

Stat. 3308; Pub. L. 102-52, §4(b), June 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 261; renumbered §303 and amended Pub. L. 102-569, title I, §102(p)(16), title III, §§301(b)(3), 303, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4358, 4411, 4416, related to vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

A prior section 302 of Pub. L. 93-112 was classified to section 771a of this title prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

#### AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(1)(A)(i), substituted “supported employment services and customized employment services to individuals with the most significant disabilities;” for “services, through supported employment programs, to individuals with a most significant disability; and”.

Subsec. (a)(1)(H). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(1)(A)(ii)–(iv), added subpar. (H).

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(1)(B)(i), substituted “subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act” for “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(4)(A). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(1)(B)(ii), substituted “workforce development system” for “workforce investment system”.

Subsec. (a)(4)(B). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(1)(B)(iii), substituted “section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.” for “section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.”

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(1)(C), substituted “subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act” for “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(B)(i). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(2), substituted “prosthetics and orthotics, vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility instruction, or low vision therapy” for “or prosthetics and orthotics”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(3)(A), struck out “and in-service training” after “assistance” in heading.

Subsec. (g)(1). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(3)(B), inserted after period at end “Any technical assistance provided to community rehabilitation programs shall be focused on the employment outcome of competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.”

Subsec. (g)(3). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(3)(C), struck out par. (3) which related to use of funding for projects for in-service training for rehabilitation personnel.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(4), made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 776 of this title.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 113-128, §441(b)(5), substituted “\$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$36,257,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$37,009,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$37,830,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$38,719,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$39,540,000 for fiscal year 2020.” for “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.”

2004—Subsec. (f)(1)(D)(ii). Pub. L. 108-446 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1402 of title 20.

### § 773. Demonstration and training programs

#### (a) Demonstration projects to increase client choice

##### (1) Grants

The Commissioner may make grants to States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations to pay all or part of the costs of projects to demonstrate ways to increase client choice in the rehabilitation process, including the selection of providers of vocational rehabilitation services.

##### (2) Use of funds

An entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the grant only—

(A) for activities that are directly related to planning, operating, and evaluating the demonstration projects; and

(B) to supplement, and not supplant, funds made available from Federal and non-Federal sources for such projects.

#### (3) Application

Any eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this subsection shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Commissioner may require, including—

(A) a description of—

(i) how the entity intends to promote increased client choice in the rehabilitation process, including a description, if appropriate, of how an applicant will determine the cost of any service or product offered to an eligible client;

(ii) how the entity intends to ensure that any vocational rehabilitation service or related service is provided by a qualified provider who is accredited or meets such other quality assurance and cost-control criteria as the State may establish; and

(iii) the outreach activities to be conducted by the applicant to obtain eligible clients; and

(B) assurances that a written plan will be established with the full participation of the client, which plan shall, at a minimum, include—

(i) a statement of the vocational rehabilitation goals to be achieved;

(ii) a statement of the specific vocational rehabilitation services to be provided, the projected dates for their initiation, and the anticipated duration of each such service; and

(iii) objective criteria, an evaluation procedure, and a schedule, for determining whether such goals are being achieved.

#### (4) Award of grants

In selecting entities to receive grants under paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall take into consideration—

(A) the diversity of strategies used to increase client choice, including selection among qualified service providers;

(B) the geographic distribution of projects; and

(C) the diversity of clients to be served.

#### (5) Records

Entities that receive grants under paragraph (1) shall maintain such records as the Commissioner may require and comply with any request from the Commissioner for such records.

#### (6) Direct services

At least 80 percent of the funds awarded for any project under this subsection shall be used for direct services, as specifically chosen by eligible clients.

#### (7) Evaluation

The Commissioner may conduct an evaluation of the demonstration projects with respect to the services provided, clients served, client outcomes obtained, implementation is-

sues addressed, the cost-effectiveness of the project, and the effects of increased choice on clients and service providers. The Commissioner may reserve funds for the evaluation for a fiscal year from the amounts appropriated to carry out projects under this section for the fiscal year.

**(8) Definitions**

For the purposes of this subsection:

**(A) Direct services**

The term “direct services” means vocational rehabilitation services, as described in section 723(a) of this title.

**(B) Eligible client**

The term “eligible client” means an individual with a disability, as defined in section 705(20)(A) of this title, who is not currently receiving services under an individualized plan for employment established through a designated State unit.

**(b) Special demonstration programs**

**(1) Grants; contracts**

The Commissioner, subject to the provisions of section 776 of this title, may provide grants to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities to pay all or part of the cost of programs that expand and improve the provision of rehabilitation and other services authorized under this chapter or that further the purposes of the chapter, including related research and evaluation activities.

**(2) Eligible entities; terms and conditions**

**(A) Eligible entities**

To be eligible to receive a grant, or enter into a contract, under paragraph (1), an entity shall be a State vocational rehabilitation agency, community rehabilitation program, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or other public or nonprofit agency or organization, or as the Commissioner determines appropriate, a for-profit organization. The Commissioner may limit competitions to one or more types of organizations described in this subparagraph.

**(B) Terms and conditions**

A grant or contract under paragraph (1) shall contain such terms and conditions as the Commissioner may require.

**(3) Application**

An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant, or enter into a contract, under paragraph (1) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing such information and assurances as the Commissioner may require, including, if the Commissioner determines appropriate, a description of how the proposed project or demonstration program—

(A) is based on current research findings, which may include research conducted by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, the National Institutes of Health, and other public or private organizations; and

(B) is of national significance.

**(4) Types of projects**

The programs that may be funded under this subsection may include—

- (A) special projects and demonstrations of service delivery;
- (B) model demonstration projects;
- (C) technical assistance projects;
- (D) systems change projects;
- (E) special studies and evaluations; and
- (F) dissemination and utilization activities.

**(5) Priority for competitions**

**(A) In general**

In announcing competitions for grants and contracts under this subsection, the Commissioner shall give priority consideration to—

- (i) initiatives focused on improving transition from education, including post-secondary education, to employment, particularly in competitive integrated employment, for youth who are individuals with significant disabilities;
- (ii) supported employment, including community-based supported employment programs to meet the needs of individuals with the most significant disabilities or to provide technical assistance to States and community organizations to improve and expand the provision of supported employment services; and
- (iii) increasing competitive integrated employment for individuals with significant disabilities.

**(B) Additional competitions**

In announcing competitions for grants and contracts under this subsection, the Commissioner may require that applicants address one or more of the following:

- (i) Age ranges.
- (ii) Types of disabilities.
- (iii) Types of services.
- (iv) Models of service delivery.
- (v) Stage of the rehabilitation process.
- (vi) The needs of underserved populations, unserved and underserved areas, individuals with significant disabilities, low-incidence disability population or individuals residing in federally designated empowerment zones and enterprise communities.
- (vii) Expansion of employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- (viii) Systems change projects to promote meaningful access of individuals with disabilities to employment-related services under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [29 U.S.C. 3151 et seq.] and under other Federal laws.
- (ix) Innovative methods of promoting achievement of high-quality employment outcomes.
- (x) The demonstration of the effectiveness of early intervention activities in improving employment outcomes.
- (xi) Alternative methods of providing affordable transportation services to individuals with disabilities who are employed,

seeking employment, or receiving vocational rehabilitation services from public or private organizations and who reside in geographic areas in which public transportation or paratransit service is not available.

**(c) Parent information and training program**

**(1) Grants**

The Commissioner is authorized to make grants to private nonprofit organizations for the purpose of establishing programs to provide training and information to enable individuals with disabilities, and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives of the individuals to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities. Such grants shall be designed to meet the unique training and information needs of the individuals described in the preceding sentence, who live in the area to be served, particularly those who are members of populations that have been unserved or underserved by programs under this chapter.

**(2) Use of grants**

An organization that receives a grant to establish training and information programs under this subsection shall use the grant to assist individuals with disabilities, and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of the individuals—

(A) to better understand vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs and services;

(B) to provide followup support for transition and employment programs;

(C) to communicate more effectively with transition and rehabilitation personnel and other relevant professionals;

(D) to provide support in the development of the individualized plan for employment;

(E) to provide support and expertise in obtaining information about rehabilitation and independent living programs, services, and resources that are appropriate;

(F) to provide support and guidance in helping individuals with significant disabilities, including students with disabilities, transition to competitive integrated employment; and

(G) to understand the provisions of this chapter, particularly provisions relating to employment, supported employment, and independent living.

**(3) Award of grants**

The Commissioner shall ensure that grants under this subsection—

(A) shall be distributed geographically to the greatest extent possible throughout all States; and

(B) shall be targeted to individuals with disabilities, and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of the individuals, in both urban and rural areas or on a State or regional basis.

**(4) Eligible organizations**

In order to receive a grant under this subsection, an organization—

(A) shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Commissioner may require, including information demonstrating the capacity and expertise of the organization—

(i) to coordinate training and information activities with Centers for Independent Living;

(ii) to coordinate and work closely with the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 1471 of title 20, the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 1472 of title 20, and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 1473 of title 20; and

(iii) to effectively conduct the training and information activities authorized under this subsection;

(B)(i) shall be governed by a board of directors—

(I) that includes professionals in the field of vocational rehabilitation; and

(II) on which a majority of the members are individuals with disabilities or the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of the individuals; or

(ii)(I) shall have a membership that represents the interests of individuals with disabilities; and

(II) shall establish a special governing committee that meets the requirements specified in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) to operate a training and information program under this subsection; and

(C) shall serve, and demonstrate the capacity for serving, individuals with a full range of disabilities, and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of the individuals.

**(5) Consultation**

Each organization carrying out a program receiving assistance under this subsection shall consult with appropriate agencies that serve or assist individuals with disabilities, and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of the individuals, located in the jurisdiction served by the program.

**(6) Coordination**

The Commissioner shall provide coordination and technical assistance by grant or cooperative agreement for establishing, developing, and coordinating the training and information programs. To the extent practicable, such assistance shall be provided by the parent training and information centers established pursuant to section 1471 of title 20.

**(7) Review**

**(A) Quarterly review**

The board of directors or special governing committee of an organization receiving a

grant under this subsection shall meet at least once in each calendar quarter to review the training and information program, and each such committee shall directly advise the governing board regarding the views and recommendations of the committee.

**(B) Review for grant renewal**

If a nonprofit private organization requests the renewal of a grant under this subsection, the board of directors or the special governing committee shall prepare and submit to the Commissioner a written review of the training and information program conducted by the organization during the preceding fiscal year.

**(8) Reservation**

From the amount appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, may be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).

**(d) Braille training programs**

**(1) Establishment**

The Commissioner shall make grants to, and enter into contracts with, States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, to pay all or part of the cost of training in the use of braille for personnel providing vocational rehabilitation services or educational services to youth and adults who are blind.

**(2) Projects**

Such grants shall be used for the establishment or continuation of projects that may provide—

(A) development of braille training materials;

(B) in-service or pre-service training in the use of braille, the importance of braille literacy, and methods of teaching braille to youth and adults who are blind; and

(C) activities to promote knowledge and use of braille and nonvisual access technology for blind youth and adults through a program of training, demonstration, and evaluation conducted with leadership of experienced blind individuals, including the use of comprehensive, state-of-the-art technology.

**(3) Application**

To be eligible to receive a grant, or enter into a contract, under paragraph (1), an agency or organization shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Commissioner may require.

**(e) Authorization of appropriations**

For the purpose of carrying out this section there are authorized to be appropriated \$5,796,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$6,244,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$6,373,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$6,515,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$6,668,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$6,809,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title III, § 303, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 406, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1190; amended Pub. L. 108-446, title III, § 305(h)(5), (6), Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2805; Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, § 442, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1673.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(5)(B)(viii), is Pub. L. 113-128, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1425. Subtitle B of title I of the Act is classified generally to part B (§3151 et seq.) of subchapter I of chapter 32 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3101 of this title and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 773, Pub. L. 93-112, title III, § 304, formerly § 303, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 379; Pub. L. 95-602, title I, § 113, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2968; Pub. L. 99-506, title I, § 103(d)(2)(C), title X, § 1001(d)(2), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1810, 1843; renumbered § 304 and amended Pub. L. 102-569, title I, § 102(p)(17), title III, §§ 301(b)(3), 304, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4358, 4411, 4417, related to loan guarantees for community rehabilitation programs, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

A prior section 303 of Pub. L. 93-112 was classified to section 772 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(1)(A), made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 776 of this title.

Subsec. (b)(3)(A). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(1)(B), substituted “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research” for “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research”.

Subsec. (b)(5)(A)(i). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(1)(C)(i)(I), added cl. (i) and struck out former cl. (i) which read as follows: “special projects and demonstration programs of service delivery for adults who are either low-functioning and deaf or low-functioning and hard of hearing;”.

Subsec. (b)(5)(A)(iii). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(1)(C)(i)(II), added cl. (iii) and struck out former cl. (iii) which read as follows: “model transitional planning services for youths with disabilities.”

Subsec. (b)(5)(B)(viii). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(1)(C)(ii), substituted “under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act” for “under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”.

Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(1)(D), struck out par. (6) which read as follows: “The Commissioner may use funds made available to carry out this section for continuation awards for projects that were funded under sections 711 and 777a of this title (as such sections were in effect on the day before August 7, 1998).”

Subsec. (c)(2)(F), (G). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(2)(A), added par. (F) and redesignated former par. (F) as (G).

Subsec. (c)(4)(A)(ii). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(2)(B)(i), inserted “the” after “closely with” and “, the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 1472 of title 20, and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 1473 of title 20” after “section 1471 of title 20”.

Subsec. (c)(4)(C). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(2)(B)(ii), inserted “, and demonstrate the capacity for serving,” after “shall serve”.

Subsec. (c)(8). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(2)(C), added par. (8).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 113-128, § 442(3), added subsec. (e) and struck out former subsec. (e) which read as follows: “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.”

2004—Subsec. (c)(4)(A)(ii). Pub. L. 108-446, § 305(h)(6), substituted “section 1471” for “section 1482(a)”.

Subsec. (c)(6). Pub. L. 108-446, § 305(h)(5), substituted “section 1471” for “section 1482(a)”.

**§§ 774, 775. Repealed. Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, § 443(1), July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1674**

Section 774, Pub. L. 93-112, title III, § 304, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 406, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1195,