

(Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, §722, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, §410, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1229; amended Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, §482(a), July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1692.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 796f-1, Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, §722, as added Pub. L. 102-569, title VII, §701(2), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4456; amended Pub. L. 103-73, title I, §114(i), Aug. 11, 1993, 107 Stat. 731, related to grants to centers for independent living in States in which Federal funding exceeds State funding, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

#### AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(a)(1), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(a)(1), (2), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” in two places, “grants for a fiscal year” for “grants”, and “for the preceding fiscal year” for “by September 30, 1997”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(a)(3)(A), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” and “region. The Administrator’s determination of the most qualified applicant shall be consistent with the provisions in the State plan setting forth the design of the State for establishing a statewide network of centers for independent living.” for “region, consistent with the provisions in the State plan setting forth the design of the State for establishing a statewide network of centers for independent living.”

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(a)(3)(B)(i), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(a)(3)(B)(ii), added subpar. (A) and struck out former subpar. (A). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “shall consider comments regarding the application, if any, by the Statewide Independent Living Council in the State in which the applicant is located;”.

Subsecs. (e), (g). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(a)(4), which directed substitution of “Administrator.” for “Commissioner” wherever appearing, was executed by substituting “Administrator” for “Commissioner” wherever appearing, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

#### GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH FEDERAL FUNDING EXCEEDS STATE FUNDING

Pub. L. 111-213, §2(a), July 29, 2010, 124 Stat. 2343, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the conditions described in paragraph (2) are satisfied with respect to a State, in awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 722(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(c))) in the State, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration—

“(A) in fiscal year 2010—

“(i) shall distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 722(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

“(ii) shall disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

“(B) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, shall disregard any funds provided to such centers

from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

“(2) CONDITIONS.—The conditions described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) The Commissioner receives a request from the State, not later than August 5, 2010, jointly signed by the State’s designated State unit (referred to in section 704(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c(c))) and the State’s Statewide Independent Living Council (established under section 705 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796d)), for the Commissioner to disregard any funds provided to centers for independent living in the State from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).

“(B) The Commissioner is not conducting a competition to establish a new part C center for independent living with funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in the State.”

#### § 796f-2. Grants to centers for independent living in States in which State funding equals or exceeds Federal funding

##### (a) Establishment

##### (1) In general

##### (A) Initial year

##### (i) Determination

The director of a designated State unit, as provided in paragraph (2), or the Administrator, as provided in paragraph (3), shall award grants under this section for an initial fiscal year if the Administrator determines that the amount of State funds that were earmarked by a State for a preceding fiscal year to support the general operation of centers for independent living meeting the requirements of this subpart equaled or exceeded the amount of funds allotted to the State under subsection (c) or (d) of section 796f of this title for such year.

##### (ii) Grants

The director of a designated State unit or the Administrator, as appropriate, shall award such grants, from the amount of funds so allotted for the initial fiscal year, to eligible agencies in the State for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of centers for independent living that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title.

##### (iii) Regulation

The Administrator shall by regulation specify the preceding fiscal year with respect to which the Administrator will make the determinations described in clause (i) and subparagraph (B), making such adjustments as may be necessary to accommodate State funding cycles such as 2-year funding cycles or State fiscal years that do not coincide with the Federal fiscal year.

##### (B) Subsequent years

For each year subsequent to the initial fiscal year described in subparagraph (A), the

director of the designated State unit shall continue to have the authority to award such grants under this section if the Administrator determines that the State continues to earmark the amount of State funds described in subparagraph (A)(i). If the State does not continue to earmark such an amount for a fiscal year, the State shall be ineligible to make grants under this section after a final year following such fiscal year, as defined in accordance with regulations established by the Administrator, and for each subsequent fiscal year.

**(2) Grants by designated State units**

In order for the designated State unit to be eligible to award the grants described in paragraph (1) and carry out this section for a fiscal year with respect to a State, the designated State agency shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, and in such manner as the Administrator may require, including information about the amount of State funds described in paragraph (1) for the preceding fiscal year. If the Administrator makes a determination described in subparagraph (A)(i) or (B), as appropriate, of paragraph (1), the Administrator shall approve the application and designate the director of the designated State unit to award the grant and carry out this section.

**(3) Grants by Administrator**

If the designated State agency of a State described in paragraph (1) does not submit and obtain approval of an application under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall award the grant described in paragraph (1) to eligible agencies in the State in accordance with section 796f-1 of this title.

**(b) Eligible agencies**

In any State in which the Administrator has approved the State plan required by section 796c of this title, the director of the designated State unit may award a grant under this section to any eligible agency that—

(1) has the power and authority to carry out the purpose of this subpart and perform the functions set forth in section 796f-4 of this title within a community and to receive and administer funds under this subpart, funds and contributions from private or public sources that may be used in support of a center for independent living, and funds from other public and private programs;

(2) is determined by the director to be able to plan, conduct, administer, and evaluate a center for independent living, consistent with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title; and

(3) submits an application to the director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the head of the designated State unit may require.

**(c) Existing eligible agencies**

In the administration of the provisions of this section, the director of the designated State unit shall award grants for a fiscal year under this section to any eligible agency that has been awarded a grant under this subpart for the pre-

ceding fiscal year, unless the director makes a finding that the agency involved fails to comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title.

**(d) New centers for independent living**

**(1) In general**

If there is no center for independent living serving a region of the State or the region is unserved or underserved, and the increase in the allotment of the State is sufficient to support an additional center for independent living in the State, the director of the designated State unit may award a grant under this section from among eligible agencies, consistent with the provisions of the State plan under section 796c of this title setting forth the design of the State for establishing a statewide network of centers for independent living.

**(2) Selection**

In selecting from among eligible agencies in awarding a grant under this subpart for a new center for independent living—

(A) the director of the designated State unit and the chairperson of, or other individual designated by, the Statewide Independent Living Council acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council, shall jointly appoint a peer review committee that shall rank applications in accordance with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title and criteria jointly established by such director and such chairperson or individual;

(B) the peer review committee shall consider the ability of each such applicant to operate a center for independent living, and shall recommend an applicant to receive a grant under this section, based on—

(i) evidence of the need for a center for independent living, consistent with the State plan;

(ii) any past performance of such applicant in providing services comparable to independent living services;

(iii) the plan for complying with, or demonstrated success in complying with, the standards and the assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title;

(iv) the quality of key personnel of the applicant and the involvement of individuals with significant disabilities by the applicant;

(v) the budgets and cost-effectiveness of the applicant;

(vi) the evaluation plan of the applicant; and

(vii) the ability of such applicant to carry out the plans; and

(C) the director of the designated State unit shall award the grant on the basis of the recommendations of the peer review committee if the actions of the committee are consistent with Federal and State law.

**(3) Current centers**

Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), a center for independent living that receives assistance under subpart 2 for a fiscal year shall be eligible for a grant for the subsequent fiscal year under this subsection.

**(e) Order of priorities**

Unless the director of the designated State unit and the chairperson of the Council or other individual designated by the Council acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council jointly agree on another order of priority, the director shall be guided by the following order of priorities in allocating funds among centers for independent living within a State, to the extent funds are available:

(1) The director of the designated State unit shall support existing centers for independent living, as described in subsection (c), that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title, at the level of funding for the previous year.

(2) The director of the designated State unit shall provide for a cost-of-living increase for such existing centers for independent living.

(3) The director of the designated State unit shall fund new centers for independent living, as described in subsection (d), that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title.

**(f) Nonresidential agencies**

A center that provides or manages residential housing after October 1, 1994, shall not be considered to be an eligible agency under this section.

**(g) Review****(1) In general**

The director of the designated State unit shall periodically review each center receiving funds under this section to determine whether such center is in compliance with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title. If the director of the designated State unit determines that any center receiving funds under this section is not in compliance with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f-4 of this title, the director of the designated State unit shall immediately notify such center that it is out of compliance.

**(2) Enforcement**

The director of the designated State unit shall terminate all funds under this section to such center 90 days after—

- (A) the date of such notification; or
- (B) in the case of a center that requests an appeal under subsection (i), the date of any final decision under subsection (i),

unless the center submits a plan to achieve compliance within 90 days and such plan is approved by the director, or if appealed, by the Administrator.

**(h) Onsite compliance review**

The director of the designated State unit shall annually conduct onsite compliance reviews of at least 15 percent of the centers for independent living that receive funding under this section in the State. Each team that conducts onsite compliance review of centers for independent living shall include at least one person who is not an employee of the designated State agency, who has experience in the operation of centers for independent living, and who is jointly selected by the director of the designated State unit and

the chairperson of or other individual designated by the Council acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council. A copy of this review shall be provided to the Administrator.

**(i) Adverse actions**

If the director of the designated State unit proposes to take a significant adverse action against a center for independent living, the center may seek mediation and conciliation to be provided by an individual or individuals who are free of conflicts of interest identified by the chairperson of or other individual designated by the Council. If the issue is not resolved through the mediation and conciliation, the center may appeal the proposed adverse action to the Administrator for a final decision.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, §723, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, §410, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1231; amended Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, §482(b), July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1693.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 796f-2, Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, §723, as added Pub. L. 102-569, title VII, §701(2), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4458; amended Pub. L. 103-73, title I, §114(j), Aug. 11, 1993, 107 Stat. 731, related to grants to centers for independent living in States in which State funding equals or exceeds Federal funding, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

## AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(b)(1), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” wherever appearing in text.

Subsec. (a)(1)(A)(ii). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(b)(2)(A), inserted “of a designated State unit” after “director”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(b)(2)(B), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” in heading.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(b)(1), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(b)(3), substituted “grants for a fiscal year” for “grants” and “for the preceding fiscal year” for “by September 30, 1997”.

Subsecs. (g)(2), (h), (i). Pub. L. 113-128, §482(b)(1), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner”.

## GRANTS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN STATES IN WHICH STATE FUNDING EQUALS OR EXCEEDS FEDERAL FUNDING

Pub. L. 111-213, §2(b), July 29, 2010, 124 Stat. 2344, provided that: “In awarding funds to existing centers for independent living (described in section 723(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(c))) in a State, the director of the designated State unit that has approval to make such awards—

“(1) in fiscal year 2010—

“(A) may distribute among such centers funds appropriated for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.) by any Act other than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 [Pub. L. 111-5] in the same proportion as such funds were distributed among such centers in the State in fiscal year 2009, notwithstanding section 723(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2(e)) and any contrary provision of a State plan submitted under section 704 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796c); and

“(B) may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.); and

“(2) in fiscal year 2011 and subsequent fiscal years, may disregard any funds provided to such centers from funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the centers for independent living program under part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.)”

### § 796f-3. Centers operated by State agencies

A State that receives assistance for fiscal year 2015 with respect to a center in accordance with subsection (a) of this section (as in effect on the day before July 22, 2014) may continue to receive assistance under this subpart for fiscal year 2015 or a succeeding fiscal year if, for such fiscal year—

(1) no nonprofit private agency—

(A) submits an acceptable application to operate a center for independent living for the fiscal year before a date specified by the Administrator; and

(B) obtains approval of the application under section 796f-1 or 796f-2 of this title; or

(2) after funding all applications so submitted and approved, the Administrator determines that funds remain available to provide such assistance.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, § 724, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 410, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1234; amended Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, § 482(c), July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1693.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 796f-3, Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, § 724, as added Pub. L. 102-569, title VII, § 701(2), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4461; amended Pub. L. 103-73, title I, § 114(k), Aug. 11, 1993, 107 Stat. 731, related to centers operated by State agencies, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

#### AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113-128, § 482(c)(1), in introductory provisions, substituted “2015” for “1993” in two places and “July 22, 2014” for “August 7, 1998”.

Pars. (1)(A), (2). Pub. L. 113-128, § 482(c)(2), substituted “Administrator” for “Commissioner”.

### § 796f-4. Standards and assurances for centers for independent living

#### (a) In general

Each center for independent living that receives assistance under this subpart shall comply with the standards set out in subsection (b) and provide and comply with the assurances set out in subsection (c) in order to ensure that all programs and activities under this subpart are planned, conducted, administered, and evaluated in a manner consistent with the purposes of this part and the objective of providing assistance effectively and efficiently.

#### (b) Standards

##### (1) Philosophy

The center shall promote and practice the independent living philosophy of—

(A) consumer control of the center regarding decisionmaking, service delivery, management, and establishment of the policy and direction of the center;

(B) self-help and self-advocacy;

(C) development of peer relationships and peer role models; and

(D) equal access for individuals with significant disabilities, within their communities, to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities, whether public or private and regardless of the funding source.

#### (2) Provision of services

The center shall provide services to individuals with a range of significant disabilities. The center shall provide services on a cross-disability basis (for individuals with all different types of significant disabilities, including individuals with significant disabilities who are members of populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under this subchapter). Eligibility for services at any center for independent living shall be determined by the center, and shall not be based on the presence of any one or more specific significant disabilities.

#### (3) Independent living goals

The center shall facilitate the development and achievement of independent living goals selected by individuals with significant disabilities who seek such assistance by the center.

#### (4) Community options

The center shall work to increase the availability and improve the quality of community options for independent living in order to facilitate the development and achievement of independent living goals by individuals with significant disabilities.

#### (5) Independent living core services

The center shall provide independent living core services and, as appropriate, a combination of any other independent living services.

#### (6) Activities to increase community capacity

The center shall conduct activities to increase the capacity of communities within the service area of the center to meet the needs of individuals with significant disabilities.

#### (7) Resource development activities

The center shall conduct resource development activities to obtain funding from sources other than this part.

#### (c) Assurances

The eligible agency shall provide at such time and in such manner as the Administrator may require, such satisfactory assurances as the Administrator may require, including satisfactory assurances that—

(1) the applicant is an eligible agency;

(2) the center will be designed and operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities, including an assurance that the center will have a Board that is the principal governing body of the center and a majority of which shall be composed of individuals with significant disabilities;

(3) the applicant will comply with the standards set forth in subsection (b);

(4) the applicant will establish clear priorities through annual and 3-year program and financial planning objectives for the center, including overall goals or a mission for the center, a work plan for achieving the goals or