is intended as a companion to the first measure. It also replaces an indicator that measured the number of goals met each year without distinguishing between goals based on the time or level of resources needed to accomplish the goal. Data for this indicator will be collected annually, beginning at the end of the FY 2006 project period, through grantee performance reports. Data for FY 2006 will be available in May 2007.

**Objective:** *Increase the transparency and efficiency of the State Grants, CIL, and Older Blind programs.*

<b>Measure:</b> The number of months between the due date for annual performance data for the IL State Grants, CIL, and Older Blind program grantees and the release of these data to the public.		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>2004</b>		7
<b>2005</b>	5	6
<b>2006</b>	5	
<b>2007</b>	3	
<b>2008</b>	3	

**Assessment of progress:** This new measure was developed in response to the PART finding that RSA was not doing enough to make program performance data available in a timely and transparent manner. Grantees are expected to provide the Department with annual

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Independent living

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performance data 3 months after each performance reporting period ends on September 30. Beginning with the 2007 reporting cycle, RSA intends to publish annual performance data for the State Grants, CIL, and Older Blind programs on its website by March 30, within 3 months of the date on which grantees are required to submit these data to the Department.

**Objective:** *Through the provision of services (either directly or through contracts), increase the percentage of consumers receiving services funded through the Older Blind program who report having access to services needed to improve their ability to live more independently and participate fully in their communities.*

**Measure:** The percentage of consumers served through the Older Blind program who report having access to previously unavailable assistive technology aids and devices.

**Assessment of progress:** The Department has established targets for 2006, 2007, and 2008 of 49, 50, and 52 percent, based on a baseline of 48 percent in 2005. Data for the FY 2006 project period will be available in May 2007.

**Measure:** The percentage of consumers served by the Older Blind program who report improved activities of daily living skills.

**Assessment of progress:** The 53 percent reported for the FY 2005 project period will serve as the baseline for future targets. Targets for FY 2006 through 2008 are 54, 55, and 56 percent. Data for the FY 2006 project period will be available in May 2007.

### Efficiency Measures

The efficiency measure for the CIL program is cost per successful outcome, with a successful outcome defined as a CIL consumer who reports having access to previously unavailable transportation, assistive technology, or appropriate accommodations to receive health care services, as a result of direct services provided by a CIL (including referral to another service provider). Data are currently available on the net operating resources for each center (including resources from CIL program grants, other Federal, State, or local government funding, and private resources received by the CIL annually, except for funds passed through to consumers, such as Medicaid) and the number of consumers served in each annual reporting period. However, no data are currently available on the percentage of these consumers who report, as a result of the services they receive through the CIL program, gaining access to the services they need to enable them to live independently and participate more fully in their communities. The annual reporting instrument for this program has been revised to collect these data for the first time for the FY 2006 project period. Data on these outcomes will be available in May 2007.

The authorizing statute permits noncompetitive continuations of grants as long as grantees meet the standards and assurances in section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act. Measures like this will help the Department make sure these grantees continue to deliver efficient services by focusing monitoring and technical assistance on grantees with unusually high costs per consumer. The measure will also help the Department identify instances where grantees are keeping costs low by not providing necessary costly or time-intensive services.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Independent living

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#### Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations

The State Grants and CIL programs underwent a PART review in 2003 for the fiscal year 2005 budget and received a rating of "Results Not Demonstrated." The PART assessment found that the IL programs collaborate and coordinate effectively with each other, the State units designated to administer IL projects, and Federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration. However, the programs did not have measures that demonstrate progress on long-term outcomes. In order to move these programs out of the "Results Not Demonstrated" category, the Department must produce evidence that the program is effective, either through showing progress toward the long-term goals or rigorous program evaluation findings. The PART recommendations are listed below in italics, followed by a description of actions the Department has taken and future plans:

*Devise and implement an improved audit and site visit system to ensure that the agency is meeting its statutory oversight requirements.* In FY 2006 the Department created State Monitoring and Program Improvement teams to conduct compliance and performance reviews of designated State agencies and independent living centers. The teams are responsible for coordinating with the fiscal, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, and independent living functional units to ensure that statutory oversight requirements for the IL State Grants and CIL programs are met, that monitoring reports are issued in a timely manner, and that a continuous process of review and improvement is implemented. For FY 2007, the Department has established quarterly milestones for site reviews to ensure that the program meets the statutory oversight requirement.

*Conduct periodic and high quality evaluations of each of the IL programs.* The Department is using program improvement funds appropriated under Section 12 of the Rehabilitation Act explore ways to more reliably gauge consumer satisfaction in these programs. The Department is also working to develop an evaluation plan for the IL programs.

*Develop at least one efficiency measure for each IL program.* The Department has developed an efficiency measure of cost per outcome. Using outcome data collected for the 2006 grant period, the Department will be able to measure the cost of providing independent living services that result in access to previously unavailable services critical to achieving independence.

*Develop long-term performance goals and measures that reflect the four core areas of services and the standards and assurances for the IL State Grants and CIL programs.* The Department has developed annual and long-term performance measures that capture program objectives and revised the annual performance reporting instrument to collect these data. The revised instrument will be used for the first time for the fiscal year 2006 reporting period; these data will be available in May 2007.

*Reduce the time needed to collect and analyze grantee performance reports and make the aggregate data available to the public on the Department's website in an accessible format.* For the fiscal year 2007 reporting period, the Department has set a target of 6 months from the end of each reporting period for the publication of these performance data on its website.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Program improvement

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 12(a))

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$833	\$633	-\$233

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Section 12(a) of the Rehabilitation Act authorizes the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide technical assistance and consultative services to public and nonprofit private agencies and organizations, including assistance to enable agencies and organizations to facilitate meaningful and effective participation by individuals with disabilities in workforce investment activities under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA).

In addition, section 12(a) funds may be used to provide short-term and technical instruction, conduct special demonstrations, develop and disseminate educational or information materials, carry out monitoring, and conduct evaluations.

Program improvement funds are used to support activities that increase program effectiveness, improve accountability, and enhance the Department's ability to address critical areas of national significance in achieving the purposes of the Rehabilitation Act. Program funds are awarded through grants and contracts to procure expertise in identified problem areas of national significance and technical support in order to improve the operation of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program and the provision of services to individuals with disabilities under the Act. This activity is current-funded.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

(\$000s)

2003 .....	\$894
2004 .....	889
2005 .....	843
2006 .....	835
2007 .....	833

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The 2008 budget request for Program Improvement activities is \$633,000, a decrease of \$200,000 from 2007. This level would provide sufficient funding to support technical assistance and other

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Program improvement

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activities focused on improving program performance. Fiscal year 2008 funds will be used to support implementation of the VR Strategic Performance Plan that is currently under development and address technical assistance needs identified as a result of monitoring and program improvement activities initiated in fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Funding for technical assistance activities:			
New	\$657	\$373	\$483
Continuations	<u>178</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>150</u>
Total	835	833	633
Number of activities:			
New	3	1	2
Continuation	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	4	5	3

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

A description of the major activities conducted in fiscal years 2005 and 2006 under the Program Improvement program is provided below. Information from these activities and evaluation activities conducted under section 14 will assist the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to better target and coordinate funding priorities under this program and the Demonstration and Training program and to identify technical assistance needs. Information from RSA's new monitoring system will also assist the Department to identify critical performance improvement needs.

Transition Conference: In June of 2005, the Department sponsored a 2-day transition conference to improve the post-school outcomes of students with disabilities through facilitating greater inter-agency collaboration and improving the provision of transition services. The primary goal of this conference was to provide the opportunity for VR agency and special education personnel to share, observe, and participate in a continuum of learning experiences that featured service excellence and innovation in the delivery of transition services to students with disabilities. The conference had two major foci. The first focus area was improving individual and group services provided to youth with disabilities, such as vocational assessment, career exploration and planning, mentoring, work experience during school, and techniques for assessing and increasing self-esteem, self-determination, informed choice, and self-advocacy skills. The second focus area was providing technical assistance to VR and special education administrators to help them identify methods of administration that can be employed to increase collaboration and facilitate implementation of innovative practices. The conference, conducted in coordination with the Office of Special Education Programs' *Transition Summit*, was attended by 617 individuals representing 56 States and territories. The conference was attended by State administrators, vocational rehabilitation counselors, transition specialists, special educators, and consumers.



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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Strategic Performance Plan to Increase High Quality Employment Outcomes: In September of fiscal year 2005, the Department procured assistance from a contractor to develop a multi-year performance plan to identify appropriate goals, objectives, strategies, and outcome-oriented performance measures that will improve employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The plan will assist the Department in directing its resources (monitoring, technical assistance, training, demonstration, and evaluation) toward the implementation of policies and practices that are known to have a positive effect on increasing high-quality employment outcomes. The contractor assisting RSA in this effort has drafted a preliminary report based on the discussions of a RSA steering group. A discussion paper that outlines proposed goals and objectives for the Plan is being drafted for the purposes of soliciting comment from State VR agencies and other program stakeholders.

### Assessment of the Technical Assistance Needs of State VR Agencies and State Rehabilitation Councils

In October of 2006, RSA underwent a major reorganization aimed at streamlining its functions. Under the reorganization, State teams and the Technical Assistance Unit in the new State Monitoring and Program Improvement division are responsible for the provision of technical assistance to State VR agencies. In fiscal year 2005, the Department awarded a contract to identify the technical assistance needs of State VR Agencies, including administrative/management and service delivery needs, and of State Rehabilitation Councils. The most effective means by which technical assistance should be delivered to VR agencies will also be identified. Findings from this study, which will be available in September 2007, will assist RSA to target and improve the provision of technical assistance to these two constituencies. In addition, information from the technical assistance assessment will assist RSA to better target and coordinate funding priorities under its demonstration and program improvement programs.

### Developing the Capacity of RSA to Effectively Use Performance Data in Managing and Improving Program Performance

A key part of the Administration's Budget and Performance Integration initiative is the use of performance data to inform decisionmaking and planning. Weakness in the use and transparency of data to manage and improve RSA programs was a common finding in recently conducted reviews using OMB's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). In fiscal year 2005, a 2-year contract was awarded to assist RSA in developing its capacity to effectively use the performance data it collects to manage and improve program performance at the national and grantee level. Although RSA collects at least basic data on all of its programs, the collection, reporting, and use of performance data vary among programs. There are a number of barriers limiting RSA's use of the data it collects: (1) data have not been generally reported in formats or databases that allow program staff to easily reformat, manipulate, or analyze the data; (2) many program staff do not have the necessary technical or analytical skills to assess data reasonableness or to conduct analyses of program performance; and (3) managers and program staff have limited understanding of the use of performance data, including presenting performance data in a way that is meaningful for senior management. The major objectives of the procurement include: (1) assessing current program data collections and transferring grantee-reported data to user-friendly databases; (2) providing guidance materials and technical assistance to support the interpretation and use of data and to assist staff in

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Program improvement

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developing reports based upon data analyses; (3) providing technical assistance in implementing program specific PART findings.

#### Developing, Implementing, and Maintaining a Web-Based Dissemination and Technical Assistance Resource

The September 2005 GAO report, entitled *Vocational Rehabilitation: Better Measures and Monitoring Could Improve Performance of the VR Program*, recommended that the Secretary take executive action to "...develop alternative means of disseminating best practices among state VR agencies...such as a central repository." RSA intends to broaden the dissemination of the information produced and to publicize the availability of their monitoring and analytic work products. The Department awarded a contract in fiscal year 2006 to develop a Web-based technical assistance resource that will provide broader access to a wide variety of vocational rehabilitation and independent living program resources. The Web-based resource project will serve as the "doorway and card catalogue" for an extensive online repository to facilitate public access to the most current vocational rehabilitation and independent living program information, including demographic and performance measurement data, effective practices, program initiatives, and current issues, research, and literature.

#### Develop the Capacity of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

The purpose of this initiative is to enhance SRCs' effectiveness in improving State VR Services Programs and enhance opportunities for high-quality outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The SRC can play an important role in ensuring the effectiveness of the State VR program. During FY 2004, RSA developed a national SRC training curriculum with the assistance of Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RCEPS) and with input from the constituency. The curriculum was developed for use in two accessible formats, a power point presentation for use with a trainer and stand-alone power points set to motion as movies. However, the membership on SRCs is constantly rotating, creating a need for continuous training of new members. To address this problem, State VR agencies and SRCs need sustainable training resources in a variety of accessible forms and delivery methods. In fiscal year 2006, the Department awarded a contract to modify the existing national SRC curriculum as a self-paced online tutorial for both new members in their orientation or other members as a refresher and convene sessions with SRCs regionally in collaboration with the RCEPs to demonstrate the features of the online tutorial.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH**

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**Evaluation**

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 14)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$1,473	\$1,973	+\$500

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Secretary uses the funds appropriated under this authority to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of programs authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, including their general effectiveness in relation to their cost, their impact on related programs, and their structure and mechanisms for delivery of services. Studies are designed to provide information for policy decisions related to program management and effectiveness. In addition, subsection 14(f) of the Rehabilitation Act requires the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to identify and disseminate information on exemplary practices concerning vocational rehabilitation.

This is a current-funded program. Contracts and cooperative agreements are awarded on an annual basis for studies to be conducted by persons not immediately involved in the administration of the programs authorized by the Act. Some evaluations require multi-year awards.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(\$000s)
2003 .....	\$994
2004 .....	988
2005 .....	1,488
2006 .....	1,473
2007 .....	1,473

**FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST**

The Administration requests \$1.973 million for the evaluation program, an increase of \$500,000 over the 2007 CR rate. The increase would be used to initiate an evaluation of the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC). The last study of the Center was conducted 20 years ago. The Department proposes to conduct an independent, comprehensive study of HKNC to evaluate the effectiveness of the Center's operations and how well it is addressing its statutory purpose and

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Evaluation

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the needs of its service population. The study would address areas such as efficacy of the various services provided and approaches employed by the Center, the return on the investment of Federal resources, and the relevance of the Center's programs to the needs of individuals who are deaf-blind. We believe the study would provide useful feedback to the Center to assist it in planning future activities and setting priorities and to the Department in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

The remaining funds would be used to support the continuation of the multi-year national study of long-term post-program experiences of former VR consumers that was initiated at the end of fiscal year 2005. The emphasis of the study is on long-term employment status, earnings, and reductions in Federal benefits of individuals with significant disabilities who may require long-term support in order to maintain employment over time, including the role of post-employment services in enhancing these outcomes. The study is focusing on four subgroups of former VR consumers: (1) persons with mental illness, (2) persons with mental retardation, (3) transitional youth, and (4) persons who received Social Security disability benefits. The contractor will collect data on a nationally representative sample of VR consumers in these four groups who have recently exited the program through a baseline interview and two annual follow-up interviews. The study will be funded over a 5-year period at an estimated total cost of \$6 million.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Funding for evaluation activities:			
New	0	0	\$500
Continuations	\$1,473	\$1,473	1,473
Number of activities:			
New	0	0	1
Continuation	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	2	2	2

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

A description of major studies and evaluations completed in fiscal years 2004 through 2006 is provided below. Information obtained from these studies along with information obtained from activities conducted under Program Improvement and findings from monitoring activities are being used by RSA to improve program performance.

#### An Assessment of Transition Policies and Practices in State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies

Youths with disabilities face significant challenges as they transition to adult life. Timely and significant investment in VR services for youths with a disability before the beginning of their potential work life will give them the greatest opportunity to prepare themselves for self-support. The Department is currently conducting a study supported with fiscal year 2004 and 2005 funds to increase its understanding of the transition policies and practices among State VR agencies. The study will provide a descriptive national picture of transition policies and practices among State

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Evaluation

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VR agencies, including the amount and source of resources supporting such practices; and will identify policy issues and promising State practices in the provision of transition services. This study focuses on the population of individuals with disabilities aged 14 and over who are transitioning from secondary school (or an equivalent educational institution) to post-school activities, including postsecondary education or training and employment. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Describe and classify State policies and practices for identifying and serving youth with disabilities who are transitioning from school to post-school outcomes;
- Identify and describe policy issues, promising practices, and other factors that facilitate effective collaboration, transition planning, and provision of services, including effective strategies, policies, and practices that promote successful collaboration with secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, employers, and independent living centers;
- Identify major obstacles to collaboration and early intervention in transition planning; and
- Examine the influence of financial factors, including provision of complementary or matching funds to the VR agency by educational or education-related agencies. Where they exist, identify non-Title I (VR) resources used to support transition practices.

In November 2006, the contractor submitted the interim report of findings from the national survey. The contractor also submitted a list of State agency candidates for conducting promising practice site-visits based on State information obtained from the survey and analysis of RSA 911 data. The Department is working with the contractor to identify three State agencies that will be visited to enhance understanding of practices that improve outcomes for students who are transitioning from school to post-school.

### Evaluation of Projects Demonstrating the Use of Adult Education Literacy Services by State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies to Improve the Earnings of Individuals with Disabilities

Fiscal year 2007 is the last year of financial support for the for literacy demonstration projects evaluation. The purpose of the literacy evaluation is to assess whether instruction in the Wilson Reading System and the provision of relevant support services, as carried out by five Department-funded model demonstration projects, have an impact on the literacy skills, utilization of postsecondary education, employability, and earnings and benefits of VR consumers with poor literacy skills, particularly individuals with learning disabilities. The contractor will be conducting follow-up activities in fiscal year 2007 and 2008. The final report is expected in the fall of 2009.

### Assisting Discretionary Grantees to Implement the Common Measures for Employment and Training Programs

In addition to the VR State Grants program, several of the Department's discretionary programs that assist individuals with disabilities to obtain employment are included in the Job Training Common Measures Initiative. These programs include VR Grants to Indians, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, and Projects with Industry. Non-public and tribal organizations funded under discretionary grant programs face greater challenges in implementing the job training common measures. The Department contracted with the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) to

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Evaluation

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assess the ability of these grantees to access and utilize Unemployment Insurance Wage Record (UI) data. The contractor conducted a survey of all grantees to determine the degree to which they can access and report UI data and the degree to which they can utilize other methods of collecting and reporting common measures data. The final report submitted to the Department in December of 2005 assesses existing grantee capacity to obtain the data required to implement the Common Measures and suggests options each program might pursue to enhance their capacity for complete and accurate reporting. Based on this report, the Department plans to begin with implementation of the Job Training Common Measures in the PWI program using supplemental data.

### Functional Limitations of Vocational Rehabilitation Consumers

The study of Functional Limitations of Vocational Rehabilitation Consumers examined the feasibility of developing functional status measures for planning and implementing services to consumers in the VR State Grants program. To investigate this issue, RTI used the 1994-95 National Health Interview Survey — Disability Follow-back (NHIS-D) and data available from the ongoing longitudinal study of the VR services program to develop composite measures of functional status in three areas: (1) gross motor function; (2) personal care function; and (3) cognitive function. Analyses were conducted to address the study's questions regarding the robustness of these measures in comparison with traditional definitions of "significance of disability" for describing VR consumers' status and predicting outcomes of VR services. To obtain a copy of the March 2006 report, visit:  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/products.html>.

### Variables Related to State VR Agency Performance

To assist the Department in better understanding State agency performance, address the wide variation in individual State agency performance, and improve overall program performance, the Department conducted a 2-year study to examine the variables related to State VR agency performance. In particular, the study examined the variables associated with high and low State performance on the VR Standard 1 indicators measuring the VR program's impact on employment. The final report (October, 2004) summarizes the study findings by dimension of inquiry (i.e., aspect of agency operations examined), identifies influential variables on overall agency performance and variables that influence performance on specific indicators, and reviews study findings on measuring adequate use of resources. Some of the variables associated with overall performance that were identified by the study are within the control of the VR agency and others are not. Variables identified that were within an agency's control whose effects were consistently beneficial across all areas of performance include: strong leadership, effective communication, and use of performance data and automated case management systems. Variables outside the direct control of agency management with the most pervasive influence over agency performance include: agency type, labor market conditions, and funding levels.

### Design of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Longitudinal Study of the VR Services Program

A design task order contract was awarded in September 2003 to assist the Department in designing a multi-year study of Long-term Post-Program Experiences of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Consumers. Based on an extensive literature review and consultations with a number of key individuals, the contractor recommended study objectives, identified the sampling frame

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Evaluation

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and how the sample could be drawn, identified the cohorts of consumers to be followed, recommended data collection methods and described data collection instruments, recommended methods for establishing a public use data base, and recommended a means of identifying program impact. The design report was completed in March 2005 and a contract was awarded late in fiscal year 2005 to conduct the 5-year national study.

Other studies completed in the last 4 years include evaluations of American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Independent Living Centers, Projects with Industry, and Rehabilitation Personnel Training programs, and the *Longitudinal Study of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program*. Final published reports are available online at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/leg/rehab/eval-studies.html>.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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### Helen Keller National Center

(Helen Keller National Center Act)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$8,511	\$8,011	-\$500

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) was created by Congress in 1969, and operates under the auspices of Helen Keller Services for the Blind, Inc. The Center provides services on a national basis to individuals who are deaf-blind, their families, and service providers through two component programs: a national headquarters center located in Sands Point, New York, with a residential training and rehabilitation facility where deaf-blind individuals receive intensive specialized services, and a network of 10 regional field offices that provide referral, counseling, and transition assistance to deaf-blind individuals and technical assistance to service providers. In addition, the Center uses private funds to provide seed money to State and private agencies to encourage them to establish or expand programs for individuals who are deaf-blind. These programs also receive targeted training and technical assistance from the Center.

The purpose of the program at the national headquarters center is to provide direct services for individuals with deaf-blindness in order to enhance their potential for employment and to live independently in their home communities. The program provides clients with meaningful contact with the environment, effective means of communication, constructive participation in the home and community, increased employability, and other development pertinent to their rehabilitation. The headquarters program also offers training and consultation to other programs serving individuals who are deaf-blind through a technical assistance center and national training team.

The Center employs regional representatives in each of the 10 Federal regions. These representatives provide a variety of services, including training for service agency staff, general technical assistance, and help in developing direct service plans for deaf-blind clients for State vocational rehabilitation counselors, mental health workers, and special education programs. In addition, the regional staff provide counseling, information, transition assistance, and referral for individuals who are deaf-blind and their families.

HKNC also operates a number of special projects related to deaf-blindness. These include a service project for individuals who are elderly and deaf-blind and a national parent and family services project. In addition, the Center operates an international internship program for



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Helen Keller National Center

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professionals in the field of deaf-blindness. These interns are professionals who are financially supported by their sponsoring agencies during their stay and are expected to initiate and complete at least one project while at HKNC. HKNC is current-funded and receives an award on a noncompetitive basis.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(\$000s)
2003.....	\$8,660
2004.....	8,666
2005.....	10,581 <sup>1</sup>
2006.....	8,511
2007.....	8,511

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<sup>1</sup> The amount shown for fiscal year 2005 includes a one-time earmark of \$1.984 million for HKNC.

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration's request for the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) is \$8.0 million, \$500,000 below the fiscal year 2007 level. The Administration believes the request is sufficient to support educational, independent living, and occupational opportunities for individuals who are deaf-blind.

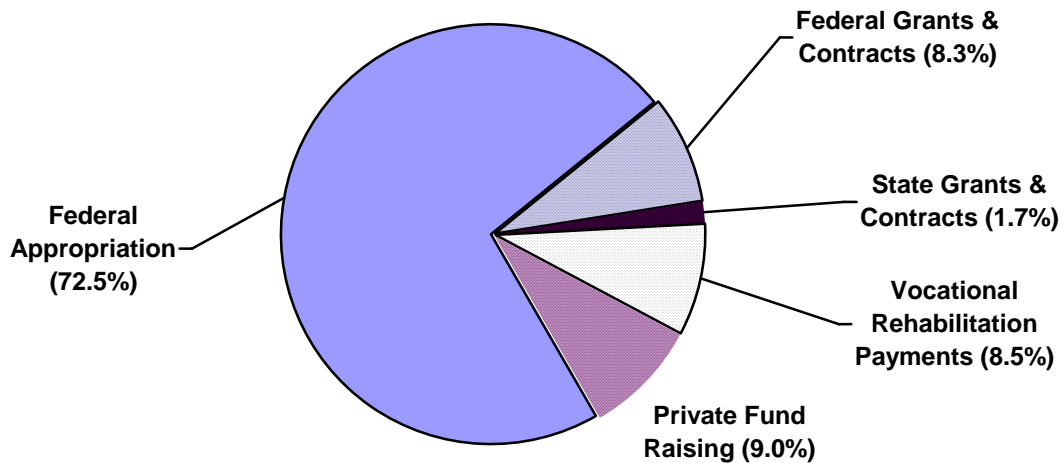
In addition to the \$8 million for operations, the Administration's budget includes \$500,000 under the Rehabilitation Evaluation program for an evaluation of HKNC. The Federal appropriation for HKNC represented about 73 percent of HKNC's total budget in fiscal year 2006. While HKNC only provides direct services to 95 clients per year at its headquarters program, approximately 62 percent of the Center's total budget supports the operations of this program. This represents a large investment for a very small number of clients. There is very little outcome data related to the performance of HKNC to justify this large investment. The only study conducted of the Center was completed in fiscal year 1988 and covered the fiscal year 1986 program year. The information in that study is now over 20 years old. An independent, comprehensive study of HKNC is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Center's operations and how well it is addressing its statutory purpose and the needs of its service population. The proposed study would address areas such as efficacy of the various services provided and approaches employed by the Center, the return on the investment of Federal resources, and the relevance of the Center's programs to the needs of individuals who are deaf-blind. The study also would provide useful feedback to the Center to assist it in planning future activities and setting priorities and to the Department in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

Other Sources of Funding: In addition to funds provided through the appropriation, the Center receives funding from a variety of State, private, and other Federal sources. The most recent budget data available for the Center are for fiscal year 2005. The following chart shows the sources and percentages of the Center's fiscal year 2005 operating budget of nearly \$12 million:

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### Helen Keller National Center

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HKNC would use approximately 72 percent of the amount requested for fiscal year 2008, or \$5.8 million, to support training, the residence, maintenance and plant operations, and administrative functions at the Center's headquarters facility. The Center uses these funds to support 11 direct services departments, including audiology, case management, communications, independent living, low vision, medical, orientation and mobility, vocational services; individualized client support services in the areas of socialization, work skills, technology, and crisis intervention; clinical social work services; and staff functions such as payroll and benefits. At the request level, the Center estimates that it would serve approximately 95 adult clients with deaf-blindness at its headquarters facility and provide short-term training for approximately 12 high school students, 10 senior citizens, and 5 students in the use of technology in fiscal year 2008. The technology program was started in fiscal year 2004. Under this program, consumers receive 2 to 4 weeks of intensive training on specific computer applications or a type of adaptive technology, such as screen magnification, Braille display, or screen readers.

HKNC would devote approximately 28 percent of the amount requested, or \$2 million, to its field services and community education programs. These programs help State agencies and other programs to serve or acquire the capacity to serve individuals who are deaf-blind through training provided by its National Training Team (NTT) and community education program, and technical assistance provided by its regional centers. The regional representatives provide individual and program assessment, referrals and follow-up, advocacy, consultation, technical assistance, and training through 18 representatives stationed in 10 regional offices. The NTT provides training Nation-wide on a request basis, with the requesting agency covering the travel costs for the team. The NTT also coordinates on-site conferences and workshops across the country to train professionals working with individuals who are deaf-blind. The regional centers provide technical assistance to individuals who are deaf-blind, professionals in the field, and family members in planning and obtaining services to assist individuals who are deaf-blind to live and work independently in the community. The Center also provides field services and community education programs, including training provided by the NTT. The remainder of the funds support the activities of HKNC's 10 regional centers.

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### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>2008</u> <sup>1</sup>
Number of individuals served:			
At headquarters:			
Adult training program clients	92	95	95
Short-term training:			
High school students	14	12	12
Senior citizens	0	10	10
Technology training	5	5	5
Through regional representatives: <sup>2</sup>			
Consumers	1,554	1,600	1,600
Families	461	450	450
Agencies/organizations	1,044	1,050	1,050
HKNC FTE <sup>3</sup>	140	135	135

Note: Impact data are provided according to fiscal year, as opposed to HKNC's program year of July to June.

<sup>1</sup> The number of individuals served in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and full-time equivalent (FTE) figures are estimates based on historical trend data, which may or may not be consistent with data for the immediate prior year.

<sup>2</sup> Individuals served by the regional representatives include individuals attending workshops or conferences in which HKNC participates, who receive materials from the Center, or who receive technical assistance, referral, or counseling from regional staff.

<sup>3</sup> Includes FTE funded from the Federal appropriation and other funding sources.

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of targets is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Goal: Individuals who are deaf-blind will become independent and function as full and productive members of their local community.

**Objective:** *Individuals who are deaf-blind receive the specialized services and training they need to become as independent and self-sufficient as possible.*

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**Measure:** The percentage of adult consumers who meet their training goals, of adult consumers seeking employment who are placed in employment, and of adult consumers seeking to maintain their ability to live independently or move to less restrictive settings who achieve their goals.

Year	Target				Actual			
	# of Adult Consumers	% of Training goals met	% in Less Restrictive Settings	% Placed in Employment	# of Adult Consumers	% of Training goals met	% in Less Restrictive Settings	% Placed in Employment
2003	95			45	100	88	70	43
2004	95	88	70	45	93	90	69	46
2005	95	88	70	45	89	89	91	41
2006	95	88	72	45	91	93	96	41
2007	95	90	75	45				
2008	95	90	75	45				

**Assessment of progress:** The 91 adult clients attending the HKNC rehabilitation training center in fiscal year 2006 were 4 less than the target, but 2 more than the actual for the prior program year. HKNC points out that the number of consumers served may fluctuate from year to year due to factors beyond the control of the Center, such as changes in State vocational rehabilitation program funding or policy. As such, fluctuations in the number of consumers served do not necessarily relate positively or negatively to the performance of the Center or its staff. In addition to its traditional adult consumers, HKNC also provided short-term training for youth in high school, senior citizens, and those seeking training in the use of technology. For example, the high school students participate in career exploration, college preparation, and other services offered by the Center. However, the students return to high school after their training. The high school students and senior citizens are not included in the counts of adult consumers and consumers placed in employment or less restrictive settings. Clients who participate in short-term training in the use of technology are included in the count of adult consumers. Clients receiving technology training, high school students, and senior citizens are included in the calculation of the percentage of training goals met.

The percent placed in employment measure refers to outcomes for those individuals who came to the Center with a specific vocational objective. For example, while 42 adult clients completed training in the Center's vocational services unit in fiscal year 2006, only 22 individuals specified employment goals. Of these 22 individuals, 9 clients, or 41 percent, found some form of employment. This included six graduates who found competitive employment and three who were placed in supported employment. (Supported employment services support an individual with disabilities in maintaining employment by providing ongoing supports such as job coaches and on-site accommodations). Of the remaining 13 clients with employment objectives, 11 were seeking competitive employment and 2 were seeking supported employment. The 20 clients who did not have employment objectives included 7 homemakers, 1 attending postsecondary education, 5 who came for short-term training in technology, and 7 who discontinued training for various reasons such as family or medical emergencies or difficulty adjusting to the program.

The less restrictive settings measure refers to clients who move from restrictive settings such as living with parents or guardians, assisted living settings, and nursing homes to their own home

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or apartment or supported living such as group homes. In fiscal year 2004, HKNC revised the method it uses to calculate the percentage of clients placed in less restrictive settings. The percentage was previously taken of the number of consumers who received independent living training. The percentage is now taken only of those consumers with a specific goal to move to a less restrictive living situation. We believe that this is a more accurate measure of the Center's efforts in this area. The percentages for fiscal years 2003 through 2006 reflect the new methodology. In fiscal year 2007, HKNC is proposing to further revise this measure to include participants in the independent living program whose goal is to maintain their ability to live independently in their current living situation. The Center believes that it is equally important to assist consumers to maintain their ability to live independently, as well as those moving to less restrictive settings.

The Center also evaluates the progress of clients in achieving the goals stated in their individualized training plans (ITPs). This measure represents the percent of training goals achieved by all adult consumers served during the program year. The consumers and their instructors mutually develop these instructional objectives. The method for reporting this data was changed in fiscal year 2004. Previously, this measure included outcomes for high school students and for senior citizens participating in short-term training programs. However, the Center and Department agreed that it would be a more accurate reflection of the Center's performance if this measure were limited to results for adult clients enrolled in the formal program. The percentages for fiscal years 2003 through 2006 reflect the new measure. In addition, beginning with fiscal year 2004, the figures also include clients enrolled in the technology training program.

#### **Objective: Increase the capacity of deaf-blind consumers to function more independently in the home community.**

New Measures. The Department has raised concerns to HKNC that outcome measures are needed to assess the performance of its field services and in-service training. The regional offices and training programs are consuming an increasing percentage of HKNC resources. However, there are no outcome measures specific to these activities. In fiscal year 2006, the Center hired an external evaluation expert to assist it to develop new performance measures and data collections to determine the effectiveness and impact of its field services and in-service training. Some of the options HKNC examined to assess the effects of its training and regional services on consumers or organizations receiving services from these offices include measures of knowledge attainment, skills of staff participating in training (prior to and post training), systems change, consumer satisfaction regarding the usefulness of products and services, and the extent to which former consumers maintain positive outcomes. The above process has resulted in the development of the following two proposed measures.

**Measure:** The percentage of State and local service providers who demonstrate improved knowledge and skills to meet the needs of individuals who are deaf-blind as a result of training for professionals provided by HKNC.

**Assessment of progress:** The purpose of this measure is to assess the impact of HKNC training programs on professionals who work with individuals who are deaf blind and attend workshops or other trainings conducted by HKNC. This measure would be calculated as the

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percentage of service providers who demonstrate knowledge/skill acquisition 6 months after HKNC training. The Center plans to field test pre-and-post training surveys of knowledge attainment and use of specific interventions by training participants. The plan for the follow-up survey is to randomly sample training participants 6 months following the training to assess their experiences. We anticipate that baseline data will be available in October 2007 and will be summarized in the HKNC annual report.

**Measure:** Consumers will successfully achieve and maintain desired vocational and independent living outcomes.

**Assessment of progress:** This measure will assess the long-term impact of its programs on outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind. The measure would be the percentage of consumers who successfully achieve or maintain competitive, integrated employment outcomes and achieve or maintain independent living outcomes. This measure would include outcomes for clients served through the HKNC regional offices. Regional representatives are now reporting activities according to service codes developed by the Center. The Center has not previously tracked clients to see if employment or independent living outcomes are maintained or assessed the role of its regional offices related to these outcomes. Initial data will be collected during fiscal year 2007 and will be summarized in the HKNC annual report.

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### National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined<sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$106,705	\$106,705	0

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<sup>1</sup> The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2007 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2008.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is to generate, disseminate, and promote new knowledge to improve the options available to persons with disabilities and help them participate fully in society and the workplace. NIDRR conducts comprehensive and coordinated programs of research and related activities to maximize the full inclusion, social integration, employment, and independent living of individuals of all ages with disabilities. NIDRR's focus includes research in such areas as employment, health and function, participation and community living, assistive technology, and disability demographics.

NIDRR's work supports key elements of the President's New Freedom Initiative, which is focused on removing any remaining barriers to equality faced by Americans with disabilities. The NIDRR Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs), for example, are working to improve assistive technologies that will allow persons with disabilities to participate more fully in society and the workplace. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is sparking the development of new rehabilitation technology by providing funds to small businesses with strong research capabilities. The Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) grants support advanced training for engineers, medical personnel, and other professionals, to build capacity for disability studies and rehabilitation science.

The purposes of NIDRR are to:

- Promote, coordinate, and provide for research, demonstration and training, and related activities with respect to individuals with disabilities;
- Widely disseminate findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from its activities; and
- Provide leadership in advancing the quality of life of individuals with disabilities.

NIDRR's research is extramural, conducted through a network of individual research projects and centers of excellence located throughout the Nation. Most funding is awarded through competitive grants, and most of the funds are awarded to universities or providers of rehabilitation or related services.

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NIDRR funding supports a portfolio of projects that are aligned with NIDRR's three long-term goals, which are:

- Goal 1: Advancing knowledge through capacity building,
- Goal 2: Advancing knowledge through research and related activities, and
- Goal 3: Advancing knowledge through translation and dissemination.

On February 15, 2006, NIDRR published a final *Long-Range Plan for Fiscal Years 2005—2009* in the *Federal Register*, which outlines its strategies for achieving these goals. Continued support for NIDRR activities will build on past success and continue to yield substantial benefits to individuals with disabilities. Improved care, as well as improvements in assistive technology and supportive services, can play an essential role in enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities, including the growing population of elderly individuals with disabilities. Improved supports and services designed to enhance employment opportunities also are vitally important.

*Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)*. The RERCs conduct research on issues dealing with rehabilitation technology, including rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology devices and services. The new *Long-Range Plan* notes that NIDRR's leadership in rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology development has played a major role in creating technology for use by individuals with disabilities to conduct their daily lives. Activities include developing and disseminating innovative methods of applying advanced technology, scientific achievements, and psychological and social knowledge to rehabilitation problems and the removal of environmental barriers; developing and disseminating technology designed to lessen the effects of sensory loss, mobility impairment, chronic pain, and communication difficulties; scientific research to assist in meeting the employment and independent living needs of individuals with severe disabilities; and stimulating the production and distribution of equipment in the private sector, as well as clinical evaluations of equipment. Each RERC must provide training opportunities to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to become researchers and practitioners of rehabilitation technology. Awards are for 5 years, except that grants to new recipients or to support new or innovative research may be made for less than 5 years.

Future research may build upon recent advances in biomaterials research, composite technologies, information and telecommunication technologies, nanotechnologies, micro electro-mechanical systems, sensor technologies, and the neurosciences. A particular focus may be the further application of the principles of universal design to the development of new products. Products that incorporate the principles of universal design often prove to be highly useful for non-disabled individuals, as well as the growing elderly population.

*Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC)*s. RRTCs receive funding to conduct coordinated and advanced programs of research, training, and information dissemination in general problem areas that are specified by NIDRR. More specifically, RRTCs conduct research to improve rehabilitation methodologies and service delivery systems, alleviate or stabilize disabling conditions, and promote maximum social and economic independence for persons with disabilities; provide training, including graduate, pre-service, and in-service training, to help rehabilitation personnel provide more effective rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities; and serve as centers of national



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excellence in rehabilitation research for providers and for individuals with disabilities and their representatives. Typically, awards are for 5 years. However, NIDRR may also award grants for less than 5 years to support new or innovative research.

*Model Systems.* NIDRR funds model systems projects in three areas: spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and burn injury. Model systems funding supports 5-year grants to establish innovative projects for the delivery, demonstration, and evaluation of comprehensive medical, vocational, and other rehabilitation services to meet the wide range of needs of individuals in one of these three areas. Grantees in each of the three areas contribute to a national database that is supported by NIDRR funding.

- *Model Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems.* The Model Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) program funds research to meet the wide range of needs of individuals with spinal cord injuries. (See <http://www.ncddr.org/rpp/hf/hfdw/mscis/>.) The projects also disseminate information to individuals with SCI and others.
- *Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems.* The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems projects are research and demonstration grants designed to advance the understanding of TBI and its consequences and improve rehabilitation outcomes. (See <http://www.tbinc.org/registry/>.)
- *Burn Injury Model Systems.* The Burn Model Systems (BMS) projects are research and demonstration grants designed to establish, demonstrate, and evaluate a model system of care for burn injury survivors. The goal of the projects is to reduce disability by improving treatment and rehabilitation. (See <http://mama.uchsc.edu/pub/NIDRR/index.html>.)

*Field-Initiated Projects (FIP).* Field-Initiated Projects conduct research and development that address topics identified by investigators, not by NIDRR. Most awards are made for 3 years.

*Assistive Technology Fund/Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).* SBIR awards support the development of new rehabilitation technologies that are useful to persons with disabilities by inviting the participation of small business firms with strong research capabilities in science, engineering, or educational technology. This 2-phase program takes a product from development to market readiness. During Phase I, firms conduct feasibility studies to evaluate the scientific and technical merit of an idea. During Phase II, they expand on the results and pursue further development. In order to be eligible, small businesses must: be American-owned and independently operated; be for-profit and employ no more than 500 employees, and; the principal researcher must be employed by the business.

*Outreach to Minority Institutions.* The Rehabilitation Act requires that 1 percent of funds appropriated for programs authorized under certain titles be reserved for awards to minority entities and Indian tribes, or to provide outreach and assistance to minority entities and Indian tribes.

*Other Grant Awards.* NIDRR makes awards in a variety of other areas, including Switzer research fellowships, Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) projects, and Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP). Switzer research fellows receive 1-year fellowships to carry out discrete research activities that are related to NIDRR's research priorities or to pursue studies in areas of importance to the rehabilitation community. The ARRT program supports grants to institutions to provide advanced training in research to physicians, nurses, engineers, physical

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therapists, and other professionals. Grants are made to institutions to recruit qualified persons with doctoral or similar advanced degrees with clinical, management, or basic science research experience and prepare them to conduct independent research in areas related to disability and rehabilitation. These training programs must operate in interdisciplinary environments and provide training in rigorous scientific methods. The DRRP awards support grants with a special emphasis on conducting authorized activities in a particular priority area.

*Other Activities:* NIDRR funding also supports a variety of other activities, including collaborative projects with other agencies; development and maintenance of grantee reporting systems; program review; and reporting, evaluation, long-range planning, and the *Interagency Committee on Disability Research* (ICDR). The primary purpose of the ICDR, authorized under Section 203(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act, is to promote cooperation across various Federal agencies in the development and execution of disability and rehabilitation research activities. (See <http://www.icdr.us/>.)

NIDRR funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(\$000s)
2003.....	\$109,285
2004.....	106,652
2005.....	107,783
2006.....	106,705
2007.....	106,705

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$106.705 million for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), level with the 2007 CR rate. Past support for NIDRR has yielded substantial benefits in a variety of areas, including advancements in technology, policy changes, and improvements in rehabilitation and disability research.

NIDRR-funded technology research has led to a wide range of technological improvements to aid individuals with disabilities. Grantees conduct research to improve everything from specialized prosthetics to everyday appliances. One Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) developed the “CIR Prosthetic Casting System,” which offers a fast, cheap, portable means of fabricating lower extremity prosthetic sockets to help meet the needs of amputees in underserved areas, particularly in countries affected by landmines. Using recyclable sand, the system is capable of producing a positive model of the residual limb of a trans-tibial (below-knee) amputee for prosthetic socket fabrication in less than 1 minute. The system drastically reduces the amount of labor, time, and previously needed for the prosthetic fabrication process.

(<http://www.ideanet.org/content.cfm/?id=595C7F>) technology has been used in rehabilitation centers schools in India, Vietnam, Tanzania, Bosnia and

Figure 1. Images of the CIR Prosthetic Casting System.



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Herzegovina, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

RERC support for rehabilitation technology led to the “T-WREX” device, which allows individuals with severe motor impairment to practice arm movement without continuous, direct supervision from a rehabilitation therapist. Because many insurance providers limit coverage for such treatment, this non-robotic (i.e. passive) device is designed to allow home-based “tele-rehabilitation,” without the costs associated with one-on-one supervision in clinical settings

(<http://www.smpp.northwestern.edu/MARS/Project5.htm>).

Figure 2. Prototype of the T-WREX assistive therapy device, developed with NIDRR funding.



RERC support for accessible information technology led to the implementation of accessible kiosks in post offices and at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The “Lids Off” jar opener, developed with NIDRR RERC funding and marketed by Black and Decker, allows individuals with limited hand strength to easily open jars of a variety of sizes—a boon for the elderly or individuals with limited dexterity.

“Pay-off” from such investments often takes years. A 1999 Field-Initiated Projects (FIP) grant to study neuromuscular reorganization to improve the control of artificial limbs, for example, supported work that led to the eventual development of a prosthetic arm that is controlled by thought and is now privately funded (<http://www.ric.org/bionic/index.php>).

Model systems research has led to improved care and rehabilitation for persons with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and severe burns, resulting in shorter periods of care and faster reintegration into their communities. In the area of TBI, NIDRR support has led to the development of information resources such as the Center for Outcomes Measurement in Brain Injury (COMBI) (<http://www.tbims.org/combi/>), which provides detailed information on reliability and validity in the use of outcomes assessment tools. Other TBI work involves research on strategies to provide cognitive retraining for individuals with traumatic brain injury.

Although rehabilitation research and assistive technologies for individuals with disabilities can play a life-changing role for individuals with disabilities in such key areas as transition, recovery, and accessibility, they often fall within the category of “orphan technologies.” In the absence of compelling evidence that such technologies actually will be useful to non-disabled individuals, manufacturers often do not see work in the area as being cost effective. Because this is the case, there is a compelling argument for continued Federal funding, to help jump-start development of innovations in this area.

Highlights of new activities to be funded in 2008 are discussed below.

Figure 3. The “Lids-Off” jar opener, developed with NIDRR funding and marketed by Black and Decker.



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*Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs).* In 2008, NIDRR will fund RERCs at approximately \$17.349 million, of which approximately \$6.7 million will be used to make seven new awards in the following areas: hearing enhancement; accessible public transportation; technology transfer; prosthetics and orthotics; augmentative communication; information technology access; and wheeled mobility.

*Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs).* Beginning in 2008, NIDRR proposes to fund fewer, larger centers than in previous years. Consequently, the 2008 request would fund only 10 new awards at the level of approximately \$8.5 million (instead of 13) and continuation costs of approximately \$8.3 million to cover 14 existing RRTCs.

*Model Systems.* In 2008, NIDRR plans to use approximately \$20 million to support ongoing work in model systems: \$10 million to support continuations in the area of spinal cord injury, \$7.8 million to support continuations in traumatic brain injury, and \$1.75 million for continuations in the area burn injury.

*Field-Initiated Projects (FIP).* Proposed 2008 funding is \$12.234 million, which would allow continuation funding for projects awarded in prior years as well as approximately 23 new grant awards.

*Assistive Technology Fund/Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).* In 2008, NIDRR plans to spend approximately \$1.7 million to support SBIR continuations, and \$2.375 million to support new phase I and II awards.

*Outreach to Minority Institutions.* Continuation funding for three projects awarded in 2006 would use the bulk of the funds set aside for activities in this area in fiscal year 2008.

*Other Grant Awards.* NIDRR anticipates making approximately 18 new awards in other areas in 2008, including approximately 6 awards for Switzer research fellows, 2 awards for Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) projects, and 10 awards for Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP). Fiscal year 2008 funding also would support the continuation costs of ARRT and DRRP awards, including the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers, made in prior years. Priority areas for the DRRP program in 2008 will likely include: health services for people with cognitive disabilities; health care disparities for people with disabilities; assistive technology re-use; economic well-being; rehabilitation taxonomy; vocational rehabilitation for individuals with autism; knowledge translation for international rehabilitation; and knowledge translation for parenting. NIDRR is also proposing to support a coordination and outreach center for the SBIR program through the DRRP program.

*Other Activities:* NIDRR funding in this category will be used to support collaborative projects with other agencies; development and maintenance of grantee reporting systems; program review; reporting, evaluation, long-range planning; and the *Interagency Committee on Disability Research* (ICDR). Funds in this category also support Abledata (<http://www.abledata.com/>), which provides online information about assistive technology products and rehabilitation equipment.

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#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (000s)

	Funding			Number of Awards		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	\$18,715	\$14,549	\$4,699	22	16	6
2007 awards	0	5,700	5,700	0	6	6
2008 awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,950</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
Sub-total	18,715	20,249	17,349	22	22	17
<b>Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	20,207	16,485	7,900	27	27	13
2007 awards	0	250	400	0	1	1
2008 awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>
Sub-total	20,207	16,735	16,800	27	28	24
<b>Model Systems</b>						
<b>Spinal Cord Injury</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	12,368	10,220	10,220	19	18	18
<b>Traumatic Brain Injury</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	7,676	1,825	1,825	19	3	3
2007 awards	<u>0</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
Sub-total	7,676	7,825	7,825	19	19	19
<b>Burn Injury</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	1,200	0	0	5	0	0
2007 awards	<u>0</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Sub-total	1,200	1,750	1,750	5	5	6
<b>Field-Initiated Projects</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	9,990	7,072	3,034	70	48	21
2007 awards	0	4,600	4,600	0	23	23
2008 awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,600</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23</u>
Sub-total	9,990	11,672	12,234	70	70	67

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#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (000s)

	Funding			Number of Awards		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Other Grant Awards</b>						
Awards in 2006 and prior years	\$21,276	\$20,177	\$18,003	46	44	34
2007 awards	0	2,125	2,125	0	8	8
2008 awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18</u>
Sub-total	21,276	22,302	25,128	46	52	60
Minority Outreach	1,067	1,070	1,070	4	3	3
Small Business Innovation Research	3,750	4,087	3,625	NA	NA	NA
Other activities	8,557	8,921	8,850	NA	NA	NA
Mary Switzer Fellowships	550	525	505	7	7	6
Peer review of new grant applications	<u>1,349</u>	<u>1,349</u>	<u>1,349</u>			
Sub-total	15,273	15,952	15,399			
Total, NIDRR	106,705	106,705	106,705			

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### **Performance Measures**

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by the program.

In 2004, NIDRR established three long-term goals: To advance knowledge through capacity building, to advance knowledge through research and related activities, and to advance knowledge through translation and dissemination. NIDRR will measure progress towards meeting these goals through both long-term and annual performance measures. Progress towards meeting long-term goals will be assessed every 3 years.

**Goal 1: Advance knowledge through capacity building: Increase capacity to conduct and use high-quality and relevant disability and rehabilitation research and related activities designed to guide decisionmaking, change practice and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.**

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NIDRR has established one long-term measure and one annual measure to assess progress towards meeting the capacity-building measure:

- By 2015, at least 10 percent of all NIDRR projects will be multisite, collaborative, controlled trials of interventions and programs.
- The percentage of NIDRR-supported fellows, post-doctoral trainees, and doctoral students who publish the results of NIDRR-sponsored research in refereed journals.

**Assessment of progress:** The long-term measure is output-oriented and applies only to RERCs, RRTC's, Model Systems grants, and DRPs. NIDRR expects preliminary data on the long-term measure by fall 2007. Baseline for the annual measure was originally expected in fall 2006, but the preliminary data were incomplete. NIDRR now expects to establish a baseline for this measure by fall 2007.

**Goal 2: Advance knowledge through research and related activities: Generate scientific-based knowledge, technologies, and applications to inform policy, change practice, and improve outcomes.**

NIDRR will use the following long-term measure to assess progress towards Goal 2:

- By 2015, increase by at least 20 percent the number of accomplishments (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices) developed or tested with NIDRR funding that have been judged by expert panels to advance the field.

**Assessment of progress:** NIDRR has been reviewing one-third of its grant portfolio each year. The initial review was in 2005, and baseline data for this measure are expected by fall 2007, when the final third of the grant portfolio will be reviewed. Baseline for this measure will represent the actual number of accomplishments between 2005 and 2007; however, due to changes in the review process, it is not yet clear that data from these first 3 years will be comparable.

Two annual measures also will provide information on progress towards meeting Goal 2:

**Objective: Generate scientific-based knowledge, technologies, and applications to inform policy, change practice, and improve outcomes.**

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of NIDRR-funded grant applications that receive an average peer review score of 85 or higher.		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>2003</b>		96
<b>2004</b>		89
<b>2005</b>		99
<b>2006</b>	85	96
<b>2007</b>	90	
<b>2008</b>	95	

**Assessment of progress:** This measure assesses the extent to which NIDRR funds grant applications that are judged by expert review panels to be of high quality. Data for the measure

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### National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

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include all grant awards made within a given fiscal year. Data to date suggest that NIDRR makes awards to high-scoring grantees.

<b>Measure:</b> Percentage of new grants that include studies funded by NIDRR that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous and appropriate methods.		
Year	Target	Actual
2003		59
2004		59
2005	65	49
2006	65	
2007	65	
2008	65	

**Assessment of progress:** This measure provides information on the proportion of NIDRR grantees that are engaged in experimental or quasi-experimental projects to determine whether interventions, programs, and devices are effective. Because NIDRR funds a wide range of types of grants—including those engaged in statistical analysis, dissemination of information, and more basic developmental work—NIDRR does not believe it appropriate to require all grantees to conduct intervention research and development, and therefore has set a target of 65 percent, or approximately two-thirds of its portfolio. NIDRR does not appear to be on track to meet this target, but intends to propose priorities for future competitions that will help to ensure that such studies are conducted, when appropriate. NIDRR also is examining the peer review criteria to determine whether modifications would help ensure that the goal is met.

**Goal 3: Advance knowledge through translation and dissemination: Promote the effective use of scientific-based knowledge, technologies, and applications to inform policy, improve practice, and enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities.**

For Goal 3, NIDRR has established two measures. The first measure is: the number of new or improved assistive and universally-designed technologies, products, and devices developed by grantees that are transferred to industry for commercialization. The baseline for this measure was originally expected in fall 2006, but the preliminary data were incomplete. NIDRR now expects to establish a baseline for this measure by fall 2007.

The second measure for Goal 3 is:

<b>Measure:</b> The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.		
Year	Target	Actual
2003	8	3
2004	5	3
2005	5	
2006	2	
2007	2	
2008	2	



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**Assessment of progress:** The original target of eight was set before NIDRR conducted a review of information submitted by grantees for this measure. That review revealed duplicative counts, e.g., co-authored papers were counted by multiple grantees, and inconsistency in what grantees considered to be “peer-reviewed” publications. After NIDRR eliminated duplication and used a higher standard for inclusion in the “peer review” category, they found the original target to be unrealistic and reduced the target for 2004 and 2005 to five. NIDRR also is tracking products of the research, including the number of publications in refereed journals. In 2003 and 2004, the average was three publications per award. NIDRR is currently reviewing the question of which grants should be included in the calculations for this measure. Because smaller grants routinely have fewer publications per award (in some cases one or less), NIDRR has set the 2006 and 2007 performance targets to an average of two publications per grantee. However, NIDRR is currently reconsidering this approach, and may ultimately include just those grants for which multiple publications may reasonably be expected (RRTC’s, RERCs, DRRPs, and MS).

#### Efficiency Measures

NIDRR has established efficiency measures that assess its performance in announcing grant competitions on a regular schedule and notifying applicants in a timely manner. A regular announcement schedule will allow potential applicants to better schedule their workload. NIDRR’s goal is to announce all grant competitions for each fiscal year by the beginning of the fiscal year (October 1) and to notify applicants whether they have received an award within 6 months of application closing dates.

**Measure:** The percentage of grant competitions for a given fiscal year that are announced by the beginning of that fiscal year (October 1).

Year	Target	Actual
2003		21
2004		23
2005		8
2006	25	11
2007	50	77
2008	90	

**Measure:** The percentage of grant awards issued within 6 months of the competition closing date.

Year	Target	Actual
2003		70
2004		83
2005	90	57
2006	90	87
2007	90	
2008	90	

**Assessment of Progress:** NIDRR has improved the timeliness of competition announcements, and also is making progress towards its goal of notifying grantees in a timely manner. Since the advent of the Combined Notice, NIDRR succeeded in announcing approximately 11 percent of grant competitions by October 1 in fiscal year 2006, and 77 percent in fiscal year 2007. In fiscal year

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2006, NIDRR also succeeded in ensuring that 87 percent of grant awards were issued within 6 months of the competition closing date.

#### Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations

NIDRR was assessed in 2003 using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART), and it received a “Results Not Demonstrated” rating, largely due to the lack of specific long-term performance measures. A key PART recommendation was that the Department should articulate substantive, long-term research objectives for the program that have measurable outcomes. In addition, the assessment recommended that NIDRR include a larger portion of its grants in its performance measurement system; establish a regular schedule for independent evaluations; examine its portfolio, using the Long-Range Plan as a guide, to determine whether targeting funds on a smaller number of research priorities would improve its ability to meet long-term goals for the program; and develop a comprehensive plan with sufficient detail to know what specific projects would be funded or not funded with budget changes. NIDRR responded to these recommendations by establishing long-term goals for the program; revising its program review procedures to include its smaller grants; working with other agencies to fund a new Institute of Medicine study; and identifying new awards that would be made in 2006 and 2007. NIDRR was re-assessed in 2005 and received a rating of “Adequate.” Shortcomings noted in the PART review were that budget requests were not explicitly tied to the accomplishment of the annual and long-term performance goals and that the program does not collect and make available to the public on an annual basis performance data on individual grantees. In addition, NIDRR has limited data on progress towards performance goals. The assessment identified several follow-up actions, including:

- *Collecting baseline performance data for long-term performance goals and taking steps to ensure that complete, timely, and accurate performance information is available for funded activities.* NIDRR is currently working to obtain baseline data for long-term performance goals and to ensure that complete, timely, and accurate performance information is available for funded activities. NIDRR anticipates assessing one-third of its portfolio each year using the Annual Portfolio Assessment Expert Review process, which it piloted in 2005. Baseline data should be ready in fall 2007.
- *Establishing a regular schedule for announcing grant competitions and competition results to allow applicants to better schedule their workload.* In FY 2006, for the first time, NIDRR announced nearly all priorities in a single notice, which was published in the *Federal Register* on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. NIDRR expects that the timely announcement of the FY 2007 Combined Notice will lay the foundation for a fixed schedule. NIDRR succeeded in announcing 90 percent of FY 2007 grant competitions by the beginning of the fiscal year, a dramatic improvement over previous years. NIDRR’s ultimate goal is to align the grant competition announcement schedule with the Annual Portfolio Assessment Expert Review process, to ensure that feedback from panel members may be incorporated into subsequent priorities.

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- *Reviewing and revising the research portfolio to focus on a more strategic set of priority areas that will help achieve its goals.* Following the pilot of the Annual Portfolio Assessment Expert Review process, in 2005, NIDRR divided its research portfolio into three outcome areas (health and function, employment, and participation in community living). NIDRR has developed a set a strategic goals for each of these areas. In any given year, NIDRR's accomplishments will be assessed under the strategic goals in one key major outcome area, using the portfolio review process. In FY 2006, for example, the outcome area of "health and function" was assessed.

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### Assistive technology

(Assistive Technology Act of 1998)

FY 2008 Authorization (\$000s): Indefinite <sup>1</sup>

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$30,452	\$26,111	-\$4,341 <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Such sums as are necessary are authorized, however not more than \$1,235 thousand may be used for National Activities, unless the amount available for AT State grants exceeds \$20,953,534, in which case not more than \$1,900 thousand may be used for National Activities.

<sup>2</sup> Funds are requested only for AT State Grants and National Activities; no funds are requested for the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology program.

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Assistive Technology (AT) Act is to provide States with financial assistance that supports programs designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to obtain AT devices and AT services. AT devices are defined as any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. A few examples of such devices are computer or technology aids, modified driving controls, and durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs or walkers. The programs supported are comprehensive statewide programs that are designed to:

- increase the availability of, funding for, access to, provision of, and training about AT devices and services;
- increase the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to secure and maintain possession of AT during periods of transition, such as transition between school and home and home and work;
- increase the capacity of public and private entities to provide and pay for AT devices and services;
- increase the involvement of individuals with disabilities in decisions about AT devices and services;
- increase and promote the coordination of AT-related activities among State and local agencies and other private entities;
- increase the awareness of and facilitate changes in law, regulations, procedures, policies, practices, and organizational structures, in order to improve access to AT; and

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- increase the awareness of the benefits of AT among targeted individuals and entities in the general population.

### Assistive Technology programs

#### ***Assistive Technology (AT) State grant program – Section 4***

The AT State grant program has been a population-based formula grant program since fiscal year 2005. The purpose of these grants to States is to maintain the States' comprehensive Statewide programs that conduct activities designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to obtain AT. States must establish consumer-responsive advisory councils with a majority membership of individuals with disabilities who use AT to advise on the planning, implementation, and evaluation of these statewide programs.

Under the formula, States and outlying areas are allocated a base amount that is not less than the amount they received in fiscal year 2004 (totaling \$20,288,534). Funds appropriated in excess of the base amount are divided in half and distributed equally to each State and by a State population-based formula so that each State receives not less than \$410,000 and outlying areas receive \$125,000. If funds remain after increasing all States and outlying areas to these minimums, the remainder is again divided and distributed to States with 80 percent being allotted through the State population-based formula and 20 percent allotted in equal shares. The fiscal year 2007 allotments are based on the July 1, 2005 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2005. The fiscal year 2008 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2006 population estimates released on December 22, 2006.

Each State must submit an application that contains measurable goals, and timelines to meet these goals, that the State has set for addressing the AT needs of individuals with disabilities related to: education (including goals related to the delivery of AT devices and services to students receiving services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)); employment (including goals related to the Rehabilitation Act's Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant program); telecommunications and information technology; and community living. The application must include information on how the State will quantifiably measure these goals to determine whether they have been achieved. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is given the authority to hold States accountable for a lack of progress toward these goals.

The application must also contain a detailed description of how the State will implement each of the required activities. Required activities include State-level activities and State leadership activities. States must spend a minimum of 60 percent (unless the State elects to comply with the State flexibility provision in section 4(e)(6) described below) of their formula grant funds on four State-level activities: alternative financing programs, device reutilization programs, device loan programs, and device demonstrations. States may, however, direct their funds towards these activities in varying amounts if they use other State or non-Federal funds to support these activities at a comparable or greater level.

States may use up to 40 percent of their AT State grant program funding on State leadership activities, with at least 5 percent of that amount devoted to technical assistance and training related to transition for students exiting school or adults entering community living. The State leadership activities include the provision of technical assistance and training to targeted individuals and entities

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focused on promoting the general awareness of the benefits of AT; skills development for persons involved in the assessment of the need for AT; the appropriate application of AT; and the integration of AT devices and services in plans required to be developed under other Federal laws, such as the IDEA's Individualized Education Program and the Rehabilitation Act's Individualized Plan for Employment. In addition, States must use a portion of their grant funds on public awareness activities, including the continuation and maintenance of a statewide system of information and referral, and coordination and collaboration activities amongst entities in the States that are responsible for the provision of AT.

The law provides States with flexibility to decide to carry out only two or three State-level activities, rather than all four. If a State elects to carry out two or three State-level activities, it must spend a minimum of 70 percent of its funds on those activities, while spending not more than 30 percent on the State leadership activities.

The AT Act specifies that a State must include in its annual progress report to RSA data on: the program's alternative financing activities, device loan program activities, device reutilization programs, and device demonstrations, including an analysis of those individuals who benefited from each of these programs; training activities; the Statewide system of information and referral; and systemic activities conducted by the program, including those policies and practices that changed. The report must also provide data on the use of resources, including any contributed to the program by other public and private entities, and the level of customer satisfaction.

#### ***Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology – Section 5***

Formula grants for protection and advocacy (P&A) systems established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act support protection and advocacy services to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of AT services or devices. Funds are distributed on a State population basis, with a minimum annual grant of \$50,000. Outlying areas must receive not less than \$30,000 annually. Also, the Act requires a minimum award of \$30,000 to the P&A system serving the American Indian consortium. The fiscal year 2006 allotments were based on the July 1, 2004 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2004. The fiscal year 2007 allotments are based on the July 1, 2005 population estimates published in December 2005.

#### ***National Activities -- Section 6***

The AT Act provides authority for the provision of technical assistance—through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements on a competitive basis—to individuals with disabilities of all ages, AT State grant program grantees, and to protection and advocacy systems. The AT Act requires the Secretary to make an award to renovate, update, and maintain the National Public Internet Site. In addition, the AT Act includes authority for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to assist grantees in developing and implementing effective data collection and reporting systems.

In designing its technical assistance activities, the Department must consider the input of directors of AT State grant programs and Alternative Financing programs, individuals with disabilities who use AT, family members, and protection and advocacy service providers, among others. The technical assistance must respond to specific requests for information and disseminate information to States, entities funded under the AT Act, and any other public entities that seek information about AT. The

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technical assistance must provide model approaches for the removal of barriers to accessing AT, examples of effective program coordination, and practices that increase funding for AT devices.

### Alternative Financing

#### ***Alternative Financing program -- Section 4(b)(2)(D)***

The AT Act authorized the Secretary, in fiscal year 2005, to award grants under the Alternative Financing program (AFP), as authorized in title III of the AT Act in effect prior to October 25, 2004. This authority was extended in fiscal year 2006 through appropriations language. Under this authority, the Secretary awarded 1-year grants to States to pay for the Federal share of the cost of the establishment and administration of, or the expansion and administration of, an alternative financing program. These programs were required to feature one or more alternative financing mechanisms that would allow individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to purchase AT devices and AT services. The alternative financing program had to have procedures to review and process in a timely manner individuals' requests for financial assistance for immediate and potential technology needs. States were required to have policies and procedures to ensure that access to the alternative financing program be given to consumers regardless of type of disability, age, income level, location of residence in the State, or type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service for which financing was requested through the program. Although these were 1-year grants and no new awards will be made under the AFP, the projects that were funded are expected to operate indefinitely and grantees are required to provide data to RSA for as long as their loan programs continue.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were as follows:

Assistive technology programs	
(\$000s)	
2003 .....	\$26,227
2004 .....	25,943
2005 .....	29,760 <sup>1</sup>
2006 .....	30,452 <sup>1</sup>
2007 .....	30,452

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<sup>1</sup> This figure includes \$4,023 thousand in 2005 and \$3,722 thousand in 2006 for the Alternative Financing program, the authority for which has expired.

### FY 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$26.111 million in fiscal year 2008 for the Assistive Technology (AT) State grant program and National Activities, the same as the 2007 level for these programs. These programs enable individuals to acquire technology they might not otherwise be able to obtain—technology that improves their quality of life, and in many cases, enables them to work or participate in other productive activities. No funds are requested for the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) for Assistive Technology program, which provides services that are authorized and can be provided by other P&A programs.

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The request includes \$25.058 million for the AT State grant program, the same as the 2007 level for this program. These funds will be used by States to carry out the third year of their State plan. During fiscal year 2008, States will obtain approval of their second 3-year plan. The State plans must describe how the State intends to carry out its AT State grant program to meet the AT needs of individuals with disabilities in the State, to achieve the measurable goals required by the AT Act, and to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

The fiscal year 2008 request also includes \$1.053 million for National Activities technical assistance, which will provide for the continuation funding of two discretionary cooperative agreements that began in previous fiscal years. These agreements are for a National Information Internet System and for State training and technical assistance. Also during fiscal year 2008, RSA will continue support for the award for AT Act data collection and reporting assistance that was re-competed in fiscal year 2006.

No funds are requested under the AT Act's Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology program in fiscal year 2008. These services are authorized and can be provided by other existing P&A programs. Specifically, AT services are provided by the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) program authorized under section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act, for which the Administration is requesting \$16.489 million.

#### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (\$000s)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Assistive technology programs</b>			
AT State grant program	\$21,336	\$25,058	\$25,058
Protection and advocacy program	4,341	4,341	0
National activities	<u>1,053</u>	<u>1,053</u>	<u>1,053</u>
Subtotal	26,730	30,452	26,111
<b>Alternative financing program (AFP)</b>			
Alternative Financing program	2,608 <sup>1</sup>	0	0
Technical assistance program	<u>124</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	2,732	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,452</b>	<b>\$30,452</b>	<b>\$26,111</b>

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<sup>1</sup> This figure does not include \$990,000 that was used to continue support for the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists. In fiscal year 2006, the Department was required to set aside this amount from funds provided for the Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account.

#### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

##### Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the



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resources provided in previous years and those requested in FY 2008 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act requires that the State include information on the measurable goals relating to the acquisition of and access to AT devices, and a timeline for meeting those goals, that the State, with the advice of the Advisory Council required in section 4(c)(2), has set for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology (IT).

For each set of measures (acquisition and access), the State must establish a baseline during the first year of the grant. This baseline will be established by the State using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA and disseminated to all States after the State plan process has been completed.

**Goal: To increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.**

**Objective:** *To increase acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.*

The following 3 measures have been established for the AT State grant program, under which States can support either State financing systems or device reutilization programs (or both) to overcome cost, eligibility, and availability barriers. The Department is requiring States to survey individuals served under this program to determine whether those who obtained AT (for education, employment, or community living purposes) believe they would not have otherwise obtained the AT device or service. Using fiscal year 2006 data, the Department will establish a standard against which State performance will be assessed. The standard will reflect the Department's expectations of the proportion of individuals served who obtained devices and services who would not have otherwise obtained the device or service.

**Measure: AT Acquisition for Education: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act obtain devices and services in the domains of education, employment, and community living despite systemic and cost barriers.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained AT for education purposes through State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the device or service.*

**Measure: AT Acquisition in Employment: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act obtain devices and services in the domains of education, employment, and community living despite systemic and cost barriers.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained AT for employment purposes through State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the device or service.*

**Measure: AT Acquisition in Community Living: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act obtain devices and services in the domains of education, employment, and community living despite systemic and cost barriers.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained AT for community living through State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the device or service.*

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**Objective:** *To increase access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.*

States can conduct either device demonstration programs or device loan programs (or both) to assist individuals to determine which AT is right for them. The Department is requiring States to collect information from individuals served under this program regarding whether the services helped the individual to make an informed decision. Using fiscal year 2006 data, the Department will establish a standard against which State performance will be assessed.

**Measure: AT Access for Education: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act have increased access to AT in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications IT because of exposure that enables them to make informed decisions.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes.*

**Measure: AT Access for Employment: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act have increased access to AT in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications IT because of exposure that enables them to make informed decisions.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes.*

**Measure: AT Access for Community Living: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act have increased access to AT in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications IT because of exposure that enables them to make informed decisions.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living.*

**Measure: AT Access for Telecommunications/IT: Targeted individuals and entities as defined by the AT Act have increased access to AT in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications IT because of exposure that enables them to make informed decisions.** *The percent of States that met or exceeded the baseline established for appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need.*

### Efficiency Measures

The performance measure—an efficiency measure—established for the Alternative Financing program (AFP) will continue to be used to measure activities conducted as a result of this program. This measure is calculated by dividing the total amount loaned by a State by the Federal grant funds awarded to each State. As shown below, this measure varies considerably across States, depending on how long the program has been operating, the mechanisms States use to make alternative financing available (e.g., guaranteed loans, interest rate buy-down loans, non-guaranteed low interest loans, guaranteed and interest rate buy-down loan, and direct loans) and differences in the amount paid from the AFP permanent account to cover administrative and program costs.

**Goal: To increase availability of, funding for, access to, and provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.**

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**Objective:** Reduce barriers associated with the cost of assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities.

**Measure:** Alternative Funding Program (AFP): The amount loaned per \$1 million Federal investment.

Year	Target	Actual (\$ in millions)				
		Annual Fed Invest.	Annual Amount Loaned	Cum. Fed. Invest.	Cum. Amount Loaned	Cum. \$ Loaned per \$1M (Fed)
2001		\$3.79	\$2.31	\$3.79	\$2.31	.61
2002		13.63	5.58	17.43	7.85	.45
2003		0	7.70	17.43	15.54	.89
2004		35.82	11.10	53.25	26.64	.50
2005		0	12.05	53.25	38.69	.67
2006	.75	3.94		57.19		
2007	.75	2.61		59.80		
2008	.80					

**Assessment of progress:** The AFP programs operate during the fiscal year following the fiscal year from which they received their Federal funding. Therefore, the annual Federal investment data are shown in the fiscal year following the year in which the funds were awarded. For example, the \$3.79 million shown in fiscal year 2001 was appropriated and obligated in fiscal year 2000. The \$2.61 million shown in fiscal year 2007 was appropriated in fiscal year 2006.

The amount loaned per \$1 million will fluctuate greatly from year-to-year, depending on the number of new programs being established, the type of program being implemented, and the availability of additional funds. The amount loaned per \$1 million Federal investment dropped from \$610,000 in fiscal year 2001 to \$450,000 in fiscal year 2002 when 10 new States began to operate. In fiscal year 2003, the amount loaned per \$1 million rose to \$890,000, when all States were in their second or third year of operation. As expected, the data for fiscal year 2004 reflect a drop to \$500,000 loaned per \$1 million as 15 new States were awarded Federal funds with many not having any activity to report, and 11 previously funded States expanded their programs.

### Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations

The Alternative Financing program (AFP) underwent a PART review in 2004 and received a rating of "Results Not Demonstrated." The PART assessment found that AFP, which was administrated by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) at the time:

- Did not establish long-term outcome measures or goals to analyze program performance.
- Collected follow-up data on individuals receiving loans from AFPs, but did not conduct an independent evaluation of the AFP to determine if the program achieved its goals.

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- Was not timely in reporting to Congress and did not make its reports available to the public in a meaningful manner.

In December 2005, the administration of the AFP was transferred from NIDRR to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), as required by the amendments to the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. To address the findings from the PART, RSA:

- Revised the existing annual measure (“Number of loans to individuals with disabilities per \$1 million Federal investment and State matching funds”). Beginning with FY 2006, the annual measure for the AFP will be: “The amount loaned per \$1 million Federal investment.” Using this measure, RSA will be able to begin to determine how differences in State financing models, policies, and procedures affect program outcomes.
- Developed a Web-based data collection instrument for use by AFPs that was implemented in May 2005 to collect fiscal year 2006 data. This data collection instrument contains four online reporting forms that grantees can complete on an ongoing basis. The data collected by this instrument should be sufficient to support the performance measures described previously. In fact, there already are sufficient data to calculate the revised annual measure for 2001-2004.
- Developed a schedule to begin analyzing program data and submitting annual reports to Congress on a timely basis. Because the data collection instrument described above is Web-based and grantees can enter data on an ongoing basis, up-to-date data will be available to RSA on demand. With the data collection system having been approved and available only recently, RSA is working with the contractor responsible for the system to develop an annual reporting cycle that establishes dates by which grantees must have all of their data for a given year entered into the system. These dates will be chosen so that data can be analyzed and included in the report to Congress in a timely manner. In August 2006 the Department transmitted a report to Congress covering activities under the AT State grant program and AFP during fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	55,857,717	56,445,098	55,154,998	(1,290,100)
Alaska	8,993,999	9,342,387	9,342,387	0
Arizona	51,413,359	56,406,863	57,084,277	677,414
Arkansas	34,986,460	35,708,220	35,364,758	(343,462)
California	260,883,318	271,452,802	271,762,257	309,455
Colorado	32,547,661	34,105,069	35,527,779	1,422,710
Connecticut	19,462,448	19,870,539	19,720,163	(150,376)
Delaware	9,003,744	9,342,387	9,342,387	0
District of Columbia	12,250,059	12,182,451	12,491,891	309,440
Florida	140,569,958	154,108,575	150,675,958	(3,432,617)
Georgia	81,908,688	86,685,255	91,011,857	4,326,602
Hawaii	10,749,158	11,254,618	10,899,587	(355,031)
Idaho	14,723,441	15,464,609	15,648,146	183,537
Illinois	100,712,440	103,911,345	103,890,520	(20,825)
Indiana	63,748,728	66,226,265	65,825,273	(400,992)
Iowa	30,428,394	31,580,868	30,767,671	(813,197)
Kansas	25,965,641	26,963,399	26,583,150	(380,249)
Kentucky	49,003,442	50,876,929	51,114,577	237,648
Louisiana	54,442,403	56,314,853	55,711,008	(603,845)
Maine	15,046,998	14,885,193	14,853,607	(31,586)
Maryland	39,360,338	39,069,153	37,646,329	(1,422,824)
Massachusetts	44,839,383	45,164,390	45,050,526	(113,864)
Michigan	92,608,491	95,240,255	96,111,665	871,410
Minnesota	41,955,271	43,337,953	42,600,891	(737,062)
Mississippi	40,552,314	41,030,639	40,799,120	(231,519)
Missouri	59,109,446	61,038,559	61,268,488	229,929
Montana	10,650,000	10,907,036	10,623,909	(283,127)
Nebraska	17,112,359	17,539,735	17,139,958	(399,777)
Nevada	16,597,631	17,843,899	17,652,502	(191,397)
New Hampshire	10,238,071	10,573,786	10,605,251	31,465
New Jersey	52,405,101	54,174,747	54,538,669	363,922
New Mexico	21,893,866	22,359,551	22,386,125	26,574
New York	142,194,452	146,134,022	145,603,164	(530,858)
North Carolina	83,840,388	90,329,177	91,614,362	1,285,185
North Dakota	8,957,227	9,342,387	9,342,387	0
Ohio	114,993,706	118,396,849	118,930,988	534,139
Oklahoma	39,001,716	40,564,976	40,118,478	(446,498)
Oregon	33,265,208	34,855,466	34,700,671	(154,795)
Pennsylvania	118,963,780	121,735,403	119,677,481	(2,057,922)
Rhode Island	9,972,213	10,276,323	9,932,192	(344,131)
South Carolina	47,936,674	49,594,695	50,088,769	494,074
South Dakota	9,017,536	9,342,387	9,342,387	0
Tennessee	63,092,034	64,866,447	64,763,296	(103,151)
Texas	201,769,681	212,142,313	214,752,163	2,609,850
Utah	25,154,464	26,821,027	27,636,582	815,555
Vermont	8,999,187	9,342,387	9,342,387	0
Virginia	60,880,231	62,456,588	61,302,099	(1,154,489)
Washington	46,906,833	48,830,519	50,423,450	1,592,931
West Virginia	25,010,537	24,796,159	25,018,270	222,111
Wisconsin	52,853,689	54,831,961	54,572,123	(259,838)
Wyoming	8,193,581	9,342,387	9,342,387	0
American Samoa	891,016	924,424	916,238	(8,186)
Guam	1,289,427	2,831,294	2,840,457	9,163
Northern Mariana Islands	1,054,614	1,126,126	1,141,880	15,754
Puerto Rico	60,973,559	70,459,799	70,167,366	(292,433)
Virgin Islands	1,935,920	1,965,456	1,950,739	(14,717)
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	33,024,000	34,444,000	34,444,000	0
Other (non-State allocations)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720,192,000</b>	<b>2,837,160,000</b>	<b>2,837,160,000</b>	<b>0</b>

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Client Assistance State Grants

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	153,232	152,753	152,599	(154)
Alaska	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Arizona	194,283	199,052	204,603	5,551
Arkansas	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
California	1,214,097	1,210,950	1,209,690	(1,260)
Colorado	155,641	156,351	157,720	1,369
Connecticut	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Delaware	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
District of Columbia	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Florida	588,452	596,218	600,235	4,017
Georgia	298,650	304,063	310,702	6,639
Hawaii	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Idaho	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Illinois	430,034	427,758	425,774	(1,984)
Indiana	210,983	210,202	209,487	(715)
Iowa	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Kansas	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Kentucky	140,234	139,870	139,561	(309)
Louisiana	152,744	151,607	142,271	(9,336)
Maine	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Maryland	187,999	187,694	186,334	(1,360)
Massachusetts	217,036	214,451	213,591	(860)
Michigan	342,055	339,196	334,981	(4,215)
Minnesota	172,538	172,023	171,448	(575)
Mississippi	119,551	119,554	119,554	0
Missouri	194,648	194,395	193,865	(530)
Montana	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Nebraska	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Nevada	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
New Hampshire	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
New Jersey	294,236	292,177	289,487	(2,690)
New Mexico	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
New York	650,349	645,309	640,593	(4,716)
North Carolina	288,904	291,015	293,865	2,850
North Dakota	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Ohio	387,597	384,212	380,848	(3,364)
Oklahoma	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Oregon	121,585	122,028	122,794	766
Pennsylvania	419,638	416,572	412,789	(3,783)
Rhode Island	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
South Carolina	141,998	142,607	143,382	775
South Dakota	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Tennessee	199,598	199,846	200,372	526
Texas	760,716	766,140	780,005	13,865
Utah	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Vermont	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Virginia	252,326	253,620	253,596	(24)
Washington	209,841	210,731	212,217	1,486
West Virginia	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
Wisconsin	186,341	185,543	184,369	(1,174)
Wyoming	119,554	119,554	119,554	0
American Samoa	53,800	53,800	53,800	0
Guam	53,800	53,800	53,800	0
Northern Mariana Islands	53,800	53,800	53,800	0
Puerto Rico	131,742	131,111	130,326	(785)
Virgin Islands	53,800	53,800	53,800	0
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	0	0	0	0
Other (non-State allocations)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,781,990</b>	<b>11,781,990</b>	<b>11,782,000</b>	<b>10</b>

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	210,531	209,900	209,710	(190)
Alaska	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Arizona	266,933	273,521	281,176	7,655
Arkansas	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
California	1,668,092	1,663,983	1,662,417	(1,566)
Colorado	213,841	214,844	216,748	1,904
Connecticut	162,823	161,659	160,306	(1,353)
Delaware	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
District of Columbia	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Florida	808,498	819,273	824,876	5,603
Georgia	410,328	417,818	426,984	9,166
Hawaii	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Idaho	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Illinois	590,841	587,789	585,122	(2,667)
Indiana	289,879	288,842	287,889	(953)
Iowa	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Kansas	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Kentucky	192,673	192,197	191,792	(405)
Louisiana	209,861	208,326	195,517	(12,809)
Maine	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Maryland	258,300	257,914	256,070	(1,844)
Massachusetts	298,194	294,680	293,528	(1,152)
Michigan	469,964	466,094	460,349	(5,745)
Minnesota	237,057	236,380	235,613	(767)
Mississippi	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Missouri	267,434	267,121	266,420	(701)
Montana	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Nebraska	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Nevada	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
New Hampshire	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
New Jersey	404,263	401,485	397,829	(3,656)
New Mexico	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
New York	893,540	886,730	880,338	(6,392)
North Carolina	396,936	399,888	403,846	3,958
North Dakota	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Ohio	532,535	527,951	523,383	(4,568)
Oklahoma	163,750	163,390	163,208	(182)
Oregon	167,051	167,681	168,750	1,069
Pennsylvania	576,558	572,419	567,277	(5,142)
Rhode Island	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
South Carolina	195,097	195,958	197,044	1,086
South Dakota	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Tennessee	274,235	274,611	275,362	751
Texas	1,045,179	1,052,766	1,071,926	19,160
Utah	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Vermont	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Virginia	346,681	348,503	348,506	3
Washington	288,309	289,569	291,640	2,071
West Virginia	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
Wisconsin	256,021	254,958	253,370	(1,588)
Wyoming	160,311	160,311	160,306	(5)
American Samoa	80,155	80,155	80,153	(2)
Guam	80,155	80,155	80,153	(2)
Northern Mariana Islands	80,155	80,155	80,153	(2)
Puerto Rico	181,006	180,161	179,102	(1,059)
Virgin Islands	80,155	80,155	80,153	(2)
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	68,758	68,758	68,756	(2)
Other (non-State allocations)	296,810	296,809	296,802	(7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,489,440</b>	<b>16,489,440</b>	<b>16,489,000</b>	<b>(440)</b>

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Supported Employment State Grants

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	391,681	387,313	0	(387,313)
Alaska	300,459	300,000	0	(300,000)
Arizona	492,590	504,709	0	(504,709)
Arkansas	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
California	3,103,391	3,070,439	0	(3,070,439)
Colorado	394,615	396,437	0	(396,437)
Connecticut	210,468	300,000	0	(300,000)
Delaware	300,582	300,000	0	(300,000)
District of Columbia	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Florida	1,491,977	1,511,747	0	(1,511,747)
Georgia	757,206	770,969	0	(770,969)
Hawaii	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Idaho	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Illinois	1,099,225	1,084,606	0	(1,084,606)
Indiana	534,933	532,980	0	(532,980)
Iowa	302,070	300,000	0	(300,000)
Kansas	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Kentucky	355,553	354,648	0	(354,648)
Louisiana	387,272	384,409	0	(384,409)
Maine	300,923	300,000	0	(300,000)
Maryland	480,551	475,910	0	(475,910)
Massachusetts	554,773	543,752	0	(543,752)
Michigan	874,340	860,050	0	(860,050)
Minnesota	441,030	436,175	0	(436,175)
Mississippi	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Missouri	497,546	492,899	0	(492,899)
Montana	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Nebraska	301,224	300,000	0	(300,000)
Nevada	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
New Hampshire	300,910	300,000	0	(300,000)
New Jersey	752,108	740,832	0	(740,832)
New Mexico	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
New York	1,662,380	1,636,220	0	(1,636,220)
North Carolina	738,476	737,884	0	(737,884)
North Dakota	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Ohio	990,750	974,191	0	(974,191)
Oklahoma	302,179	301,492	0	(301,492)
Oregon	308,271	309,410	0	(309,410)
Pennsylvania	1,072,652	1,056,244	0	(1,056,244)
Rhode Island	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
South Carolina	362,967	361,588	0	(361,588)
South Dakota	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Tennessee	510,199	506,720	0	(506,720)
Texas	1,928,740	1,942,594	0	(1,942,594)
Utah	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
Vermont	300,435	300,000	0	(300,000)
Virginia	644,979	643,068	0	(643,068)
Washington	536,382	534,321	0	(534,321)
West Virginia	301,272	300,000	0	(300,000)
Wisconsin	472,453	470,455	0	(470,455)
Wyoming	300,000	300,000	0	(300,000)
American Samoa	37,166	37,125	0	(37,125)
Guam	37,125	37,125	0	(37,125)
Northern Mariana Islands	0	37,125	0	(37,125)
Puerto Rico	334,022	332,438	0	(332,438)
Virgin Islands	37,125	37,125	0	(37,125)
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	0	0	0	0
Other (non-State allocations)	297,000	297,000	0	(297,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,700,000</b>	<b>29,700,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(29,700,000)</b>



## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Independent Living State Grants

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Alaska	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Arizona	325,265	333,190	342,108	8,918
Arkansas	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
California	2,032,616	2,026,987	2,022,670	(4,317)
Colorado	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Connecticut	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Delaware	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
District of Columbia	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Florida	985,177	997,998	1,003,629	5,631
Georgia	499,996	508,965	519,513	10,548
Hawaii	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Idaho	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Illinois	719,956	716,016	711,919	(4,097)
Indiana	353,225	351,853	350,275	(1,578)
Iowa	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Kansas	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Kentucky	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Louisiana	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Maine	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Maryland	314,745	314,178	311,561	(2,617)
Massachusetts	363,358	358,965	357,136	(1,829)
Michigan	572,664	567,773	560,108	(7,665)
Minnesota	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Mississippi	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Missouri	325,876	325,393	324,154	(1,239)
Montana	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Nebraska	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Nevada	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
New Hampshire	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
New Jersey	492,605	489,069	484,040	(5,029)
New Mexico	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
New York	1,088,803	1,080,171	1,071,110	(9,061)
North Carolina	483,678	487,124	491,360	4,236
North Dakota	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Ohio	648,908	643,124	636,801	(6,323)
Oklahoma	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Oregon	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Pennsylvania	702,551	697,292	690,207	(7,085)
Rhode Island	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
South Carolina	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
South Dakota	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Tennessee	334,163	334,518	335,034	516
Texas	1,273,579	1,282,427	1,304,215	21,788
Utah	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Vermont	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Virginia	422,440	424,529	424,028	(501)
Washington	351,312	352,739	354,840	2,101
West Virginia	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Wisconsin	311,969	310,577	308,276	(2,301)
Wyoming	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
American Samoa	27,953	27,952	27,952	0
Guam	27,953	27,952	27,952	0
Northern Mariana Islands	27,953	27,952	27,952	0
Puerto Rico	301,477	301,477	301,479	2
Virgin Islands	27,953	27,952	27,952	0
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	0	0	0	0
Other (non-State allocations)	225,878	225,878	225,880	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,587,840</b>	<b>22,587,838</b>	<b>22,588,000</b>	<b>162</b>

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Services for Older Blind Individuals

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	498,782	496,740	496,745	5
Alaska	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Arizona	590,638	603,916	603,922	6
Arkansas	312,417	310,599	310,602	3
California	3,260,338	3,258,597	3,258,628	31
Colorado	403,450	409,385	409,389	4
Connecticut	392,195	387,735	387,738	3
Delaware	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
District of Columbia	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Florida	2,217,064	2,231,399	2,231,419	20
Georgia	763,271	776,709	776,716	7
Hawaii	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Idaho	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Illinois	1,262,943	1,255,008	1,255,020	12
Indiana	640,921	637,259	637,265	6
Iowa	339,712	337,920	337,923	3
Kansas	284,337	283,182	283,184	2
Kentucky	443,438	442,616	442,620	4
Louisiana	448,149	446,705	446,709	4
Maine	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Maryland	558,836	558,434	558,439	5
Massachusetts	696,810	687,166	687,172	6
Michigan	1,048,483	1,042,799	1,042,808	9
Minnesota	510,270	510,501	510,506	5
Mississippi	294,601	294,533	294,536	3
Missouri	628,215	625,786	625,792	6
Montana	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Nebraska	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Nevada	231,791	236,723	236,725	2
New Hampshire	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
New Jersey	930,909	920,160	920,168	8
New Mexico	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
New York	2,064,487	2,051,257	2,051,276	19
North Carolina	873,629	878,679	878,687	8
North Dakota	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Ohio	1,249,846	1,238,987	1,238,998	11
Oklahoma	382,588	380,832	380,836	4
Oregon	387,901	392,064	392,068	4
Pennsylvania	1,489,998	1,473,131	1,473,145	14
Rhode Island	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
South Carolina	449,147	453,628	453,632	4
South Dakota	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Tennessee	632,441	632,822	632,828	6
Texas	1,928,245	1,948,128	1,948,146	18
Utah	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Vermont	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
Virginia	751,745	757,843	757,850	7
Washington	617,336	625,107	625,113	6
West Virginia	228,991	227,290	227,292	2
Wisconsin	585,247	584,462	584,468	6
Wyoming	225,000	225,000	225,000	0
American Samoa	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
Guam	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
Northern Mariana Islands	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
Puerto Rico	406,612	407,681	407,685	4
Virgin Islands	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	0	0	0	0
Other (non-State allocations)	328,947	328,947	328,950	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,894,730</b>	<b>32,894,730</b>	<b>32,895,000</b>	<b>270</b>

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	52,401	52,237	0	(52,237)
Alaska	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Arizona	66,439	68,071	0	(68,071)
Arkansas	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
California	415,188	414,113	0	(414,113)
Colorado	53,225	53,468	0	(53,468)
Connecticut	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Delaware	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
District of Columbia	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Florida	201,234	203,891	0	(203,891)
Georgia	102,130	103,982	0	(103,982)
Hawaii	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Idaho	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Illinois	147,059	146,282	0	(146,282)
Indiana	72,150	71,884	0	(71,884)
Iowa	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Kansas	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Kentucky	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Louisiana	52,234	51,846	0	(51,846)
Maine	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Maryland	64,290	64,187	0	(64,187)
Massachusetts	74,220	73,337	0	(73,337)
Michigan	116,973	115,996	0	(115,996)
Minnesota	59,003	58,827	0	(58,827)
Mississippi	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Missouri	66,564	66,478	0	(66,478)
Montana	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Nebraska	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Nevada	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
New Hampshire	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
New Jersey	100,620	99,917	0	(99,917)
New Mexico	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
New York	222,401	220,679	0	(220,679)
North Carolina	98,797	99,519	0	(99,519)
North Dakota	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Ohio	132,547	131,390	0	(131,390)
Oklahoma	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Oregon	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Pennsylvania	143,504	142,457	0	(142,457)
Rhode Island	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
South Carolina	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
South Dakota	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Tennessee	68,257	68,342	0	(68,342)
Texas	260,143	262,000	0	(262,000)
Utah	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Vermont	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Virginia	86,288	86,731	0	(86,731)
Washington	71,760	72,065	0	(72,065)
West Virginia	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Wisconsin	63,723	63,451	0	(63,451)
Wyoming	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
American Samoa	30,000	30,000	0	(30,000)
Guam	30,000	30,000	0	(30,000)
Northern Mariana Islands	30,000	30,000	0	(30,000)
Puerto Rico	50,000	50,000	0	(50,000)
Virgin Islands	30,000	30,000	0	(30,000)
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	30,000	30,000	0	(30,000)
Other (non-State allocations)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,341,150</b>	<b>4,341,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,341,150)</b>

## REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

### Assistive Technology State Grants Program

State or Other Area	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change from 2007 Estimate
Alabama	361,635	424,825	424,791	(34)
Alaska	376,318	415,401	415,399	(2)
Arizona	510,034	582,060	583,378	1,318
Arkansas	400,673	452,866	452,897	31
California	730,315	989,070	988,787	(283)
Colorado	378,467	442,385	442,712	327
Connecticut	330,487	387,165	386,845	(320)
Delaware	358,731	398,934	398,946	12
District of Columbia	318,402	356,765	356,966	201
Florida	490,290	635,923	636,883	960
Georgia	469,294	560,774	562,352	1,578
Hawaii	389,055	431,926	431,906	(20)
Idaho	361,047	404,910	405,091	181
Illinois	459,046	573,002	572,538	(464)
Indiana	375,765	449,564	449,397	(167)
Iowa	373,743	427,067	426,958	(109)
Kansas	336,155	388,104	388,041	(63)
Kentucky	386,923	447,737	447,666	(71)
Louisiana	413,036	475,980	473,770	(2,210)
Maine	402,777	445,919	445,816	(103)
Maryland	400,978	470,639	470,319	(320)
Massachusetts	415,436	489,927	489,727	(200)
Michigan	533,403	630,950	629,956	(994)
Minnesota	397,860	464,612	464,478	(134)
Mississippi	320,162	373,217	372,904	(313)
Missouri	458,587	529,491	529,368	(123)
Montana	387,191	427,956	427,952	(4)
Nebraska	391,962	437,821	437,757	(64)
Nevada	344,904	394,939	395,383	444
New Hampshire	370,550	413,631	413,567	(64)
New Jersey	369,130	458,023	457,390	(633)
New Mexico	378,838	425,768	425,823	55
New York	501,871	655,918	654,809	(1,109)
North Carolina	422,910	511,805	512,484	679
North Dakota	316,310	355,215	355,159	(56)
Ohio	426,638	532,483	531,691	(792)
Oklahoma	352,458	409,399	409,366	(33)
Oregon	344,784	402,340	402,523	183
Pennsylvania	545,248	657,094	656,203	(891)
Rhode Island	312,777	354,387	354,235	(152)
South Carolina	431,507	492,878	493,063	185
South Dakota	364,048	403,819	403,805	(14)
Tennessee	346,526	418,463	418,591	128
Texas	621,950	798,887	802,183	3,296
Utah	383,834	434,208	434,646	438
Vermont	353,441	392,261	392,219	(42)
Virginia	386,295	468,232	468,230	(2)
Washington	379,372	453,356	453,711	355
West Virginia	359,869	406,069	405,938	(131)
Wisconsin	375,921	445,159	444,884	(275)
Wyoming	309,784	347,903	347,908	5
American Samoa	114,459	125,000	125,000	0
Guam	114,649	125,000	125,000	0
Northern Mariana Islands	114,494	125,000	125,000	0
Puerto Rico	351,593	410,773	410,589	(184)
Virgin Islands	114,548	125,000	125,000	0
Freely Associated States	0	0	0	0
Indian set-aside	0	0	0	0
Other (non-State allocations)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,336,480</b>	<b>25,058,000</b>	<b>25,058,000</b>	<b>0</b>