

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202**

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-08-03
DATE: February 20, 2008**

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
PROGRAMS
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

SUBJECT: Noncontinuation of Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program
Grants

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to Section 302(a) of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, and 34 CFR Part 389, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) currently funds 21 Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) grants in 10 Department of Education regions to provide continuing education to eligible agencies. Each federal region has two RCEP grants: one that focuses on state agencies, client assistance programs and centers for independent living; and one that focuses on community rehabilitation programs, which are private agencies that cooperate with the state vocational rehabilitation units in providing vocational rehabilitation services. RSA funds an additional RCEP that focuses on rehabilitation supervisors and administrators in Region IV.

In 2007, RSA requested public comment on its programs and services and conducted state monitoring and program improvement activities. RSA identified several program issues through these processes, including an increased need for technical assistance to state agencies to maximize the provision of services to individuals with disabilities. RSA

also identified potential efficiencies for the provision of continuing education services.

ACTION:

In order to balance the increased need for technical assistance to state agencies with the ongoing need for continuing education, RSA has decided to develop new ways to meet the technical assistance and continuing education needs of state agencies, client assistance programs, centers for independent living and community rehabilitation programs within the statutory and regulatory requirements of the RCEP. Based upon the foregoing, RSA will not continue to fund grants in this program at the end of the current budget period pursuant to 34 CFR 75.253(a)(4), which gives RSA the authority to continue to fund those projects that are in the “best interest of the Federal Government.” On January 29, 2008, RSA published a Notice of Proposed Priority in the Federal Register (73 FR 5179) that provides additional details and seeks public comment on the proposed changes to the RCEP. Upon completion of the comment period, RSA intends to publish a Notice of Final Priority.

Edward Anthony, Ph. D.
Delegated the authority to perform
The functions of Commissioner for
Rehabilitation Services Administration

cc: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
National Council of State Agencies for the Blind
National Council on Rehabilitation Education
National Council on Independent Living