

Department of Education
REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request

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*State tables reflecting final 2013 allocations and 2014 estimates will be posted on the Department's Web page at:
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/index.html#update>

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, \$3,655,577,000, of which \$3,302,053,000 shall be for grants for vocational rehabilitation services under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act:¹ Provided, That, funds available for the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program may be used to pay the continuation costs of grants awarded under section 304 of the Rehabilitation Act:² Provided further, That no State's allocation under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program shall be less than the total amount allocated to the State in fiscal year 2013 under sections 110(a) and 622(a) of the Rehabilitation Act:³ Provided further, That section 302(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act shall not apply to funds provided under section 302 of such Act:⁴ Provided further, That the Secretary may use amounts provided in this Act that remain available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to States pursuant to section 110(b) of the Rehabilitation Act for innovative activities aimed at improving the outcomes of individuals with disabilities as defined in section 7(20)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act, including activities aimed at improving the education, and post-school outcomes of children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families that may result in long-term improvement in the SSI child recipient's economic status and self-sufficiency:⁵ Provided further, That States may award subgrants for a portion of the funds to other public and private, non-profit entities: Provided further, That any funds made available subsequent to reallocation for innovative activities aimed at improving the outcomes of individuals with disabilities shall remain available until September 30, 2015:⁶ Provided further, That not to exceed \$20,000,000 of the amounts made available in the fourth proviso may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects:⁷ Provided further, That, with respect to the previous proviso, any funds obligated for such projects shall remain available for disbursement until expended, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1552(a):⁸ Provided further, That, with

respect to the sixth proviso, any deobligated funds from such projects shall immediately be available for programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act⁹.

NOTE

A full-year 2013 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. 112-175). The amounts included for 2013 reflect the annualized level 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
¹ <u>...of which \$3,302,053,000 shall be for grants for vocational rehabilitation services under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act:</u>	This proposed language earmarks funds provided for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program.
² <u>Provided, That, funds available for the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program may be used to pay the continuation costs of grants awarded under section 304 of the Rehabilitation Act:</u>	This proposed language would allow the Secretary to reserve the amount needed to pay the continuation costs of grants awarded under the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker program from the VR State Grants program.
³ <u>Provided further, That no State's allocation under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program shall be less than the total amount allocated to the State in fiscal year 2013 under sections 110(a) and 622(a) of the Rehabilitation Act:</u>	This proposed language would ensure that a State's allocation under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program would not be less than the total amount allocated to the State in fiscal year 2013 for both the VR State Grants and the Supported Employment State Grants programs.
⁴ <u>Provided further, That section 302(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act shall not apply to funds provided under section 302 of such Act:</u>	This proposed language overrides the requirement that 15 percent of the Training program must be spent for in-service training of agency personnel. VR State agencies may use VR State grant funds for this purpose.
⁵ <u>Provided further, That the Secretary may use amounts provided in this Act that remain available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to States pursuant to section 110(b) of the Rehabilitation Act for innovative activities aimed at improving the outcomes of individuals with disabilities as defined in section 7(20)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act, including activities aimed at improving the education and post-school outcomes of children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families that may result in long-term improvement in the SSI child recipient's economic status and self-sufficiency:</u>	<p>This language would allow the Secretary to use amounts that remain available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to States under the VR State Grants program for innovative activities designed to improve the outcomes of individuals with disabilities, including, if needed, activities to improve the outcomes of children receiving SSI and their families under the PROMISE pilot program.</p> <p>The definition of individuals with disabilities referenced in the language (section 7(20)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act) is broad enough to include children with disabilities, including children receiving SSI.</p>

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes

Language Provision	Explanation
<p>⁶ <u>Provided further, That any funds made available subsequent to reallocation for activities aimed at improving the outcomes of [children receiving SSI and their families] individuals with disabilities shall remain available until September 30, 2015:</u></p>	<p>This language would permit the funds made available subsequent to reallocation of VR State Grant funds for activities aimed at improving the outcomes of individuals with disabilities to remain available for two years.</p>
<p>⁷ <u>Provided further, That not to exceed \$20,000,000 of the amounts made available in the fourth proviso may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects:</u></p>	<p>This language would permit the Secretary to use up to \$20,000,000 of the funds used for innovative activities designed to improve the outcomes of individuals with disabilities for performance-based awards under the Pay for Success program.</p>
<p>⁸ <u>Provided further, That, with respect to the previous proviso, any funds obligated for such projects shall remain available for disbursement until expended, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1552(a):</u></p>	<p>This language would permit funds designated by the Secretary for the Pay for Success projects to remain available until expended.</p>
<p>⁹ <u>Provided further, That, with respect to the sixth proviso, any deobligated funds from such projects shall immediately be available for programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act.</u></p>	<p>This language requires any deobligated funds of the Pay for Success projects to be available for programs under the Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account.</p>

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Appropriation Adjustments and Transfers
(dollars in thousands)

Appropriation/Adjustments/Transfers	2012	2013	2014
Discretionary:			
Appropriation	\$390,307	\$389,569	\$353,524
Across-the-board reduction (P.L. 112-74)	-738	0	0
Across-the-board increase (P.L. 112-175).....	<u>0</u>	<u>+2,384</u>	<u>0</u>
Total, adjusted discretionary appropriation.....	389,569	391,953	353,524
Mandatory:			
Appropriation.....	3,121,712	3,230,972	3,302,053
Unobligated balance expiring.....	-95,370		
Transfer between expired and unexpired accounts ...	<u>0</u>	<u>+95,370</u>	<u>0</u>
Total, comparable discretionary and mandatory appropriation.....	3,511,281	3,718,295	3,655,577
Total, budget authority.....	3,511,281	3,718,295	3,655,577

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Summary of Changes (dollars in thousands)

2013	\$3,620,541 ¹
2014	<u>3,655,577</u>
Net change.....	-35,036

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175

Increases:	<u>2013 base</u>	<u>Change from base</u>
<u>Program:</u>		
Increase in funding for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State grants.	\$3,230,972	+\$71,081
Increase in funding for Demonstration and Training programs to support technical assistance activities.	5,325	+425
Increase in funding for NIDDR to support research activities focusing on employment.	108,817	<u>+1,183</u>
Subtotal, increases		<u>72,689</u>
 Decreases:		
<u>Program:</u>		
Eliminates funding for the Supported Employment State grants program consistent with the Administration's proposal to reduce duplication of effort and administrative costs and improve efficiency and accountability.	29,068	-29,068
Eliminates funding for the Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers program consistent with the Administration's proposal to reduce duplication of effort and administrative costs.	1,262	-1,262
Decrease in funding for the Training program consistent with the Administration's proposal to reduce administrative costs, streamline program administration, and improve efficiency and accountability.	35,515	-5,327
Decrease reflects the elimination of funding for a separate alternative financing program that was authorized in the 2012 appropriations language.	32,836	<u>-1,996</u>
Subtotal, decreases		-37,653
Net change		+ 35,036

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Authorizing Legislation
(dollars in thousands)

Activity	2013 Authorized	2013 Estimate	2014 Authorized	2014 Request
Vocational rehabilitation (VR) State grants:				
Grants to States (RA-I A, B-110 and 111)	0 ^{1,2}	\$3,191,748	0 ^{1,3}	\$3,261,966
Grants for Indians (RA-I-C)	--- ^{2,4}	39,224	--- ^{3,4}	40,087
Client assistance State grants (RA-I-112)	0 ¹	12,240	0 ¹	12,240
Supported employment State grants (RA-VI-B)	0 ⁵	29,068	0 ⁵	0
Migrant and seasonal farmworkers (RA-III-304)	0 ⁵	1,262	0 ⁵	0
Training (RA-III-302(a)-(g)(2),(h)-(i))	0 ¹	35,515	0 ¹	30,188
Demonstration and training programs (RA-III-303)	0 ¹	5,325	0 ¹	5,750
Independent living (IL):				
State grants (RA-VII-1-B)	0 ¹	23,359	0 ¹	23,359
Centers (RA-VII-1-C)	0 ¹	79,953	0 ¹	79,953
Services for older blind individuals (RA-VII-2)	0 ¹	34,018	0 ¹	34,018
Protection and advocacy of individual rights (RA-V-509)	0 ¹	18,031	0 ¹	18,031
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (RA-II)	0 ¹	108,817	0 ¹	110,000
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNCA)	0 ¹	9,145	0 ¹	9,145
Assistive technology (ATA):				
Assistive technology programs (ATA-4,5, and 6)	0 ⁶	30,840	0 ⁶	30,840
Alternative financing programs	<u>0 ⁷</u>	<u>1,996</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total definite authorization	0		0	
Total discretionary appropriation		389,569		353,524

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REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Authorizing Legislation—continued
(dollars in thousands)

Activity	2013 Authorized	2013 Estimate	2014 Authorized	2014 Request
Total mandatory appropriation		3,230,972		3,302,053
Total appropriation		3,620,541		3,655,577
Portion of request not authorized				3,655,577
Total appropriation including 0.612 percent ATB discretionary increase		3,622,925		

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¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program is authorized in FY 2013 through appropriations language. Continued funding is proposed for this program in FY 2014 under appropriations language.

² The authorizing legislation specifies that the amount to be appropriated for VR State grants for a fiscal year be at least at the level of the prior fiscal year increased by the 12-month percentage change from October to October in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPIU). In FY 2013, this amount was \$3,230,972 thousand.

³ The authorizing legislation specifies that the amount to be appropriated for a fiscal year be at least the level of the prior fiscal year increased by the 12-month percentage change from October to October in the CPIU. In FY 2014, this amount is \$3,302,053 thousand.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration is not proposing to authorize this program through appropriations language for FY 2013.

⁶ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2011; this program is proposed for authorization in FY 2014 through appropriations language. Up to \$1,235 thousand may be used for National Activities, unless the amount available for AT State grants exceeds \$20,953,534, in which case up to \$1,900 thousand may be used for National Activities.

⁷ The FY 2012 appropriation authorized funds to support a separate competitive alternative financing program.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Appropriations History (dollars in thousands)

Year	Budget Estimate to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriation
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	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	3,242,512
2008	3,184,263	3,279,743	3,286,942	3,276,768
2009	3,218,264	3,387,443 ²	3,379,109 ²	3,387,762
Recovery Act Supplemental (PL 111-5)	0	700,000	610,000	680,000
2010	3,500,735	3,504,305	3,507,322 ³	3,506,861
2011	3,565,326	3,501,766 ⁴	3,542,510 ³	3,474,718 ⁵
2012	3,541,111	3,522,686 ⁶	3,511,735 ⁶	3,511,281
2013	3,517,710	3,511,281 ⁷	3,626,380 ⁷	3,622,925 ⁸
2014	3,655,577			

¹ This account operated under a full-year continuing resolution (P.L. 110-5). House and Senate Allowance amounts are shown as N/A (Not Available) because neither body passed a separate appropriations bill.

² The levels for the House and Senate allowances reflect action on the regular annual 2009 appropriations bill, which proceeded in the 110th Congress only through the House Subcommittee and the Senate Committee.

³ The levels for the Senate allowance reflects Committee action only.

⁴ The levels for the House allowance reflects the House-passed full-year continuing resolution.

⁵ The level for appropriation reflects the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10).

⁶ The level for the House allowance reflects an introduced bill and the level for the Senate allowance reflects Senate Committee action only.

⁷ The level for the House and Senate allowances reflect action on the regular annual 2013 appropriations bill, which proceeded in the 112th Congress only through the House Subcommittee and the Senate Committee.

⁸ The amount shown includes the 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided by P.L. 112-175, in effect through March 27, 2013.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Significant Items in FY 2013 Appropriations Reports

Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants - PROMISE

Senate: Report 112-176. The Committee bill continues language, as requested by the Administration, allowing unmatched funds in excess of any funds requested during the reallocation process to be available for the PROMISE program described under the Special Education account and SSA. Such funds used for the PROMISE program will remain available for obligation through September 30, 2014. As requested by the Administration, the Committee bill also includes new bill language that allows a portion of the funds provided under the PROMISE program to be used for Pay for Success awards, which are described in the highlights section in the introduction to the Committee report. The Committee expects to be notified prior to the issuance of any notice related to Pay for Success activity.

Response: Grants under the Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI (PROMISE) program will be awarded in fiscal year 2013 from fiscal year 2012 funds that remained available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to States under the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program. The grant funds, which remain available for Federal obligation until September 30, 2013 under the authority provided in the fiscal year 2012 appropriations language, will not be used for Pay for Success activities. VR funds that are unobligated at the end of FY 2013 will be made available to help support PROMISE project continuation costs.

Demonstration and Training Programs

Senate: Report 112-176. The Committee recommendation includes \$750,000 to support a new competition for parent training and information centers, which provide information and training on transition planning, the adult service system, and strategies that prepare youth for successful employment, postsecondary education, and independent living outcomes. The Committee expects RSA to coordinate with OSEP in carrying out this activity.

Response: The funds provided for the Demonstration and Training programs in fiscal year 2013 are only sufficient to cover the continuation costs of ongoing activities. Therefore, funds are not available for new awards, including awards for parent training and information centers in fiscal year 2013. The Department will use the funds appropriated to support continuation costs under the Demonstration and Training Programs; no new grant competitions will be conducted in fiscal year 2013.

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(in thousands of dollars)

Account, Program and Activity	Category Code	2012 Appropriation	2013 Appropriation	2014 President's Budget	2014 President's Budget Compared to 2012 Appropriation	
					Amount	Percent
Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research						
1. Vocational rehabilitation (VR) State grants:						
(a) Grants to States (RA Title I-A, sections 110 and 111)	M	3,083,814	3,191,748	3,261,966	178,152	5.777%
(b) Grants to Indians (RA Title I-C)	M	37,898	39,224	40,087	2,189	5.776%
Mandatory baseline	M	3,121,712	3,230,972	3,302,053	180,341	5.777%
2. Client assistance State grants (RA section 112)	D	12,240	12,240	12,240	0	0.000%
3. Supported employment State grants (RA VI-B)	D	29,068	29,068	0	(29,068)	-100.000%
4. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers (RA section 304)	D	1,262	1,262	0	(1,262)	-100.000%
5. Training (RA section 302(a)-(g)(2), (h)-(i))	D	35,515	35,515	30,188	(5,327)	-14.999%
6. Demonstration and training programs (RA section 303)	D	5,325	5,325	5,750	425	7.981%
7. Independent living (RA VII):						
(a) State grants (Chapter 1, Part B)	D	23,359	23,359	23,359	0	0.000%
(b) Centers (Chapter 1, Part C)	D	79,953	79,953	79,953	0	0.000%
(c) Services for older blind individuals (Chapter 2)	D	34,018	34,018	34,018	0	0.000%
Subtotal		137,330	137,330	137,330	0	0.000%
8. Protection and advocacy of individual rights (RA section 509)	D	18,031	18,031	18,031	0	0.000%
9. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (RA II)	D	108,817	108,817	110,000	1,183	1.087%
10. Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNCA)	D	9,145	9,145	9,145	0	0.000%
11. Assistive technology programs (ATA, sections 4,5, and 6)	D	32,836	32,836	30,840	(1,996)	-6.079%
Subtotal		389,569	389,569	353,524	(36,045)	-9.253%
Total		3,511,281	3,620,541	3,655,577	144,296	4.109%
Discretionary	D	389,569	389,569	353,524	(36,045)	-9.253%
Mandatory baseline	M	3,121,712	3,230,972	3,302,053	180,341	5.777%
Across-the-board 0.612% increase applied to discretionary appropriation, provided in P.L. 112-175.			2,384			
Total, Discretionary Appropriation		389,569	391,953	353,524	(36,045)	-9.253%

NOTES: D = discretionary program, M = mandatory program; FY = fiscal year

FY 2013 discretionary appropriation amounts are based on P.L. 112-175, the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013, that provided appropriations through March 27, 2013. FY 2013 mandatory amounts are either specifically authorized levels, or are based on FY 2013 President's Budget Policy, updated for more recent estimates of mandatory costs, or FY 2014 President's Budget Policy, as applicable.

Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Summary of Request

People with disabilities represent a vital and integral part of our society. As a Nation, our goals include independence, equal opportunity, and productivity for Americans with disabilities, many of whom require a range of services and supports in order to learn, work productively and live in the community. Numerous pieces of federal legislation establish policies to meet these requirements. We recognize that once these supports and services are provided, people with disabilities contribute to the fabric of our country just like everyone else.

The Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account supports grants to States for vocational rehabilitation (VR) and independent living services and a variety of smaller research, demonstration, and service programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act, as well programs authorized under the Helen Keller National Center Act and the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (the AT Act). The Administration's 2014 request for this account provides \$3.7 billion to support comprehensive and coordinated vocational rehabilitation and independent living services for individuals with disabilities through research, training, demonstration, technical assistance, evaluation, and direct service programs.

The \$3.3 billion request for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program includes an increase of \$71.081 million over the fiscal year 2013 mandatory level, to assist States and tribal governments to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. The request includes the CPIU adjustment specified in the authorizing statute, which would more than offset the reduction in funds (\$35 million) resulting from the Administration's proposal to eliminate separate funding authorities for the smaller VR-related programs under the Rehabilitation Act. Direct service programs proposed for elimination include Supported Employment State Grants and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers programs. The Administration is also proposing language that would override the requirement to set aside the portion of the Training program funds for grants to State VR agencies to support in-service training for agency personnel since in-service training can be provided through the VR State Grants program.

The Administration believes that the proposed eliminations would reduce duplication of effort and administrative costs, streamline program administration at the Federal and local levels, and improve accountability. To lessen the potential impact of this proposal, the Administration is proposing language that would ensure that no State's fiscal year 2014 allocation under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program would be less than the total amount allocated to a State under the distribution formulas for the VR State grants program and the Supported Employment State Grants program for fiscal year 2013. In addition, the Administration is seeking authority to pay the fiscal year 2014 continuation costs of the remaining four Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers projects from funds appropriated for the VR State Grants program.

The 2014 request also includes language that would allow the Secretary to use amounts under the VR State Grants program that would otherwise lapse to support innovative activities aimed at improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities, including activities under the Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) program, and that would provide authority for these funds to remain available for Federal obligation until September 30, 2015.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Summary of Request

The \$110 million request for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research includes an increase of \$1.2 million over the 2012 level for research activities in the employment domain under a new regulatory framework that NIDRR intends to have in place by 2014.

The request for the Demonstration and Training programs is \$5.8 million, \$425,000 above the fiscal 2012 level, to support model demonstrations, technical assistance, and projects designed to improve program performance and the delivery of vocational rehabilitation and independent living services.

The Administration's request of \$30.2 million for the Training program includes a reduction of \$5.3 million from the 2012 level, reflecting the elimination of the funding reservation for the In-Service Training program.

The \$30.8 million request for Assistive Technology (AT) programs includes \$25.6 million for the AT State grant program, \$4.3 million for the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology program, and \$1.0 million for technical assistance required under the AT Act's National Activities authority. The proposed decrease reflects the elimination of funding for a separate alternative financing program that was authorized in the 2012 appropriations language.

All other programs in the Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research account would be maintained at the 2012 level. The Administration believes that this level will provide sufficient funds for the activities in these programs.

The Administration continues to look for ways to better coordinate services and improve outcomes for people with disabilities. Since 2012, the Departments of Education and Labor have instituted a formal process to review current investments, plan future ones, and share information about common goals and grantees. These discussions will lead to more frequent joint grant solicitations, reduce duplication, and ensure the best use of limited funding with an eye towards improving outcomes for people with disabilities.

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 2014, this amount would total \$2.8 million, and to the extent possible, the requirement will be implemented by reserving 1 percent of the funds provided for each of the specified programs.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹ ²

Budget Authority:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2013</u>
State grants	\$3,083,814	\$3,191,748	\$3,261,966	+\$70,218
Indian set-aside	<u>37,898</u>	<u>39,224</u>	<u>40,087</u>	<u>+863</u>
Total	3,121,712	3,230,972	3,302,053	+71,081

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² The authorizing statute specifies that the amount to be appropriated for a fiscal year be at least the level of the prior fiscal year increased by the 12-month percentage change from October to October in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPIU). In FY 2014 this amount is \$3,302,053 thousand. The authorizing statute 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.

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 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 the program to be funded at least at the prior year level, and increased by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPIU) over the past year. States

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Vocational rehabilitation State grants

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.

An allotment formula that takes into account population and per capita income is used to distribute funds among the States. The fiscal year 2012 State distributions were based on the April 1, 2010 Census data released on December 21, 2010. The fiscal year 2013 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2011 estimates published in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2012 estimates published on December 20, 2012. Per capita income averages for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 were based on Bureau of Economic Analysis revised estimates for calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009 as reported by the Department of Commerce as September 22, 2011. Per capita income averages for fiscal year 2014 are based on Bureau of Economic Analysis revised estimates for calendar years 2009, 2010, and 2011 as reported by the Department of Commerce on September 25, 2012.

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 Grants program for innovation and expansion activities authorized in section 101(a)(18).

Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act (the Act) requires the establishment of evaluation standards and performance indicators for the VR program that include outcome and related measures of program performance. Each State VR agency must report program performance data 60 days after the end of each fiscal year that is used 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.

The 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.

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

	(dollars in thousands)
2009.....	\$2,974,635
Recovery Act	540,000
2010.....	3,084,696
2011.....	3,084,696
2012.....	3,121,712
2013.....	3,230,972

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$3.302 billion, an increase of \$71.081 million over the fiscal year 2013 mandatory level, to assist States and tribal governments to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. Of the amount requested, \$40.087 million would be set aside to support grants under the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) program. The request includes the CPIU adjustment specified in the authorizing statute, which would more than offset the reduction in funds (\$35 million) resulting from the Administration's proposal to eliminate separate funding authorities for the smaller VR-related programs under the Rehabilitation Act.

The Administration believes that the proposed eliminations would reduce duplication of effort and administrative costs, streamline program administration at the Federal and local level, and improve efficiency and accountability. Direct service programs proposed for elimination include Supported Employment State Grants and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers programs. In addition, the Administration is proposing language that would override the requirement in section 302(g)(3) to set-aside 15 percent of the funds appropriated for the Training program to support the training of existing State VR agency personnel. State VR agencies are able to use VR State Grant funds for training State agency personnel, consistent with the agency's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) plan under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act. The proposal would eliminate the administrative costs involved in making small grants each year to State VR agencies under the Training program and improve the efficiency of training delivered under the Rehabilitation Act.

To lessen the potential impact of this proposal, the Administration is proposing language that would ensure that no State's fiscal year 2014 allocation under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program would be less than the total amount allocated to a State under the distribution formulas for the VR State grants program and the Supported Employment State Grants program for fiscal year 2013. The Administration is also seeking authority to pay the final year of continuation costs for the remaining four Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers projects from funds appropriated for the VR State Grants program.

The direct service programs proposed for elimination have the primary purpose of assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. All of the individuals receiving supported employment services with funds provided under the State Supported Employment program also receive services through the VR program. In addition, all of the individuals receiving services

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under the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program are eligible to receive VR services and most of these individuals are currently receiving these services. The Administration believes that the benefits of this proposal outweigh the costs of any short term disruption that may be encountered as a result of this proposal.

The Administration is also examining options that will help to ensure that State agencies continue to invest appropriate levels of their resources in providing supported employment services. All States that have significant numbers of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including States that currently have projects funded under the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program, would be encouraged to use their VR funds to carry out the strategies and practices that have been found to be effective in reaching out to this population.

Although many people with disabilities are obtaining jobs and remaining employed, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is still unacceptably high. For example, in its *2009 Annual Disability Status Report* (2011), the Cornell University Rehabilitation and Research Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics reported results from the 2009 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) indicating that of those aged 21-64 (U.S. working age population), 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 (36.0 percent versus 76.8 percent respectively) and that only 22.5 percent of working-age individuals with disabilities were working full-time/full-year.

The VR State Grants 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. Nationally, there are about 1 million individuals with disabilities in various phases of the vocational rehabilitation process within the VR system, about 93 percent of whom are individuals with significant disabilities. 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." For fiscal year 2013, the State Plans of 37 of the 80 State VR agencies documented that the agency had established an order of selection, one more agency than in fiscal year 2012. This total includes 62.5 percent of the general and combined State VR agencies and 8 percent of the State VR agencies serving blind individuals. In fiscal year 2012, preliminary waiting list data from the RSA Cumulative Caseload Report show that there were about 77,605 individuals with disabilities on the waiting list for VR services at some point during the fiscal year, about 163 fewer than in fiscal year 2011. At the end of fiscal year 2012, VR agencies reported a total of 29,369 individuals remaining on waiting lists (about 4,833 fewer than in 2011), 73 percent of whom were individuals with significant disabilities.

In addition, the number of individuals on a waiting list varies considerably among State agencies operating under an order of selection. For example, only 25 of the 30 agencies that identified in the Caseload Report that they were operating under an order of selection in fiscal year 2012 reported that there were individuals on the waiting list during the fiscal year. At the end of fiscal year 2012, 5 agencies had fewer than 30 individuals on a waiting list, while 11 agencies had lists that ranged from over 1,287 to 4,401 individuals. As compared to the end of fiscal year 2011, thirteen agencies had significantly fewer individuals on waiting lists at the end of fiscal year 2012, while four VR agencies reported significant increases in the number of individuals on their waiting lists in fiscal year 2012.

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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 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 traditional reimbursement system, including the option to elect either payment method on a case-by-case basis. Under the traditional 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 2012, earnings in excess of \$1,010 per month for non-blind disabled beneficiaries and \$1,690 per month for blind beneficiaries) for at least 9 consecutive months. As of September 27, 2012, about 252,595 Ticket-Holders are working with a State VR agency under the traditional reimbursement arrangement and have their tickets “in use” with the State VR agency. In addition, about 38 percent of the 62,430 tickets that have been assigned have been assigned to State VR agencies and about 62 percent have been assigned to other employment networks.

Disability Innovation Fund

The fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill included language that allows the Secretary to use amounts that remain available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to States under the VR State Grants program pursuant to section 110(b) of the Rehabilitation Act for improving the education and employment outcomes of children receiving SSI and their families. In fiscal year 2013, these funds, which remain available for Federal obligation until September 30, 2013, will be used to support State model demonstration projects under the Promoting Readiness of Minors in Social Security Income (PROMISE) pilot program. PROMISE is a joint initiative with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor. The Department will award a small number of grants to States that will develop partnerships and implement interventions designed to improve the provision and coordination of services and supports for children who receive SSI and their families and achieve outcomes that lead to increased economic self-sufficiency and a reduction in their dependence on SSI payments. Projects will be required to collaborate with the national evaluation of PROMISE to be conducted under a contract with SSA, in collaboration with the Department and use a rigorous evaluation design to guide implementation, gather evidence, and validate outcomes.

The Administration believes that building effective partnerships will increase the likelihood of success of these projects by improving the coordination of services and integrating multiple funding sources and other resources, as well as contributing to the States’ ability to effectively serve these individuals. We also believe that focusing on the needs of families may help to further the long-term goal of independence and self-sufficiency for these SSI beneficiaries. In particular, we are interested in testing whether intervening with the child and family at an earlier age (14 to 16 years of age) will lead to better outcomes. For this reason, each PROMISE project must have several core features: (1) strong and effective partnerships with agencies responsible for programs that play a key role in providing services to the target populations; (2) a plan to provide a model set of coordinated services, supports, and practices targeted to the needs of child recipients of SSI and their families; and (3) the capacity to achieve results, including the

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capacity to implement the required project design and to collect the data needed to test and evaluate the results of the project.

The President's fiscal year 2013 request included language that would allow the Secretary to use funds that remain available subsequent to the reallocation of funds to State VR agencies to support innovative activities aimed at improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities, including activities under the PROMISE program, and provide authority for the funds to remain available for Federal obligation until September 30, 2014. The Administration is proposing similar language in the FY 2014 request. After providing funds that may be needed to support the PROMISE program, the Department proposes to set aside \$5 million of the VR funds that remain available at the end of fiscal year 2014 to support cross-agency projects to improve educational, employment and other key outcomes for disconnected youth with disabilities, which may include Pay for Success projects and targeted technical assistance to support the development of Performance Partnership Pilots, and an unspecified amount to support an SSDI/SSI pilot demonstration project. The balance of funds would be used to support other innovative activities aimed at improving services and employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities, including individuals with disabilities under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program and individuals with disabilities served under workforce system through the Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF). The Administration is seeking authority to use up to \$20,000,000 of the funds for innovative activities to support Pay for Success awards, a multi-agency productivity initiative designed to employ "pay for performance" models to drive better results and greater cost-efficiency from Federal investments.

The President's fiscal year 2014 budget request includes a proposal to provide SSA with enhanced demonstration authority under the SSDI and SSI programs to test promising, research-based interventions with the potential to be scalable and cost-effective. This authority would allow for a range of new demonstration projects such as targeted early intervention efforts aimed at preserving the wellbeing and work ability of the non-beneficiaries most at risk of becoming severely impaired. SSA will work with the Department and other federal partners to develop possible demonstrations, such as incentivizing State efforts to utilize an array of State and federal programs/funding streams, which could include the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program, to provide early intervention services to at-risk populations.

Section 110(b)(2) of the Rehabilitation Act requires the Commissioner to make available for reallocation any funds that were allotted but not utilized by a State to carry out the VR program to States that will be able to use such additional amounts during the current or subsequent fiscal year, provided they are able to pay the non-Federal share of the cost in the fiscal year for which the funds are appropriated. VR funds become available for reallocation when a State is unable to provide the required non-Federal share (21.3 percent) for the total amount of funds allotted to the State under the formula distribution or when a State is unable to meet its maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement (and did not request or receive a full or partial waiver of its MOE requirement). Historically, the Department has been able to reallocate all of the funds that have been returned or unallotted due to MOE penalties because the request for additional funds exceeded the amounts available for reallocation. However, for the last three fiscal years (2010 -2012), the amount of funds that were returned by States, or remained unobligated due to MOE penalties, exceeded the additional funds requested due to the increase in the number of States unable to match the Federal funds. In fiscal year 2012, 16 of the 80 State VR agencies

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relinquished funds, 6 fewer than the previous year. As in fiscal year 2011, a large amount of the 2012 funds were relinquished by a small number of States with 5 VR agencies relinquishing 67 percent of the total \$143 million relinquished. However, fewer States requested additional funds in 2012 and the total amount of additional funds requested in the reallocation was less than in fiscal year 2011. In addition, a total of 22 States and territories did not meet their fiscal year 2011 maintenance of effort requirement resulting in \$42.6 million in penalty reductions taken from fiscal year 2012 funds. As a result, there is a total of \$95 million in fiscal 2012 funds that are available to be used to support grants and other related activities under the PROMISE program during fiscal year 2013. Absent authority provided in appropriations language, these annual funds would have lapsed and no longer be available for Federal obligation.

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services

In fiscal year 2014 the Administration would set aside \$40.087 million for grants under the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) program, an increase of \$863,000 over the amount to be set aside in FY 2013. The request would enable the Administration to provide support for about 90 tribal VR projects, including 53 new awards and 37 continuation awards. These funds 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.

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

Vocational rehabilitation State grants

<u>Measures</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Individuals receiving services ¹	1,011,665	1,011,665	1,011,665
Individuals with significant disabilities as a percent of all individuals receiving services	93%	93%	93%
Total number of cases closed	474,380	474,380	474,380
Individuals whose cases were closed and received VR services	323,275	323,275	323,275
Individuals achieving an employment outcome ²	180,200	180,200	180,200
Individuals with significant disabilities as a percent of all individuals achieving an employment outcome	91%	91%	91%

Notes: Data for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 are projections based on actual data for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and preliminary data for fiscal year 2012 from the RSA Quarterly Cumulative Caseload Report (RSA-113).

¹ Includes all eligible individuals who received VR services during the fiscal year.

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

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PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

American Indian vocational rehabilitation services

<u>Program funding</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Project funding:			
New project funding	0 ¹	0 ²	\$24,788
Continuation funding	\$37,898	\$39,224 ³	15,279
Peer review of new award applications	0		\$20
Number of projects:			
New projects	0	0	53
Continuation	<u>85</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>37</u>
Total projects	<u>85</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>90</u>

¹ No new awards were made in FY 2012. As a result of recent GAO report recommendations (GAO 12-348), the Department cancelled the program's FY 2012 competition and published a notice to extend the 8 projects that would have ended in FY 2012 for an additional year. In the report, the GAO made a finding in which it noted that the Department's interpretation of reservation used in determining eligibility under the AIVRS program raised substantial questions for GAO about the eligibility of State-recognized tribes that are not located on State reservations, but rather are located on a defined and contiguous area of land where there is a concentration of tribal members and in which the tribe is providing structured activities and services, such as the tribal service areas identified in a tribe's grant application. The GAO recommended that the Secretary review the Department's practices with respect to eligibility requirements and take appropriate action with respect to grants made to tribes that do not have Federal or State reservations. The extension will allow the Department time to regulate on the definition of "reservation" before a FY 2013 competition is held.

² No new awards are planned for FY 2013. The Department intends to publish a notice to extend the 8 projects that would have ended in FY 2012 for a second year and the 24 projects that would have ended in FY 2013 for an additional year.

³ About \$1,449 thousand of the FY 2013 funds will be used to support a portion of the FY 2014 continuation costs.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, 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 fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Fiscal year 2012 data for the VR State Grants and the American Indian VR Services programs will be available in April of 2013.

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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.*

Measure: 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
2009	78	61
2010	80	48
2011	70	54
2012	55	
2013	57	
2014	57	

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
2009	66	42
2010	67	54
2011	60	62
2012	60	
2013	62	
2014	62	

Additional information: 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 out of all the individuals who exit the VR program after receiving services. In order to pass indicator 1.2, a general or 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 2011, the target set for the group of general and combined State VR agencies was not met. However, performance on this measure improved for this group as compared to fiscal year 2010, with three additional agencies meeting the 55.8 percent performance criteria. The group of State VR agencies serving individuals who are blind met their FY 2011 target for this measure. As compared to fiscal year 2010, two additional State VR agencies for individuals who are blind met the 68.9 percent performance criteria in fiscal year 2011. For the general and

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combined State VR agencies, excluding outlying areas, employment outcome rates ranged from 34.6 percent to 81.8 percent, with a median of 56.2 percent. For the State VR agencies for individuals who are blind, employment outcome rates ranged from 40.2 percent to 81.3 percent, with a median of 71.3 percent.

In fiscal year 2009, there was a large decrease in the total number of individuals who obtained an employment outcome (12 percent). While the number of individuals who achieved an employment outcome continued to decline in fiscal year 2010, the overall drop in employment outcomes was smaller (4.8 percent). The overall decline in employment outcomes ended in FY 2011. Fiscal year 2011 data show an increase of 3.7 percent increase in the number of individuals who achieved an employment outcome. However, performance among States was varied. For example, 57 of the 80 agencies experienced an increase or no change in the number of employment outcomes, while 23 agencies had a decrease in employment outcomes. In the group of State agencies that had a decrease in employment outcomes, one State (Ohio) accounted for 49 percent of the total decrease for that group. The decrease in employment outcomes can, at least in part, be attributed to the general decline in available employment opportunities. Many VR agencies in States experiencing high rates of unemployment for the general population have had a difficult time assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. However, there were a number of VR agencies in States with high rates of unemployment that did not experience a decrease in employment outcomes, including some of which reported an increase in employment outcomes.

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
2009	97	93
2010	97	95
2011	97	93
2012	95	
2013	95	
2014	95	

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
2009	79	92
2010	80	83
2011	80	92
2012	85	
2013	90	
2014	92	

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Additional information: 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 or combined agency must achieve a rate of 72.6 percent, while an agency for the blind must achieve a rate of 35.4 percent.

The GPRA measure is more ambitious and has a higher performance criterion than the State VR agency performance indicator 1.3 because in fiscal year 2006 nearly all of the VR agencies passed indicator 1.3. Under the GPRA 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. Despite the decline in the number of employment outcomes, States have been fairly successful in sustaining the percentage of competitive employment outcomes. In fiscal year 2011, the target for the general and combined agencies was not met, with performance returning to the FY 2009 level of 93 percent. In fiscal year 2011, only 4 of the 56 general and combined agencies did not meet the performance criterion, including 1 combined State agency and 3 of the territories, one more territory than in FY 2010. The percentage of individuals with employment outcomes who achieved competitive employment reported by general and combined agencies in 2011 ranged from 50 percent to 100 percent with a median of 98.2 percent. In 2011, the target for the group of agencies for the blind was met with only two agencies not performing at the 65 percent criterion. The percentage of individuals with employment outcomes who achieved competitive employment reported by agencies for the blind ranged from 33.7 percent to 99.6 percent, with a median of 90.5 percent.

Measure: 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
2009	89	87
2010	89	89
2011	89	93
2012	90	
2013	91	
2014	92	

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Measure: 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
2009	100	100
2010	100	96
2011	100	96
2012	100	
2013	100	
2014	100	

Additional information: This measure is derived from the Section 106 performance indicator 1.4, which measures the percentage of individuals achieving competitive employment who have significant disabilities. In order for a general or combined agency to pass this indicator, at least 62 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment must have a significant disability. The GPRA measure for general and combined agencies is more ambitious and has a higher performance criterion than performance indicator 1.4. Under this measure, at least 80 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment must have a significant disability. In fiscal year 2011, 93 percent of general and combined agencies achieved the 80 percent criterion and the GPRA target was met.

For an agency for the blind to pass indicator 1.4, at least 89 percent of individuals achieving competitive employment must have a significant disability. The performance criterion for agencies for the blind on the GPRA measure is only slightly higher, 90 percent compared to 89 percent. All but one of the agencies for the blind met the 90 percent performance criterion and the 100 percent GPRA target was not met.

Efficiency Measures

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

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

Measure: Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that demonstrate an average cost per participant between \$1,200 and \$3,300.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	70	61
2010	70	70
2011	70	68
2012	70	
2013	70	
2014	70	

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Measure: Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that demonstrate an average cost per participant of no more than \$8,000.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	70	58
2010	70	58
2011	70	63
2012	63	
2013	63	
2014	65	

Additional information: A common efficiency measure for job training programs is the cost per participant. At the national aggregate level, the cost per participant is calculated by dividing the total appropriation (minus the set-aside for Grants to Indians) by the total number of eligible individuals who received VR services. The sources of data for this measure are State agency data from the RSA-113 Caseload Report and RSA final State agency allocation tables. For fiscal year 2011, the average annual cost per participant for general and combined State vocational rehabilitation agencies was \$2,811 with a range (excluding the outlying areas) of \$1,328 to \$6,459. For agencies for the blind, the average annual cost per participant was \$7,109 with a range from \$1,029 to \$13,390, with the exception of two agencies that had a cost per participant of about \$30,000 to \$40,000. In comparison, the fiscal year 2010 average annual cost per participant for general and combined State vocational rehabilitation agencies was \$2,860, while for agencies for the blind it was \$7,290. Neither group met the FY 2011 performance target of 70 percent. In fiscal year 2011, 38 of the 56 (68 percent) general and combined State VR agencies demonstrated an average cost per participant within the established performance range (between \$1,200 and \$3,300) – one fewer agency than in fiscal year 2010. Of the 24 agencies for the blind, 15 (63 percent) had an average cost per participant of no more than \$8,000 – one more agency than in 2010. The fiscal year 2012 target for agencies for the blind was revised in FY 2011 to reflect a more realist target based on performance in recent fiscal years.

Measure: Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that demonstrate an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 83 percent.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	74	79
2010	74	73
2011	74	70
2012	74	
2013	74	
2014	75	

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Measure: Percentage of State VR agencies for the Blind that demonstrate an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 70 percent.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	65	58
2010	65	71
2011	65	67
2012	66	
2013	68	
2014	70	

Additional information: This 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 agency's consumer service expenditures by the agency's total VR program expenditures. The sources of data for this measure are State agency data from the RSA-2 report and RSA final State agency allocation tables. In fiscal year 2011, 39 of the 56 general and combined VR agencies (70 percent) demonstrated an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 83 percent and the target was not met. The average annual consumer service expenditure rate for all general and combined State vocational rehabilitation agencies was 86 percent with a range (excluding the outlying areas) of 43 percent to nearly 100 percent. In 2011, 16 of the 24 agencies for the blind (67 percent) had an average annual consumer expenditure rate of at least 70 percent and the target was met. The average annual consumer service expenditure rate for all agencies for the blind ranged from 46 percent to nearly 100 percent, with an average of 73 percent.

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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.*

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Measure: The percentage of individuals who leave the program with employment outcomes, after receiving services under an individualized plan for employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	66	61
2010	66	62
2011	66	63
2012	64	
2013	65	
2014	65	

Additional information: The numbers of American Indians with disabilities achieving an employment outcome continue to increase annually along with the number of projects funded under the program. In fiscal year 2011, the 82 projects operating in that fiscal year (projects funded with fiscal year 2010 appropriations) assisted a total of 1,724 American Indians with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome. However, one of the new projects that was to begin in fiscal year 2011 was unable to serve or place any individuals in that year because of delays in getting the project underway and another project has not submitted its fiscal year 2011 performance data. Data for fiscal year 2011 show that 63 percent of the 2,737 individuals with disabilities who exited the program after receiving services achieved an employment outcome. Although there was a slight increase in performance as compared to the previous year, the target for this measure was not met. There is a wide variation in the percentage of individuals who achieved an employment outcome reported by AIVRS projects. In 2011, the percentage of individuals achieving an employment outcome reported by the 80 projects ranged from 22 percent to 100 percent.

There are several factors that may have accounted for lower performance on this measure in past three fiscal years. Probably the most significant factor was the poor economic conditions. American Indian tribes already experience some of the worst economic conditions in the country with limited labor markets and very few job opportunities. When those same economic conditions affect communities outside the reservation, it compounds the difficulty in achieving employment outcomes.

Efficiency Measures

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

The Department has established two efficiency measures to ensure that AIVRS projects demonstrate effective fiscal management. These include cost per employment outcome and cost per participant.

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Measure: The percentage of AIVRS projects that demonstrate an average annual cost per employment outcome of no more than \$35,000.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	68	71
2010	70	71
2011	72	72
2012	72	
2013	72	
2014	72	

Additional information: This AIVRS program efficiency measure examines the percentage of AIVRS projects having a cost per employment outcome within a specified range. 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 2011, the overall average cost per employment outcome for the 81 projects reporting data was approximately \$20,053 with a median of \$24,962. However, the cost per employment outcome varied significantly across projects. For the 80 projects reporting that they had placed at least one individual in employment in fiscal year 2011, the average cost per employment outcome ranged from about \$5,213 to \$266,032. The target for this measure was met in fiscal year 2011, with 58 of the 81 AIVRS projects reporting (72 percent) an average cost per employment outcome of no more than \$35,000.

Measure: The percentage of AIVRS projects that demonstrate an average annual cost per participant of no more than \$10,000.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	77	83
2010	78	86
2011	78	85
2012	84	
2013	85	
2014	86	

Additional information: 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 (IPE). In fiscal year 2011, 81 AIVRS projects reported serving a total of 8,081 American Indians with disabilities. For fiscal year 2011, the overall average annual cost per participant for the 81 projects reporting data was approximately \$4,705. For the 80 projects who served American Indians with disabilities in fiscal year 2011, the average cost per participant ranged from \$1,198 to \$60,000 with a median of \$5,555. In fiscal year 2011, 69 of the 81 AIVRS

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projects (85 percent) had an average cost per participant of no more than \$10,000 and the target was met.

Targets for fiscal years 2007 – 2010 were established based on the number of individuals served in the reporting period whose IPE was developed during the current 5-year grant cycle. These targets did not take into account individuals served in the reporting period whose IPE was developed in the previous 5-year grant cycle because data collected on these individuals were not reliable. However, RSA has since made improvements in its reporting system and provided guidance that makes these data more reliable. Beginning with fiscal year 2008, grantees report all individuals receiving services with current grant funds, including individuals whose IPE was developed in the previous 5-year grant cycle. The targets for fiscal years 2011 through 2013 are higher than previous targets to reflect the fact that the including both groups of individuals in the calculation of performance on this measure lowers the cost per participant and increases the percentage of projects that have a cost per participant of no more than \$10,000.

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Client assistance State grants

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$12,240	\$12,240 ²	\$12,240	0

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) provides grants to States for services to assist eligible individuals and applicants for 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:

- 29 of the Governors have designated their State Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system to provide CAP services;
- 11 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-

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sponsored commission or group; 4 are located in legal aid and nonprofit organizations; and 1 is located in a private law firm.

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 2012 allotments were based on the July 1, 2010 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 allotments are based on the July 1, 2011 population estimates published in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2012 Census data released in December 2012.

Grantees may carry over unobligated Federal funds for an additional year.

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

	(dollars in thousands)
2009	\$11,576
2010	12,288
2011	12,263
2012	12,240
2013	12,240 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$12.240 million for the Client Assistance program (CAP) in fiscal year 2014, the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. This request will help ensure that individuals with disabilities who are applying for or receiving services funded under the Rehabilitation Act will receive appropriate services and have access to administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies when needed to protect their rights.

Data collected in fiscal year 2011 show that, nationwide, CAPs responded to 52,376 requests for information and provided extensive services to 6,965 individuals. Slightly more than 94 percent of those cases in which extensive services were provided involved applicants for or recipients of services from the VR program. In 87 percent of all cases, issues related to the delivery of VR services. These data also demonstrate that in 36 percent of the cases closed, CAPs enabled the individuals to advocate for themselves through the explanation of policies; 19 percent resulted in the development or implementation of an IPE; and 19 percent of these cases resulted in the reestablishment of communication between the individuals and other parties. In addition, 68 percent of the cases requiring action by the CAP on behalf of the individual were resolved in the individual's favor.

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Examples of CAP activities during FY 2011 include:

- In New York, a consumer came to CAP after learning that the VR agency would not support his goal to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design at a local university. The consumer had a two-year degree but believed he needed a four-year degree to become gainfully employed in the graphic design field. The agency asserted that the consumer's two-year degree in graphic design made him employable at an entry level for this field. CAP showed through its research that the only position available for a person with a two-year degree was Assistant to a Graphic Designer, which would entail mainly clerical duties as opposed to creative graphic design duties. At a meeting attended by the CAP advocate, the CAP attorney, the VR counselor and supervisor, and the consumer, the VR agency was persuaded that the consumer could not work as a graphic designer without a four-year degree and agreed to fund his education. This consumer finished his bachelor's program and obtained permanent employment.
- In Kentucky, a farmer with limited vision in his right eye and total loss of vision in his left eye requested VR services to continue working on his farm. The consumer had experienced significant facial trauma, and as a result, had undergone extensive reconstruction and nasal surgeries. As a farmer, he was charged with overseeing 133 acres of land and 30 herd of cattle on a daily basis, but felt unable to continue his life-long work due to the severity of his disabilities. His doctor strongly recommended an enclosed cab for his tractor to protect his nose from any additional trauma or noxious stimuli. Following an assessment through AgrAbility--a US Department of Agriculture program that enables high quality lifestyles for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities-- was determined that the consumer could resume his duties if he could obtain an enclosed cab as an accommodation. Since the VR agency denied his request for the needed accommodation, the consumer contacted CAP. Working with AgrAbility, and VR, CAP arranged for the acquisition of a new tractor, with an enclosed cab, by trading in the old tractor. The consumer was able to resume working on his farm performing the same duties.
- In one U.S territory, a 32 year old man with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) recently lost his job as an instructor in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the State Department. The consumer applied for VR services, but was told he was not ready to go back to work because of a psychological evaluation. The consumer contacted CAP and CAP disagreed with the evaluation and argued the standard for "clear and convincing" evidence had not been met by a single evaluation, and furthermore, no proof had been provided that demonstrated the consumer could not benefit from VR services. As a result, the consumer was able to receive VR services and become gainfully employed.
- In Louisiana, a consumer with a long history of mental health issues and difficulties securing employment was placed in a plan for trial work experiences by his VR counselor. The biggest challenge for the consumer had been finding a job with a flexible work schedule. VR recommended the consumer participate in trial work experiences for a period up to one year, which was acceptable to the consumer. However during that year, the consumer received no contact from VR or feedback on his progress. He called CAP for assistance. CAP reviewed the consumer's case file and found that there was no documentation of contact with the consumer or an assessment of his progress, as required under the Rehabilitation Act. CAP requested the consumer be determined eligible for services and for

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an IPE to be developed in conjunction with the consumer. VR acknowledged its failure to follow its policy and immediately developed an IPE for the consumer. The consumer has since completed his services and is now competitively employed.

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

<u>Measures</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Information inquiries/referrals	52,400	52,400	52,400
Individuals provided case services	7,000	7,000	7,000

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

NOTE: Data for fiscal years 2012 through 2014 are projected from actual data collected for fiscal year 2011 in which CAPs responded to 52,376 requests for information and provided extensive services to 6,965 individuals. Data for fiscal year 2012 will be available in December of 2013.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as 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 reported that their systemic advocacy resulted in changes in policy or practice.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	60	80
2010	60	64
2011	65	87
2012	70	
2013	70	
2014	72	

Additional information: 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,

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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. A random sample of files is cross-checked with reported data to verify the data quality. The grantees input their data into the RSA Management Information System (MIS), which has edit checks to verify the accuracy of the information entered into the data fields.

The baseline was established in fiscal year 1999, when 24 of the 56 CAPs (43 percent) reported changes in practice or policy due to their efforts. In fiscal year 2006, 34 of the 56 CAPs (61 percent) reported success with their efforts, exceeding the target for the fifth successive year. In light of these data the Department raised the targets from 54 percent to 60 percent for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, and set a target of 65 percent for 2011. Based on improved performance in 2009, the Department increased the target to 70 percent for 2012. The fiscal year 2010 data reflect a large decrease in the number of CAPs reporting success for this measure, but performance improved in fiscal year 2011 to 87 percent—the highest percentage since this measure was established in 1999. The data for fiscal year 2012 will be available in December 2013.

Objective: *Resolve cases at lowest possible level.*

Measure: The percentage of cases resolved through the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Year	Target	Actual
2009	85	99
2010	86	98
2011	93	97
2012	93	
2013	98	
2104	98	

Additional information: The performance targets through fiscal year 2008 were based on fiscal year 2001 data, which showed 84 percent of CAP cases were resolved through alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The target was first exceeded in fiscal year 2006, when 4,977 of the 5,855 closed cases (85 percent) were resolved through ADR techniques. However, data from fiscal year 2007 reflect a huge increase to 98 percent of the closed cases being resolved through ADR. The percentage of cases being resolved through the use of ADR held at 98 percent during 2008, and rose to 99 percent in 2009, although dropped to 98 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 97 percent in fiscal year 2011. The data for fiscal year 2012 will be available in December 2013.

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Supported employment State grants

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$29,068	\$29,068 ²	0	-\$29,068

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; no appropriations or new reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2014.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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 employment and working in an integrated setting toward competitive employment. Individuals in competitive employment must earn at 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) for the duration of that employment. 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 (IPE). The IPE for an individual with a goal of supported employment must specify the expected extended services that will be needed to support the individual in integrated employment and identify the source of extended services at the time the IPE is developed, including the basis for determining that there is a reasonable expectation that those services will become available.

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.

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To be eligible for this current-funded formula grant program, States must submit a supplement to their Title I VR State Grants program plan. Funds are distributed on the basis of population, except that no State receives less than \$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. The fiscal year 2012 allotments were based on the April 1, 2010 Census data released in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 State allotments are based on the July 1, 2011 estimates published in December 2011. States may carry over unobligated funds to the next fiscal year.

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

	(dollars in thousands)
2009.....	\$29,181
2010.....	29,181
2011.....	29,123
2012.....	29,068
2013.....	29,068 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

No funds are requested for fiscal year 2014 for the 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, because supported employment is now an integral part of the VR State Grants program, the Administration believes that there is no longer a need for a separate funding stream to ensure the provision of such services. The proposed program elimination will reduce unnecessary administrative burden at the national, State, and local levels and will enhance efforts to assess the provision and effectiveness of supported employment services. The Administration is also examining options to help ensure that State agencies continue to invest appropriate levels of their resources in supported employment.

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 for training and time-limited post-employment services for individuals with the most severe handicaps. At that time, supported employment was a new promising 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 grant program provided an incentive for State VR agencies to provide supported employment services.

In addition, from 1986 to 1996 the Department of Education supported a number of supported employment discretionary grant projects designed to further develop and expand the provision of supported employment services. These included a total of 54 State-wide systems change grants to 47 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands; 2 national scope projects;

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2 national technical assistance projects; and a total of 66 community-based supported employment projects. Finally, in fiscal year 1997, the Department awarded a 3-year cooperative agreement to support the Supported Employment Consortium whose purpose was to identify and disseminate replicable policies, models, and supported employment practices appropriate for dissemination and to provide technical assistance.

Data from the RSA 911 Case Service Report for fiscal year 2011 show that approximately 34,500 individuals whose cases were closed in FY 2011 after receiving services had a goal of supported employment on their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) at some time during their participation in the VR program. This number includes individuals who received support for SE services entirely through funds provided under the VR State Grants program and those individuals whose services were, at least in part, supported with funds under the SE State Grants program. Although there was a decrease in the number of individuals whose cases were closed in FY 2011 after receiving services that had a goal of supported employment, this decrease is proportional to the decrease in the total number of individuals in the VR program whose cases were closed in FY 2011 after receiving services. On a national level, individuals who had a goal of supported employment represented about 10 percent of the total individuals whose cases were closed in fiscal year 2011 after receiving services.

Information on how State VR agencies use their SE State Grant funds to supplement their VR funds is limited. State agencies report whether any SE funds were used to provide services to an individual with a supported employment goal, but not the amount of SE funds that were expended for such individuals. Because VR agencies may use funds from one or both funding sources to purchase supported employment services, information on the actual cost of providing SE services to an individual with a SE goal, including individuals who did or did not obtain a supported employment outcome is unavailable. Data collected through the RSA 911 report indicate that there is significant variation in SE practices and the use of SE funds among State agencies. As a part of its re-design of the VR program data collections, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has included additional SE-related data elements that will enable RSA to better monitor the services, service costs, and the outcomes achieved by individuals with a supported employment goal under the VR State Grants program and identify those agencies that need technical assistance.

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 VR State Grant funds (including State matching funds) to provide supported employment services for those individuals who require such services to participate in the integrated labor market. State VR agencies must also give priority to serving individuals with the most significant disabilities, many of whom may require supported employment services. The Department expects that State VR agencies will continue to provide supported employment services in fiscal year 2014 through the VR State Grants program to at least as many individuals as they did under the two separate authorities.

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PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

<u>Measures</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Individuals with a supported employment IPE goal who received services and exited the program.	35,000	35,000	35,000
Employment outcomes: ¹	18,000	18,000	18,000
Supported employment outcomes ²	16,200	16,200	16,200
Employment without supports in an integrated setting ³	1,630	1,630	1,630
Other employment outcomes ⁴	170	170	170
<u>Minority outreach</u>	\$291	\$291	0

Note: Estimates for FYs 2012, 2013, and 2014 are based on actual 2009, 2010, and 2011 closure data from the RSA-911 Case Service Report for all VR consumers with a supported employment goal identified on their IPE (including consumers who received SE services with funds provided under the VR State Grants and/or under the Supported Employment State Grants programs).

Note: For FY 2014, program output estimates include consumers whose cases were closed in FY 2014 and received SE services with funds provided under VR State Grants as well as consumers who received SE services with funds provided under Supported Employment State Grants in previous years.

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

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

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents program performance information, including, for example, 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 for this program and the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program in previous years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by these programs. With the exception of the program's efficiency measure, performance on supported employment measures would continue to be assessed in fiscal year 2014 as part of GPRA reporting for the VR State Grants program.

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

Objective: *Ensure that individuals with significant disabilities with a supported employment goal achieve high quality employment.*

Measure: Of those individuals with significant disabilities who had a supported employment goal and achieved an employment outcome, the percentage who obtained competitive employment, 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
2009	94	91
2010	94	92
2011	94	93
2012	94	
2013	94	
2014	94	

Additional information: 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). In fiscal year 2011, 17,566 individuals, or 51 percent of individuals whose service records were closed after receiving services who had a SE goal, including both consumers who received SE services from funds provided under the VR State Grants and under the Supported Employment State Grants programs, achieved an employment outcome. Of those who achieved an employment outcome, 93 percent of individuals with a supported employment goal achieved a competitive employment outcome. Although performance on this measure has slowly increased over the last three years, the performance target was not met. The performance targets for fiscal years 2008 upward were increased based on performance in 2006 and 2007, during which years actual performance rose to 94 percent.

Fiscal year 2011 RSA 911 Case Service Report data show that while there was a significant decrease in the total number of individuals with a supported employment goal who achieved an employment outcome, there was an increase in the number and percentage of such individuals who obtained a supported employment outcome (employment in the integrated labor market and receiving ongoing supports). The percentage of individuals with a supported employment goal achieving an employment outcome who obtained a supported employment outcome increased from 76.7 to 90.5 percent). Data for fiscal year 2012 are expected to be available in April 2013.

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Measure: Average weekly earnings for individuals with significant disabilities who achieved a supported employment outcome.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	199	188
2010	203	208
2011	203	205
2012	203	
2013	205	
2014	208	

Additional information: The Department established a new measure in FY 2008 to monitor the average weekly earnings of individuals with significant disabilities who achieved a supported employment outcome. As previously stated, individuals with significant disabilities in supported employment may be working in competitive employment or may be working in an integrated setting toward the receipt of the minimum wage. Performance data for this measure are calculated by dividing the average weekly earnings for all individuals who obtained a supported employment outcome with earnings by the total number of individuals who obtained a supported employment outcome with earnings. The performance data do not include individuals served by State VR agencies for the Blind. Performance targets were set based on 2007 and 2008 data.

For the performance group, fiscal year 2011 data show that the average weekly earnings of individuals with significant disabilities who achieved a supported employment outcome was \$205, a slight decrease from the previous year (\$208) but the performance target was exceeded. However, the median average weekly earnings for agencies in the performance group increased by \$9 from \$185 to \$194. In 2011, average weekly earnings ranged from a low of \$106 to a high of \$408. About 56 percent of the performance group reported an increase or no change in average weekly earnings as compared to 2010. In 2011, average hourly earnings increased from \$7.26 per hour to \$12.44 per hour. Although on a national level there was a slight decrease in average hours worked, 23.2 hours in 2010 compared to 22.9 in 2011, about 59 percent of the agencies in the performance group reported an increase in average hours worked as compared to 2010.

Efficiency Measure

Objective: *Ensure that State VR agencies effectively use Supported Employment Grant funds to achieve supported employment outcomes.*

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Measure: Percentage of general and combined State VR agencies that demonstrate at least 30 supported employment outcomes per \$100,000 received in SE Grant funds.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	75	67
2010	75	67
2011	70	81
2012	75	
2013	75	

Additional information: The efficiency measure developed for the Supported Employment State Grants program examines the percentage of State VR agencies for which the number of supported employment outcomes per \$100,000 received in SE Grants funds is within a specified range. For the purpose of this measure, the number of supported employment outcomes per \$100,000 is calculated by dividing the reported number of individuals that achieved a supported employment outcome by the amount of a State agency's SE allocation and multiplying the result by 100,000. The performance group does not include State VR agencies for the Blind or for the 4 territories because they receive less than \$100,000 in SE Grants funds. The performance range and targets were established based on fiscal year 2007 and 2008 data. In fiscal year 2007, 65 percent of the performance group achieved at least 30 supported employment outcomes per \$100,000 and in fiscal year 2008 performance was 79 percent. However, performance at the higher fiscal year 2008 level was not sustained and performance dropped in fiscal year 2009 to 67 percent, slightly above the FY 2007 level. In fiscal year 2010, performance remained the same as in fiscal year 2009 and so the performance targets for fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012 were adjusted to reflect the fact that fiscal year 2008 data appeared to be atypical. However, in FY 2011 performance increased significantly with 81 percent of the performance group achieving at least 30 supported employment outcomes per \$100,000 and the performance target of 70 percent for FY 2011 was exceeded.

The average number of supported employment outcomes per \$100,000 increased from 68 in fiscal year 2010 to 75 in fiscal year 2011. In fiscal years 2007 and 2008, the average for the performance group was 71 and 73, respectively. However in FY 2009 the average hit a low of 63. Among agencies in the performance group, the average number in fiscal year 2011 ranged significantly from 2 (Hawaii) to 235 (New Jersey), with a median of 55 supported employment outcomes per \$100,000. A performance target for fiscal year 2014 has not been set for this efficiency measure because the Department is proposing to eliminate this separate funding authority for the SE Grants program.

Other Performance Information

Limited information is available about how State VR agencies serve individuals who have a goal of SE or how State VR agencies use Title VI Part B funds from the SE State Grants Program in conjunction with Title I funds to pay for services provided to individuals with disabilities. Moreover, the reviews of the State plans and monitoring reports reveal that the extent to which State VR agencies achieve SE outcomes for individuals with disabilities is uneven. This variability stems in part from differences in policies, practices, and resources that States and

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State agencies have with regard to SE. The Department is currently conducting a study to obtain a more in-depth understanding of how State VR agencies provide SE services for their consumers, including how the supplemental SE appropriation is used in conjunction with VR State Grant funds to assist individuals with the most significant disabilities to achieve a supported employment outcome. The Department collected survey data from 94 percent of the 80 State VR agencies on how they implement SE services, how they use Title VI Part B funds in conjunction with Title I funds to fund SE, and SE outcomes. To explore agency strategies for providing SE services in more detail, the next and final step in data collection is to conduct in-depth discussions with three agencies to follow up on their responses and to learn more about the administration of the SE State Grants program as implemented in these agencies. The final report should be completed by April 13, 2013. This study is designed to complement other studies that examine SE supports beyond the time-limited support provided through the VR program such as the one described below.

In 2010, funds appropriated under RSA's Evaluation program were used to support a sub-study focusing on supported employment (SE) services through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR RRTC). The purpose of this sub-study was to identify the role and impact of the VR program within the larger supported employment delivery system. This research focused on vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency partnerships with other State entities, and sources and models for long-term funding (extended services). Examples of topics that were investigated include providers and sources of funding for supported employment, the availability of supported employment services, SE placements, and extended services, and methods or models of collaboration and coordination in providing SE services that can be identified within or across States.

The design called for embedding supported employment questions in ongoing surveys of multiple State agencies and case studies of SE coordination and funding models in several States to illuminate issues identified through these surveys. The SE sub-study also included additional analysis of data obtained from an ongoing survey of community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) relevant to supported employment. The VR RRTC then conducted case studies of SE partnerships in five States. These case studies were designed to further the Department's understanding of the range of practices that VR systems might use to ensure more successful transitions to long-term support through other resources. The survey and case study effort raised several issues for further discussion and review.

- First, there is a need for further clarification, guidance, and consensus on indicators of job stability and on what constitutes integration in employment (i.e., acceptable employment settings for SE).
- Second, there is a need for more exploration of creative models for SE funding that focus on the needs of individuals more than the constraints (real and perceived) of funding sources and service providers, including further consideration of strategies for more "braided" funding mechanisms between VR and other public systems such as Mental Health or Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Such strategies would certainly enhance coordination of service delivery around the individual, create more robust partnerships, and promote more efficient use of resources by agencies.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Supported employment State grants

- Third, there is a need to expand State funding for extended employment for groups that might not otherwise have access to long-term support dollars (e.g., people with learning disabilities, chronic physical impairments, or traumatic brain injuries). However, the report notes that this system improvement may be difficult to achieve in a challenging economy.
- Fourth, more work is needed to refine and develop practical strategies for VR, partner agencies, and their providers to use in developing strong and sufficient natural supports as part of the long-term services required post-VR in SE. The report states that “it is clear from our on-site interviews as well as the extant research on this issue that policy and practice in this area varies dramatically, and that many states lack a structured approach to the use of natural supports.”
- Finally, RSA and Medicaid might consider working together to develop guidance for State Medicaid systems about allowable Medicaid reimbursable expenses under the Mental Health Rehabilitation Option or the new 1915(i) State plan amendment attendant to employment.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$1,262	\$1,262 ²	0	-\$1,262

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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:

	(dollars in thousands)
2009	\$2,239
2010	2,239
2011	1,856
2012	1,262
2013	1,262 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

No funds are requested for the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) program in fiscal year 2014. The Administration proposes to eliminate funding for this small, duplicative competitive grants program as services are provided under the larger Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State grants program. For fiscal year 2014, the Administration is seeking authority to pay the remaining continuation costs for this program from the funding requested for the VR State grants program. The Administration believes that elimination of this separate program will improve administrative inefficiencies and help focus Federal efforts on ensuring that States provide effective appropriate services to all eligible individuals, including the population served under this program.

The authorizing legislation for the VR State grants program requires States to submit a plan to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) that describes how the State will provide services to all eligible individuals within that State. The statute 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, States must identify their 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 State grants program.

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 specialized services provided under the MSFW program are services that all State VR agencies should be providing to reach and appropriately serve underserved populations under the VR State grants program and should not depend on the availability of separate funding. For example, outreach activities in churches and community centers that identify farmworkers with disabilities would also assist in identifying other persons with disabilities who visit these places. The hiring of bilingual counselors benefits all consumers who are monolingual in a non-English

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

language, whether those consumers are farmworkers or not. In addition, the provision of transportation services for rural areas will benefit all rural residents, whether farmworkers or not.

The Administration believes that continuing to provide separate funding for this small, narrowly targeted program is not an efficient way to ensure appropriate and high quality services for special populations who may be underserved under the VR State grants program. With the funding that the Administration is requesting for the VR State grants program, State VR agencies would have resources to provide services that would benefit migrant or seasonal farmworkers, along with other unserved or underserved populations. The Administration believes that RSA should focus its monitoring and technical assistance efforts on improving the performance of the VR State grants program, including its delivery of services to and the outcomes of its most needy and vulnerable populations.

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Program funding:			
Continuation projects	\$1,249	\$1,249 ¹	0
Minority outreach	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,262	1,262	0
Number of projects:			
Continuation projects	7	4	0

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

¹ This amount includes \$574,000 that would be used to cover a portion of FY 2014 continuation costs.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

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

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

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

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers

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

Year	Target	Actual
2009	65	67
2010	65	60
2011	65	56
2012	65	
2013	65	

Additional information:

During fiscal year 2011, the 11 State VR agencies and the 12 projects in the 11 States with MSFW projects reported in the RSA-911 report that they served 71 individuals, placing 40 in employment (56.34 percent), a decline in performance from fiscal year 2010 (59.9 percent). Three of the grantees in 3 States met or exceeded the performance target for fiscal year 2011. The 9 remaining projects in 8 States reported employment rates that ranged from 0 to 63 percent.

RSA is concerned about the steady decreases in the overall numbers served by States with a MSFW project. In fiscal year 2008, 218 individuals were served by States with an MSFW project and 174 individuals were placed; in fiscal year 2009, 189 were served and 154 were placed; in fiscal year 2010, 137 were served and 128 were placed; and in fiscal year 2011, 71 were served and 40 were placed.

Through its oversight, RSA has determined that the decrease in the numbers served might be attributed to States with MSFW projects not accurately counting and reporting in the RSA-911 report the individuals served and placed. For example, in FY 2011, the MSFW grantees directly reported that 501 individuals were served by both the MSFW projects and the State VR agencies and that 219 of those served were placed. In light of the huge discrepancy between these data and the RSA-911 data (71 individuals served and 40 placed into employment) and the lack of information on the validity of any of the data being reported here, it is difficult to assess the performance of the program.

A fiscal year 2014 performance target has not been set for this measure because the Administration is proposing to eliminate the separate funding authority for the MSFW program.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Training

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III, Section 302 (a)-(g)(2), (h)-(i))

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$35,515	\$35,515 ²	\$30,188	-\$5,327

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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 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. Students who receive financial assistance from projects funded under the program are required to pay back such assistance, either by maintaining acceptable employment in public or private non-profit rehabilitation agencies for a period of time after they complete their training, or by making a cash repayment to the Federal Government.

The Training program authority requires recipients of grants under the Long-Term Training program to build closer relationships between training institutions and State VR agencies, promote careers in public vocational rehabilitation programs, identify potential employers who would meet students' payback requirements, and ensure 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 evaluation 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.

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Training

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 State VR agencies in the training 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 its staff, through retraining or hiring. VR State grant funds may be used to comply with these requirements.

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

	(dollars in thousands)
2009.....	37,766
2010.....	37,766
2011.....	35,582
2012.....	35,515
2013.....	35,515 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$30.188 million for the Training program in fiscal year 2014, a reduction of \$5.327 million from the fiscal year 2012 level. This reduction reflects the elimination of funding for the In-Service Training program. The Administration does not seek funding for this program because it duplicates in-service training activities that can be carried out under the larger Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program, for which the Administration requests an increase of \$178.152 million from the fiscal year 2012 level.

Currently, the Act requires that 15 percent of the funds appropriated for the Training program be set aside to support the training of existing State VR agency personnel. However, State VR agencies have the responsibility to provide needed professional development to State agency personnel, consistent with the agency's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) plan under Title I of the Act and can use the funds provided under the VR State Grants program for this purpose. In addition, the elimination of the set-aside would save on the administrative costs involved in making small grants to State agencies and the associated reporting requirements for grantees. Hence, the Administration believes a separate revenue stream to support in-service training through the Training program is inefficient. The requested increase in funding in the VR State Grants program would ensure that State VR agencies have resources available to support in-service training for their personnel.

The Training program is designed to support programs that provide training to new VR staff or upgrade the qualifications of existing staff. In recent years, the major focus of the program has

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Training

been to address the shortage of qualified State VR agency staff by supporting long-term training programs at institutions of higher education (IHEs) to train new counselors and administrators. Currently, VR agencies are undergoing dramatic turnover in their staffs due to the retirement of a large number of qualified counselors. According to 2010 data from State VR agencies, there were 1,222 vacancies out of the 16,064 total positions nationwide in these offices. Over the next 5 years, these agencies projected an additional 5,481 vacancies. This would mean that, in the next 5 years, State VR agencies may need to hire as much as 42 percent of their staff to maintain current staffing levels. The Administration believes that similar shortages, though not as severe, will also affect other VR providers in the same timeframe. In order to address this issue, the Administration has focused a considerable amount of resources in the Training program on long-term training, and is seeking to further target funds to address those areas of greatest need. Additionally, the Rehabilitation Act (the Act) requires that 75 percent of the funds awarded to universities under the Long-Term Training (LTT) program must go directly to students for tuition assistance and stipends. Since this tuition assistance must be repaid through work in State VR agencies and other appropriate work settings, the Department believes it is the best mechanism for recruiting new graduates into the field of rehabilitation.

The Department's investment in eight Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) centers was originally slated to expire in fiscal year 2013, with two additional centers expiring in December 2013. In November 2012, the Department published a request for information in the Federal Register to gather input on grants awarded under the Rehabilitation Program, including the TACE centers. Using feedback from both this request for information and focus groups conducted during the spring and summer of 2013, the Department plans to conduct a new competition in fiscal year 2014 to address the technical assistance (TA) and continuing education (CE) needs of State VR agencies. However, recognizing that it would be contrary to the public interest to have a lapse in the provision of TA and CE currently provided by the TACE centers, the Department has proposed to extend the project periods of the existing ten TACE centers until September 2014.

In fiscal year 2014, the Department will also continue support for continuing education and technical assistance to State VR agencies and their partners to improve their performance under and compliance with the Rehabilitation Act. The majority of funds requested for fiscal year 2014 would be used to support awards in this area and in the Long-Term Training program.

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Training

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

<u>Program Funding:</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Long-Term Training:			
New	0	\$4,466	\$3,455
Continuations	<u>\$19,445</u>	<u>13,961</u>	<u>16,031</u>
Subtotal	19,445	18,427	19,486
Technical Assistance & Continuing Education:			
New	0	0	8,000
Continuations	<u>7,837</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	7,837	9,000	8,000
Short-Term Training:			
Continuations	<u>197</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Subtotal	197	200	200
Unit In-Service Training:			
Continuations	<u>\$5,327</u>	<u>\$5,327</u>	<u>0</u> ¹
Subtotal	5,327	5,327	0
Training for Interpreters for Individuals who are Deaf and Deaf-Blind:			
Continuations	<u>2,063</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>\$2,100</u>
Subtotal	2,063	2,100	2,100
General Training:			
Continuations	<u>290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	290	0	0
<u>Program Totals:</u>			
New	0	4,466	11,455
Continuations	35,159	30,588	18,331
Peer review of new award applications	0	105	100
Minority Outreach ²	<u>356</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>302</u>
	35,515	35,515	30,188
Total			

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

¹ Under the Administration's FY 2014 proposal, funding will no longer be provided for this activity under the Training program.

² Section 21(b) the Rehabilitation Act requires the Rehabilitation Services Administration to set aside 1 percent of funds appropriated under this account for minority outreach activities.

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Training

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, 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 2014 and future years, as well as 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: To provide graduates who work within the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals.

Annual Performance Measures

This program has three annual performance measures. All three of these measures are designed to provide information on various aspects of the program, including its ability to address the shortage of State VR agency counselors and staff, the proportion of scholars fulfilling their payback requirements, and the proportion of currently employed State VR agency counselors who meet their State's CSPD requirements. While these measures alone do not provide a comprehensive view of the Training program, the Administration believes that they do provide evidence as to the efficacy of the program and its expenditures.

Measure: The percentage of Masters-level counseling graduates fulfilling their payback requirements through employment in State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	53	36
2010	53	39
2011	53	37
2012	53	
2013	55	
2014	55	

Additional Information: The Department annually collects data about scholars through the Payback Reporting Form, which grantees submit by November 30 of each year. After a consistent decline from 2005 to 2008, the proportion of Masters-level counseling graduates fulfilling their payback requirements through employment in State VR agencies leveled off from 2009 through 2011. While program graduates are not mandated to meet their service obligation by working in State VR agencies, the Department believes that these agencies should be the main employer of these graduates, especially given the current and future shortages outlined

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Training

above. This overall downward trend may have been the result of a confluence of factors, including, but not limited to, the range of acceptable employment for meeting the service obligations outlined in statute, State hiring freezes, and the salary and working conditions in State VR agencies relative to those in other acceptable employment settings. According to the Act, program graduates are able to meet the requirements of their payback through employment in a number of different types of agencies, including employment in private VR agencies or in related State agencies, such as special education. As a result, some of the program's graduates are able to find acceptable employment in a number of different settings other than State VR agencies. When combined with the lower salary offered by State VR agencies compared to those in private firms, it may be that more program graduates are opting to seek employment elsewhere, while still meeting the terms of their service obligation. Of all Masters-level graduates, 83 percent were fulfilling their service obligation in some form of acceptable employment in 2011, with roughly 55 percent of the employed graduates opting to work in settings other than the State VR agency. Over the past three years, the proportion of employed graduates working in settings other than the State VR agency has been slowly increasing.

Measure: The percentage of RSA-supported graduates fulfilling their payback requirements through acceptable employment.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	86	77
2010	86	83
2011	87	83
2012	87	
2013	87	
2014	87	

Additional Information: Using the annual Payback Reporting Form, grantees are required to report the number of RSA-supported graduates fulfilling their payback requirements through acceptable employment. This measure captures all program graduates who received RSA-supported scholarships, including those receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates. It also includes individuals maintaining acceptable employment in all acceptable agencies, not just State VR agencies. The Act requires that all program graduates maintain acceptable employment for at least 2 years for every year they received assistance from an RSA-supported grant. However, only four in five scholars are currently doing so. It is possible that some portion of program graduates are receiving waivers of their payback requirements for various reasons, including exceptions and deferrals provided in accordance with 34 CFR 386.41, such as permanent disability or full-time enrollment in an institution of higher education. It is also possible that some subset of individuals who received scholarship support opt to obtain employment in for-profit rehabilitation agencies and simply repay their initial scholarship as if it were a loan. Without further information, the Department cannot determine the extent to which these explanations hold, but RSA has revised the Payback Reporting Form to be used by grantees in order to significantly improve the quality and accuracy of the data RSA receives about scholars.

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Measure: The percentage of currently employed State Vocational Rehabilitation agency counselors who meet their state's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) standards.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	74	75
2010	75	84
2011	76	86
2012	77	
2013	78	
2014	78	

Additional Information: The Department annually collects data from State VR agencies about the qualifications of their currently-employed counselors. Since 2002, the proportion of currently employed State VR agency counselors who meet their State's CSPD standards has increased and performance on this measure in 2010 and 2011 was markedly better than in prior years. The general trend of improved performance could be due, in part, to enhanced training made possible through the Training program. However, it could also be due to the natural aging of the State VR workforce accompanied by replacing retiring counselors who do not meet the CSPD standards with new counselors who do. The Department believes that both factors may have contributed to the increased qualifications of State VR counselors, but cannot definitively parse out the individual effects of each. As for the sudden increase in performance in 2010, the Department believes that this may be due to higher quality data reporting on the part of States and increased monitoring and technical assistance from the Department. In general, more information is needed about this measure and the potential causes of the recent trends.

Efficiency Measures

The Department has adopted an efficiency measure for the Long-Term Training program (LTT). This measure is the cost per Master's-level vocational rehabilitation counseling graduate.

Measure: The Federal cost per RSA supported rehabilitation counseling graduate at the Masters-level.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	\$10,702	\$27,331
2010	10,702	\$23,477
2011	10,702	\$23,721
2012	10,702	
2013	24,000	
2014	24,000	

Additional Information: The measure is calculated by dividing the total funds spent on long-term training during a fiscal year by the number of graduates supported under that program

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during the same fiscal year. Since 2001, the Federal cost per RSA supported rehabilitation graduate at the Masters level typically ranged from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Beginning in 2010, the Department has calculated this measure for individual cohorts of grantees by dividing the sum of all project costs supported with Federal funds (across all years of each individual scholar's training) by the number of degree recipients who successfully completed funded training programs closing in that year. Prior to 2010, this measure was calculated using only the funds directly made available for scholarships. For purposes of the table above, the Department recalculated the 2009 measure using the revised methodology in order to allow cross-year comparisons. The targets for 2009 through 2012 are based on the previous methodology. The higher Federal cost per RSA-supported graduate under the new methodology is in line with similar measures in other programs supporting training at the Masters level. However, there remains wide variation across types of programs and projects. The Department is analyzing these data to determine ways to improve efficiency across the Training program.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Demonstration and training programs

(Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III, Section 303)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$5,325	\$5,325 ²	\$5,750	+\$425

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Demonstration and Training programs are authorized to 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) and to further the purposes and policies of the Act. These current-funded discretionary programs also are authorized to 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 are intended to increase employment outcomes for individuals for whom vocational rehabilitation services were previously unavailable or who previously did not take advantage of such services.

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Demonstration and training programs

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(dollars in thousands)
2009	\$9,594
2010	11,601
2011	6,459
2012	5,325
2013	5,325 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$5.750 million for the Demonstration and Training programs in fiscal year 2014, an increase of \$425,000 over the fiscal year 2012 appropriation for this program. The requested increase would support technical assistance (TA) activities designed to promote promising and evidence-based practices to improve employment outcomes for youth with disabilities. The TA would focus on practices developed and implemented by RSA's six Transitional Model Demonstration projects that ended in September 2012 and highlighted at the recent National Transition Conference. These six projects, which operated in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, and Oregon, were developed to demonstrate the use of promising practices of collaborative transition planning and service delivery to improve the postsecondary education and employment outcomes of youth with disabilities.

The request would also support two new Braille Training grants (\$300,000) that will be competitively awarded under this program during fiscal year 2014.

All other funds requested for fiscal year 2014 would provide funding for the continuation of activities that began in previous fiscal years.

Of the amount requested, \$4.9 million would be used to continue support for a grantee that is demonstrating how State VR agencies can achieve high quality employment outcomes for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. This activity began in fiscal year 2010, and will receive its final year of funding in fiscal year 2014. Program improvement efforts would include quantitative and qualitative analytical activities that assist the Department to assess and improve program performance.

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Demonstration and training programs

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

<u>Program funding and awards</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Program funding:			
<i>Technical assistance support activities</i>			
New awards	0	0	\$425
<i>SSDI/SSI demonstrations</i>			
Continuations	\$4,883	\$4,893	4,893
<i>Braille training</i>			
Continuations	300	300	0
New awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>
Subtotal	300	300	300
Program improvement activities	60	79	76
Minority Outreach	82	53	53
Peer review of new award applications	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total—Program costs	5,325	5,325	5,750
Number of awards			
Number of continuation awards	4	4	1
Number of new awards	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
Total—Number of awards	4	4	5

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Efficiency Measure

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.*

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. This efficiency measure is designed to determine whether the grantees are providing the services for which they were awarded funding through the competitive process. In December 2012, RSA received final reports from 13 grantees, including 6 Transition Model Demonstrations and 7 Parent Information and Training Centers. RSA is reviewing the applications submitted by

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Demonstration and training programs

these grantees in relation to their final reports to determine whether these grantees achieved the goals and objectives they set out to accomplish.

Other Performance Information

RSA has developed performance measures tailored to the specific projects being funded under this program. For example, in fiscal year 2010, RSA established performance measures for the Model Demonstration Project to Improve Outcomes for Individuals Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Served by State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies to assess the effectiveness of the grantee's performance in the following areas:

- The degree to which the data collected from the project sites show that the intervention model results in improvement in employment outcomes, such as employment rate, wages at case closure, average hours worked, and percentage of individuals earning an amount greater than substantial gainful activity, as determined by the Social Security Administration, at closure;
- The degree to which the project recommended strategies that could be used by other State VR agencies to implement the model;
- The degree to which the grantee has disseminated its findings to State VR agencies; and
- The responsiveness of the grantee to recommendations made through the reviews conducted by the panel of experts.

Data is expected to be available in early summer 2013.

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Independent living

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0¹

Budget Authority:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
Independent living State grants	\$23,359	\$23,359 ²	\$23,359	0
Centers for independent living	79,953	79,953 ²	79,953	0
Services for older individuals who are blind	34,018	34,018 ²	34,018	0

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 under appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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 sustain, expand, and improve independent living services; develop and support statewide networks of centers for independent living; and foster 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.

The **Independent Living State Grants** program supports formula grants to States, with funds allotted based on total population. States participating in the State Grants program 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. The fiscal year 2012 State allotments are based on the April 1, 2010 population counts published by the Census Bureau in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2010 estimates released in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 allotments are based on the July 1, 2011 estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2012.

To be eligible for financial assistance under the Independent Living (IL) 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. States may use these funds to provide resources to support the operation of the SILC and for one or more of the following purposes:

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- 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 Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, 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. In fiscal year 2012, 356 centers and two States received funding from the CIL program. 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 for this program 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.

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

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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. States participating in the Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind program 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. 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 2012 allotments were based on the July 1, 2010 estimates of the population of individuals age 55 and older published by the Census Bureau in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 and 2014 State allotments are based on the April 1, 2011 population counts published in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 allotments will be revised when new population estimates by age group become available.

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Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

Independent living State grants

(dollars in thousands)

2009.....	\$23,450
Recovery Act.....	18,200
2010.....	23,450
2011.....	23,403
2012.....	23,359
2013.....	23,359 ¹

Centers for independent living

(dollars in thousands)

2009.....	\$77,266
Recovery Act.....	87,500
2010.....	80,266
2011.....	80,105
2012.....	79,953
2013.....	79,953 ¹

Services for older individuals who are blind

(dollars in thousands)

2009.....	\$34,151
Recovery Act.....	34,300
2010.....	34,151
2011.....	34,083
2012.....	34,018
2013.....	34,018 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$23.36 million for the Independent Living State Grants (IL State Grants) program, \$79.95 million for the Centers for Independent Living program (CIL), and \$34.02 million for the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (Older Blind) program. The request for each program is the same as the 2012 level.

Independent Living State Grants and Centers for Independent Living

The Administration requests \$23.36 million for the State Grants program and \$79.95 million for the CIL program, the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. The request for the CIL program would continue support for existing centers, including any new center grants awarded in 2013. Funds requested for the State Grants program would continue the Department's support of

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77 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 support the operation of centers for independent living. These services help ensure that individuals with disabilities can live independently and participate as productive members of their communities.

The Administration believes that structural reforms are needed for these programs. Specifically, consolidating the IL State Grants and CIL programs would reduce overlap and streamline the administration of independent living services. However, the Administration has requested funding in fiscal year 2014 under current law because it believes these structural issues would be more effectively addressed through the reauthorization of the programs rather than the appropriations process. The structural issues that could be addressed by consolidation are:

- There is significant overlap between the two programs. A majority of IL State Grants funding is used for the same purposes as the competitive funds for the CIL program—to provide independent living services, either directly or through grants and contracts with centers for independent living and other providers. The authorized uses of funds are nearly identical for the two programs. The target population of the two programs is also identical—individuals with significant disabilities.
- The usual advantages of a competitive program—a stronger focus on performance and accountability—are muted under the CIL program because the authorizing statute requires all centers funded as of fiscal year 1997 to receive noncompetitive funding as long as they continue to meet program and fiscal standards and assurances. In practice, this provision is also applied to centers established after 1997. As a result, all 354 centers in the CIL program are eligible to receive noncompetitive continuing funding in perpetuity.
- The structure of the CIL program also puts the Department in the position of monitoring more than three hundred and fifty small, local centers that operate in a service system that is largely organized, planned, and in many States, primarily funded at the State level, with the Designated State Unit and the State Independent Living Council occupying central roles. A 2012 report from the Department's Inspector General found that RSA has not been able to comply with the Rehabilitation Act's requirement to monitor at least 15 percent of the centers each year. Despite recent efforts to improve the efficiency of monitoring by leveraging State resources and revising monitoring protocols, RSA does not have sufficient funding for staff and travel to meet this 15 percent requirement. Federal oversight and monitoring of individual centers is administratively inefficient and focused primarily on compliance with Federal requirements rather than on State and local needs.
- These factors contribute to an independent living service system with overlapping programs, fragmented funding, tangled oversight, and service duplication among State agencies, non-profit consumer-controlled centers, and private contractors. The Administration is concerned that these structural features create inefficiencies and are not ideal for delivering services to consumers. The Administration believes these concerns should be addressed as part of the reauthorization of these programs.

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The Administration also believes that reforms to these programs should maintain consumer control of centers; provide adequate representation of the centers on the SILC; ensure that centers receive a predominate share of the program funds; maintain State matching requirements; and realign monitoring responsibilities so that the Federal government can hold States accountable for their service systems and States can monitor, and be responsive to, the localized needs of centers and consumers.

Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind

The Administration requests \$34.02 million for the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind program for fiscal year 2014, the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey, 6.9 percent of individuals 65 and older (about 2.7 million people) have a vision-related disability. The occurrence of a sensory disability was more than six times greater among older adults than working-age people. Persons age 55 or older, the target population of this program, are projected to increase as a share of the population over the next decade and beyond. Independent living services for these individuals are predominately provided through contracts administered by State vocational rehabilitation agencies, not centers for independent living, and many of the needs of this target population are different from those of the consumers that would be served under the proposed Grants for Independent Living program. For these reasons, the Administration believes a sustained investment in this program separate from the Grants for Independent Living program is warranted. 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 their minimum level.

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PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

<u>Measures:</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Centers for Independent Living:			
Number of Grantees	356	356	356
Minimum State Allocation	\$857	\$857	\$857
Average State allocation	\$1,483	\$1,483	\$1,483
Minority outreach	\$801	\$800	\$800
Training and Technical Assistance	\$1,443	\$1,444	\$1,444
Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind:			
Number of Grantees	56	56	56
Minimum State award	\$225	\$225	\$225
Average State award	\$645	\$645	\$645
Minority outreach	\$340	\$340	\$340
Independent Living State Grants:			
Number of Grantees	77	77	77
Minimum State award	\$312	\$312	\$312
Average State award	\$442	\$442	\$442
Minority outreach	\$234	\$234	\$234

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, 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, including funding provided under the Recovery Act, and those requested in fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by the program.

Goal: To promote and support a philosophy of independent living (IL)—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.

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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 Independent Living Centers consumers who report having access to previously unavailable 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).

Year	Target	Actual
2009	69	58
2010	69	60
2011	70	62
2012	70	
2013	71	
2014	71	

Measure: The percentage of Independent Living Centers consumers who report having access to previously unavailable assistive technology which results in increased independence in at least one significant life area, as a result of direct services provided by an Independent Living Center (including referral to another service provider).

Year	Target	Actual
2009	73	62
2010	74	69
2011	76	67
2012	76	
2013	76	
2014	76	

Measure: The percentage of Independent Living Centers consumers who report having access to previously unavailable transportation, as a result of direct services provided by an Independent Living Center (including referral to another service provider).

Year	Target	Actual
2009	84	73
2010	86	69
2011	87	92
2012	87	
2013	87	
2014	87	

Additional information: For these measures, grantees in the Centers for Independent Living program are required under section 704 of the Rehabilitation Act to report annually detailed data on the services they provided and the resulting outcomes, including the percentage of their

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consumers who report—as result of services provided by a CIL (including referral to another service provider), designated State unit, or designated State unit’s 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. The denominator is determined by the grantee based on the number of consumers who have goals specified in their Independent Living Plans that require measurable progress on these intermediate outcomes (access to transportation, health care services, and/or assistive technology) for their achievement. These are not the only outcomes of interest to CIL grantees or consumers, but RSA believes that a significant portion of CIL activities are directly related to these outcomes and that improved performance on these outcomes will result in increased independence for CIL consumers overall.

Data for 2011 indicate that targets were not met for two of the three outcome areas reported under these measures. However, performance on two of the measures showed progress compared to the previous year. The third measure (access to assistive technology) showed a small decline. RSA staff and the program’s technical assistance grantees have conducted data quality training sessions in recent years to improve the validity of the data. RSA also implemented a series of automated data checks, which have resulted in further improvements in the accuracy of the data. RSA will examine whether to reset targets for these measures using the more accurate data. Data for 2012 are expected in April 2013.

Measure: The percentage of Independent Living Centers’ 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).

Year	Target	Actual
2009	56	45
2010	56	54
2011	57	54
2012	57	
2013	58	
2014	58	

Additional information: Many CILs believe that one of the most important functions of the CIL program is assisting people with disabilities with moving out of institutions and living independently. Consumers counted by this measure must have set a goal to move out of an institution or nursing home and now live in a community-based setting. This measure is calculated by dividing the number of consumers who, with the assistance of a center for independent living, moved to a community-based setting by the number of consumers who set a community living goal ($3,844 / 7,078 = 54\%$). The percentage of consumers who met their community living goal in 2011 was the same as the prior year. The target was not met. RSA staff and the program’s technical assistance grantees have conducted data quality trainings in recent years to improve the validity of the data. RSA also implemented a series of data checks, which have resulted in further improvements in the accuracy of the annual reports. Data for 2012 are expected in April 2013.

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

The Department previously developed measures designed to capture CIL efforts at the community level on key outcomes that correspond to the outcome measures for services and activities provided at the individual level. Grantees have found that measuring and reporting valid and reliable data on these outcomes at the community level is much more difficult. RSA is working to develop new measures that capture community-level activities and will include these new measures in the next version of the section 704 reporting instrument.

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 Independent Living Older Blind program consumers who have access to previously unavailable assistive technology aids and devices.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	54	68
2010	56	57
2011	58	52
2012	58	
2013	58	
2014	58	

Additional information: The percentage of consumers reporting access in 2011 declined from the prior year and fell below the target level. Assistive technology is one of the most frequently requested and expensive forms of assistance offered by this program, and consequently some States may have difficulty meeting consumer demand. This measure is calculated by dividing the number of consumers who received assistive technology (37,482) by the total number of Older Blind program consumers ($37,482 / 71,714 = 52\%$). Data for 2012 are expected by April 2013.

Measure: The percentage of Independent Living Older Blind program consumers who report an improvement in daily living skills.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	57	68
2010	58	60
2011	59	52
2012	59	
2013	60	
2014	60	

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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Additional information: The percentage of consumers reporting improvement for 2011 declined from the prior year and fell below the target level. This measure is calculated by dividing the number of Older Blind program consumers who reported improvement in daily living skills by the total number of Older Blind program consumers. Daily living skills include activities such as bathing, moving around the home, getting out of bed or a chair, and eating a meal. State agencies collect and provide this data in their annual program reports. Data for 2012 are expected by April 2013.

Efficiency Measures

The Department has not established efficiency measures for the CIL program. Several years ago, the Department examined the utility of two possible measures of efficiency: the number of consumer service records closed with all goals met for every \$10,000 in net operating funds, and the number of consumer goals accomplished per \$10,000 in net operating funds. RSA pilot tested these measures and commissioned a contractor to analyze the efficiency data, but found that these measures did not provide valid and reliable results. Data from the measures showed that CILs varied widely in their reported efficiency depending on the size, location, funding sources, intensity of services, and accuracy of records of each CIL. The Department will continue to explore alternative methods of evaluating the efficiency of the program.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$18,031	\$18,031 ²	\$18,031	0

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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, 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 distributes the remainder of the appropriation to the eligible systems within the States and outlying areas based on population estimates and after satisfying minimum allocations. The fiscal year 2012 allotments were based on the July 1, 2010 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 allotments are based on the July 1, 2011 population estimates published in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2012 Census data released in December 2012.

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

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Protection and advocacy of individual rights

appropriated for this program for 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 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:

	(dollars in thousands)
2009.....	\$17,101
2010.....	18,101
2011.....	18,065
2012.....	18,031
2013.....	18,031 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$18.031 million for the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) program in fiscal year 2014, the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. Federal support for PAIR enables States to provide assistance and information to eligible individuals with disabilities and thereby ensure the protection of their rights under Federal law.

During fiscal year 2011, PAIR programs reported representing 14,739 individuals and responded to 42,949 requests for information or referral. Of the cases handled by PAIR programs in that year, the greatest number of specified issues involved government benefits/services (22 percent), education (17 percent), employment (12 percent), housing (12 percent), and health care (12 percent).

In addition to providing representation to individuals, PAIR programs address systemic issues faced by persons with disabilities through a variety of methods, including negotiations with public and private entities and class action litigation. In fiscal year 2011, 51 out of the 57 PAIR programs (89 percent) reported that these activities resulted in changes in policies and practices benefiting individuals with disabilities.

The following examples of case services provided in fiscal year 2011 illustrate how PAIR programs assist individuals and bring about systemic change:

- Maine Disability Rights Center (DRC) provided assistance to the parents of a 5-year-old child with a diagnosis of diabetes after the parents were notified by their child's school that the school officials were not knowledgeable about this type of disability and were not trained to administer glucagon to the child if needed. The school district indicated these services were only offered in another school that was located further away than the child's neighborhood school. DRC was successful in assisting the child's parents to obtain the services specified in their son's section 504 plan in the neighborhood school.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Protection and advocacy of individual rights

- Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) assisted a client who is deaf and who was encountering communication barriers during hospital visits. The hospital did not want to pay for her American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter during these medical appointments. After DRO informed the hospital of its responsibility to provide interpreters for patients who are deaf and hard of hearing, the hospital then changed its position and agreed to provide an interpreter for the client's next appointment and all subsequent appointments.
- Ohio Legal Rights Service (LRS) assisted an individual who is blind and resides in a public institution who needed assistive technology (AT) and accommodations to be able to live more independently. LRS investigated and was able to secure a cane, a new walkway, large print materials, and other low vision aides.
- Massachusetts Disability Law Center (DLC) assisted a 61-year-old woman with multiple sclerosis and a severe visual impairment who used a dog as a service animal. After entering her local pharmacy with her dog, she was informed that pets were not allowed there. She explained that her dog was a service animal, but the pharmacy told her she would not be able to return with the dog in the future. DLC educated the store manager about laws allowing persons with disabilities to have their service animal accompany them in a public space, thereby ensuring that consumers using this accommodation were not restricted access in the future.
- Disability Rights California (DRC) assisted an individual with a mobility impairment that prevented him from using the stairs in his apartment. The individual requested that his landlord permit him, at his own expense to install a stair-lift, which would enable him to leave his apartment to carry out daily activities including medical appointments. After the landlord denied the request, DRC notified the landlord that the provisions of the Federal Housing Act prohibits housing providers from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities. The outcome was that the stair-lift was installed.
- Illinois Equip for Equality (EFE) assisted an individual with a learning disability who worked for a hotel as a banquet manager. The individual had been placed on unpaid leave following the results of a psychological examination. He sought to return to work with accommodations and the employer refused. In collaboration with the client's psychiatrist, EFE persuaded the employer that the individual could perform the essential functions of the job, and the individual returned to his job with accommodations.
- Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services (PAS) provided assistance to a 61-year-old man with a series of disabilities who was denied Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits. PAS gathered the client's medical records and subsequently obtained a favorable decision from the Social Security's Virtual Screening Unit without having to undergo a hearing.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Protection and advocacy of individual rights

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

<u>Measures</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Information inquiries/referrals	42,500	42,500	42,500
Individuals provided case services	14,500	14,500	14,500

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

NOTE: Data for fiscal years 2012 through 2014 are projected from actual data collected for fiscal year 2011 in which PAIRs responded to 42,949 requests for information or referral and represented 14,739 individuals. Data for fiscal year 2012 will be available in April 2013.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as 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.*

Measure: The percentage of PAIR programs that reported that their systemic advocacy resulted in a change in policy or practice.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	83	96
2010	85	93
2011	89	89
2012	91	
2013	91	
2014	91	

Additional information: 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 PAIR programs, 55 (96 percent) reported

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Protection and advocacy of individual rights

success on this measure in fiscal year 2009, and 53 of the 57 (93 percent) PAIR programs reported success in fiscal year 2010. The target was met in fiscal year 2011, but there was a decline to 51 of the 57 (89 percent) PAIR programs reporting success.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$108,817	\$108,817 ²	\$110,000	+\$1,183

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is to generate knowledge and promote its effective use to improve the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community, and also to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities. NIDRR conducts comprehensive and coordinated programs of research and related activities to maximize the full inclusion, social integration, employment, and independent living of individuals with disabilities of all ages. 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 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.

As required by the Rehabilitation Act in §202(h), NIDRR is updating its Long-Range Plan (LRP) and is currently operating under a plan published February 15, 2006 entitled *Long-Range Plan for Fiscal Years 2005—2009*. This plan outlines three long-term performance goals and its strategies for achieving these goals. These goals are:

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- 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 April 18, 2012, NIDRR published for public comment its new proposed plan-- *National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Long-Range Plan for Fiscal Years 2013-2017*. In response to this Federal Register notice, the Department received 145 comments. NIDRR analyzed the comments and suggestions for change, made revisions, and will be publishing a final plan with the following 4 goals:

- Goal 1: Create a portfolio of research, development, and other activities that balances domains, populations of focus, and who, whether NIDRR or the grant applicant, defines the specific approach to a disability or rehabilitation research topic.
- Goal 2: Support centers and projects that conduct well-designed research and development activities using a range of appropriate methods.
- Goal 3: Promote the effective use of knowledge in areas of importance to individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Goal 4: Improve program administration.

The following is a description of the primary areas for which NIDRR makes awards:

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC)s. RRTCs receive funding to conduct coordinated and advanced programs of research, training, and information dissemination in 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 excellence in rehabilitation research for providers and for individuals with disabilities and their representatives. Typically, awards are for 5 years. However, NIDRR also may award grants for less than 5 years to support new or innovative research.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC)s. The RERCs conduct research on issues dealing with rehabilitation technology, including rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology devices and services. RERC activities include developing and disseminating innovative methods of applying advanced technology, scientific achievements, and psychological and social knowledge to rehabilitation issues such as 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

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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 in the field of rehabilitation technology. Typically, awards are for 5 years. However, NIDRR also may 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 these areas. Grantees in each of the three areas contribute to a national database that is supported by NIDRR funding. These model systems programs have become platforms for conducting multi-site research, including randomized controlled trials to determine the efficacy of interventions.

- *Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems.* The 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. Currently, the NIDRR TBI model systems is the largest nonmilitary TBI service delivery/research entity participating in various intergovernmental efforts to improve treatment and outcomes for returning veterans. (See <http://www.tbindsc.org/>.)
- *Burn 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 (FIPs). Field-Initiated Projects supplement NIDRR's directed research and address a wide range of topics identified by investigators, including research, demonstrations, development, and knowledge translation. These projects allow NIDRR to address emerging developments in the field beyond the scope of announced priorities. Most of these awards are made for 3 years.

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs). Grantees under this program focus on discrete research topics identified by NIDRR and address problems encountered by people with disabilities through a variety of methods that may include research, demonstrations, training, dissemination, utilization, technical assistance, or combinations of these activities.

ADA National Network Centers (ADA Network). The ADA Network supports 10 regional centers that provide detailed technical assistance, disseminate information, and provide training related to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and promote awareness of the ADA. Typically, these awards are for 5 years.

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Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT). The ARRT program supports grants to institutions to provide advanced postdoctoral training in areas that are directly related to NIDRR's research portfolio, such as medical rehabilitation, engineering, technology, community integration, and employment. Grants are made to institutions to recruit qualified persons with doctoral or similar advanced degrees 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.

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 and be for-profit with no more than 500 employees. The principal researcher must be employed by the business.

Switzer Research Fellowships. 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.

Outreach to Minority Institutions. The Rehabilitation Act (§21) 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 Activities: NIDRR funding also supports a variety of other activities, including knowledge translation; 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 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:

	(dollars in thousands)
2009	\$107,741
2010	109,241
2011	109,023
2012	108,817
2013	108,817 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$110 million for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, an increase of \$1.183 over the fiscal year 2012 level for this program. The requested increase (\$1.2 million) would be used for research activities in the employment domain under a new regulatory framework that NIDRR intends to have in place by 2014.

The request also enables NIDRR to cover the costs of grants that began in previous fiscal years (\$82 million) and provide \$19.9 million for all other new grant awards. More than half the funds for new awards would be in used in three NIDRR programs—the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs) program, the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) program, and domain-specific awards under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) program.

NIDRR plans to request applications for RRTCs in the following areas in fiscal year 2014:

- VR Service Delivery and Management Issues;
- Employment and Intellectual and Developmental Disability;
- Employment and Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury;
- Community Integration for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury;
- Health and Function and Physical Disability;
- Center on Family Support;
- Transition to Adulthood (co-funded with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA));
- Transition for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions (co-funded with SAMHSA); and
- Employment and Individuals with Psychiatric Disability (co-funded with SAMHSA).

In fiscal year 2014, NIDRR also proposes funding for new RERCs and intends to request applications in the following broad priority areas:

- Rehabilitation Strategies, Techniques, and Interventions;
- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Individual Mobility and Manipulation; and
- Physical Access and Transportation.

Under its new regulations to be published in 2013, NIDRR hopes to strengthen its overall research portfolio by expanding opportunities for field-initiated work within a clear framework

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that is designed to both encourage innovation and promote rigorous research, and by allowing for a regular schedule of competitions in pre-established priority areas. To establish clear and consistent requirements for similar types of projects, the regulations will define the types of projects to be supported and specify the application requirements for each of them. Under the proposed framework, NIDRR would support four types of projects. They are:

- **Exploration and Discovery:** Generate new and refined analyses, findings, hypotheses, and theories that enhance knowledge of the barriers to and facilitators of improved outcomes for individuals with disabilities. This research can also be used to identify existing practices, programs, or policies that are associated with better outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The results from this work may either inform the development of interventions or lead to evaluations of interventions.
- **Intervention Development:** Generate and test interventions—such as research tools, products, programs, practices, and policies—that have potential to improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities. NIDRR supports grants to develop innovative interventions or to improve existing interventions.
- **Intervention Efficacy:** Evaluate the efficacy of interventions—such as research tools, products, programs, practices, and policies—to determine whether they are feasible and practical and can have a positive impact on outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Efficacy studies can be used to assess the strength of an intervention’s impact on a desired outcome. Efficacy studies often apply experimental or quasi-experimental research methods.
- **Scale-up Evaluation:** Conduct evaluations to determine whether interventions—such as research tools, products, programs, practices, and policies—are effective in producing improved outcomes for individuals with disabilities when implemented in multiple real-world settings.

NIDRR’s regulations would also specify the priority areas in which NIDRR plans to support new research. The broad priority areas, which would be based on the domains in NIDRR’s forthcoming Long-Range Plan (LRP) for fiscal years 2013-2017, would be employment, community living and participation, and health and function. In each domain area, NIDRR would specify broadly-framed priority areas, in which applicants would have flexibility to determine the specific topics and methodologies to be proposed in response to the needs of persons with disabilities, families, and service providers. These priorities would remain in place for up to five years. Having these priority areas in place for a prolonged period of time would provide the field with stable opportunities for funding. Applicants who are not successful in one competition would be able to revise and improve their applications knowing that there will soon be another opportunity to have their proposal funded. Using recurring topical priorities would also simplify the management of NIDRR’s competitions by reducing the need for annual rule-making.

NIDRR established the use of these domains in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 through individual competitions under the DRRP, RRTC, and RERC programs. During fiscal year 2014, NIDRR plans to use its new regulation for the following broad priority topics in its domain areas:

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Employment

- Technology to improve employment outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Individual and environmental factors associated with improved employment outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Interventions that contribute to improved employment outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities. Interventions include any strategy, practice, program, policy, or tool that, when implemented as intended, contributes to improvements in outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Effects of government practices, policies, and programs on employment outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Practices and policies that contribute to improved employment outcomes for transition-aged youth with physical disabilities.
- Vocational rehabilitation (VR) practices that contribute to improved employment outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.

Community Living and Participation

- Technology to improve community living and participation outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Individual and environmental factors associated with improved community living and participation outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Interventions that contribute to improved community living and participation outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities. Interventions include any strategy, practice, program, policy, or tool that, when implemented as intended, contributes to improvements in outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Effects of government practices, policies, and programs on community living and participation outcomes for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Practices and policies that contribute to improved community living and participation outcomes for transition-aged youth with physical disabilities.

Health and Function

- Technology to improve health and function outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Individual and environmental factors associated with improved access to rehabilitation and health care and improved health and function outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Interventions that contribute to improved health and function outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Interventions include any strategy, practice, program, policy, or tool that, when implemented as intended, contributes to improvements in outcomes for the specified population.
- Effects of government practices, policies, and programs on health care access and on health and function outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Practices and policies that contribute to improved health and function outcomes for transition-aged youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

Project Type	Amount of Funding			Number of Awards		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<i>Research Domain-Employment</i>						
Continuations	0	\$1,000	\$2,000	0	2	4
New awards	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	1,000	2,000	tbd	2	4	tbd
<i>Research Domain-Health and Function</i>						
Continuations	0	0	\$1,000	0	0	2
New awards	<u>0</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	0	1,000	tbd	0	2	tbd
<i>Research Domain-Community Living and Participation</i>						
Continuations	0	0	1,000	0	0	2
New awards	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	0	1,000	tbd	0	2	tbd
<i>Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers</i>						
Continuations	21,880	13,108	15,790	26	18	21
New awards	<u>650</u>	<u>8,250</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	22,530	21,358	tbd	27	28	tbd
<i>Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers</i>						
Continuations	8,010	5,700	12,349	14	9	13
New awards	<u>1,900</u>	<u>6,650</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	9,910	12,350	tbd	16	16	tbd
<i>Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems</i>						
Continuations	7,117	8,019	8,018	15	16	16
New awards	<u>900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	8,017	8,019	8,018	16	16	16

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Project Type	Amount of Funding			Number of Awards		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<i>Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems</i>						
Continuations	\$2,334	\$8,125	\$8,975	3	17	18
New awards	<u>7,000</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	9,334	8,975	8,975	19	18	18
<i>Burn Model Systems</i>						
Continuations	0	1,850	1,850	0	5	5
New awards	<u>1,850</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	1,850	1,850	1,850	5	5	5
<i>Field Initiated Projects</i>						
Continuations	7,551	7,621	7,621	46	46	46
New awards	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	11,551	11,621	tbd	66	66	tbd
<i>Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects</i>						
Continuations	4,499	4,550	3,299	11	8	9
New awards	<u>1,000</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	5,499	5,300	tbd	12	9	tbd
<i>Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training</i>						
Continuations	2,392	2,397	2,391	16	16	16
New awards	<u>599</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>tbd</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Subtotal	2,991	2,997	tbd	20	20	tbd
<i>Minority Outreach</i>						
Continuations	1,088	0	0	3	0	3
New awards	<u>0</u>	<u>1,088</u>	<u>1,088</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	1,088	1,088	1,088	3	3	3
<i>Small Business Innovation Research</i>						
Continuations	1,135	1,250	1,270	5	5	5
New awards	<u>2,224</u>	<u>2,375</u>	<u>2,375</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
Subtotal	3,359	3,625	3,645	23	25	25

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Project Type	Amount of Funding			Number of Awards		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<i>Switzer Research Fellowships</i>						
New awards	\$400	\$505	\$505	6	7	7
<i>ADA National Network</i>						
Continuations	11,925	12,534	12,534	11	12	12
New awards	<u>650</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	12,575	12,534	12,534	12	12	12
<i>Knowledge Translation</i>						
Continuations	2,850	2,600	3,600	4	4	5
New awards	<u>750</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	3,600	3,600	3,600	5	5	5
Subtotals						
Subtotal, continuation grants	71,281	68,754	82,012	154	158	172
Subtotal new grants	<u>22,923</u>	<u>29,068</u>	<u>21,130</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>tbd</u>
Total grants	94,204	97,822	103,142	232	238	tbd
Other Activities (Contracts)	13,939	10,095	6,358			
Peer review of new grant applications	<u>674</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>500</u>			
Subtotal	14,613	10,995	6,858			
Total, NIDRR	108,817	108,817	110,000			

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

NOTE: Amounts shown as "tbd" are still to be determined.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

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Goal: To conduct high-quality research and related activities that lead to high-quality products.

Objective: 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 decision-making, change practice, and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Measure: The percentage of NIDRR-supported fellows, post-doctoral trainees, and doctoral students who publish results of NIDRR-sponsored research in refereed journals.

Year	Target	Actual
2009		11
2010		9
2011		15.8
2012		
2013	8	
2014	8	

Additional information: For this measure, refereed journals are those journals that are recognized by the Thompson Institute for Scientific Information. See: <http://www.thompsonscientific.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jloptions.cgi?PC=master>.

In calculating performance on this measure, a single author is counted only once if he or she produces multiple peer-reviewed publications, and fellows or graduate students who co-authored a publication are counted individually for their contributions to one publication. In 2011, there were a total of 589 currently-supported NIDRR fellows, post-doctoral trainees and doctoral students. These fellows, post-doctoral trainees, and doctoral students produced 93 publications, of which 15.8 percent appeared in refereed journals. This statistic requires some qualification because of the lag time it takes to have publications appear. Some of the publications produced by the 2011 students will not appear until 2012 or later. In addition publishing in refereed journals only allow for the calculation of a rough estimate using currently funded students in the denominator.

The measure includes researchers supported under the following programs: Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC), Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERCs), Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT), Model Systems (MS), Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs), and Field Initiated Projects (FIP) grants. These data do not include those funded by Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Data for fiscal year 2012 will be available in December 2013. Targets may be revised for 2014 after 2012 data have been compiled and reviewed.

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Measure: Percentage of NIDRR-funded grant applications that receive an average peer review score of 85 or higher.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	96	94
2010	96	94
2011	96	93
2012	96	100
2013	96	
2014	96	

Additional information: This measure assesses the extent to which NIDRR-funded grant applications are judged by expert review panels to be of high quality. Data for the measure include all grant awards made within a given fiscal year. In FY 2012, one hundred percent of the eighty-six new awards received ratings of 85 or higher. Fiscal year 2013 data will be available in December 2013.

Measure: Percentage of new grants that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous methods.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	35	46
2010	60	32
2011	56	35
2012	61	
2013	62	
2014	35	

Additional information: This measure provides information on the proportion of NIDRR grantees that are engaged in experimental, quasi-experimental, or single subject research to determine whether interventions, programs, and devices are effective. The percentage of NIDRR grants that include tightly controlled research methods, such as true experimental, quasi-experimental, or single-subject methodologies, began high and then declined over a period of years from 65 percent in fiscal year 2002 to 35 percent in fiscal year 2006. The percentage increased significantly in 2008, only to decline again in 2010. In 2011, 34.5 percent (258) of all newly funded NIDRR grantee projects (total of 748 projects) were reported to be using rigorous research methodologies, such as true experimental, quasi-experimental or single subject designs. The variation across years is affected by the mix of grants funded in a particular funding cycle. Fiscal year 2012 data will be available in December 2013.

Objective: *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.*

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Measure: The number of new or improved NIDRR-funded assistive and universally designed technologies, products, and devices transferred to industry for potential commercialization.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	24	30
2010	27	15
2011	15	16
2012	16	22
2013	29	
2014	22	

Additional information: In fiscal year 2012, NIDRR's Annual Performance Report asked grantees implementing development projects to identify: "What stage of the development process are you in during this reporting period?" Those selecting choice "(f) commercialization" are included in this measure.

In 2012, NIDRR grantees reported 160 development projects, of which 22 (or 13.8%) were reported as technology products and devices that were transferred to industry. We expect that that this number will remain relatively small because of the length of time it takes to develop new technologies.

Development projects funded under the following programs are included in this measure: Small Business Innovation Research Phase II (SBIRs), Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Centers (RERCs), and Field Initiated Programs (FIPs).

Measure: The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	2.0	1.37
2010	3.0	1.54
2011	1.4	1.7
2012	1.4	
2013	1.5	
2014	1.5	

Additional information: For this measure, refereed journals are those journals that are recognized by the Thompson Institute for Scientific Information journal selection process (<http://www.thompsonscientific.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jloptions.cgi?PC=master>). The methodology for determining performance under this measure was changed in 2007 to include only NIDRR projects that are expected to produce publications as part of their specified tasks. This measure is now limited to NIDRR research grantees funded under the RRTC, RERC, ARRT, MS, DRRP, and FIP programs. In addition, the methodology was changed to ensure that publications related to a grant were counted only once, regardless of the number of authors under the grant that participated in the publication. In fiscal year 2011-12, 382 NIDRR grantees

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published an average of 1.7 publications per grant in referred journals. This rate was up slightly from the previous year. The 2013 target was increased slightly based upon actual data. Fiscal year 2012 data for this measure will be available by December 2013.

Objective: *Enhance the efficiency of the NIDRR grant award process.*

Efficiency Measures

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
2009	70	21
2010	75	0
2011	50	0
2012	30	0
2013	40	
2014	40	

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

Year	Target	Actual
2009	80	84
2010	85	94
2011	85	40
2012	50	40
2013	60	
2014	50	

Additional information: NIDRR has established efficiency measures that assess its performance in announcing grant competitions on a regular schedule and awarding grants 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. However, there are numerous factors that can affect the schedule, not all of which are under the NIDRR's control. As shown, in fiscal year 2012 NIDRR did not have any competitions announced by October 1, and again made 6 of its 15 (40%) grant competition awards within 6 months of the closing date.

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Helen Keller National Center

(Helen Keller National Center Act)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$9,145	\$9,145 ²	\$9,145	0

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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 adults who are deaf-blind, their families, and service providers through two component programs: a national headquarters center located just outside New York City, 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.

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 an array of services and training leading to enhanced mobility, improved means of communication, constructive participation in the home and community, increased employability, and other improvements to their personal development. The headquarters program also offers training and consultation to other programs serving individuals who are deaf-blind through a technical assistance center and a national training team. The national training team provides training nationwide on a request basis, with the requesting agency covering the travel costs for the team. The national training team also coordinates onsite conferences and workshops across the country to train professionals working with individuals who are deaf-blind.

The Center employs 11 regional representatives to serve individuals who are deaf-blind in their home communities. These representatives provide a variety of services, including training for State and local service agency staff, general technical assistance, program assessment, community advocacy, and helping vocational rehabilitation counselors, mental health workers, special education personnel, and deaf-blind consumers with developing individualized service plans. In addition, the regional offices provide counseling, information, and referral services for

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individuals who are deaf-blind and their families to assist them to live and work independently. The regional representatives also assist clients who have received training at headquarters with making the transition back to their home community.

HKNC also operates a number of special projects related to deaf-blindness. These include a service project for deaf-blind individuals who are elderly, a national parent and family services project, and a small but expanding research portfolio focused on such areas as assistive technology and diseases that cause deaf-blindness. In addition, the Center operates an internship program for undergraduate and graduate students in the field of deaf-blindness. These interns are financially supported by their sponsoring institutions or colleges during their stay and are expected to initiate and complete at least one project while at HKNC.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	(dollars in thousands)
2009	\$8,326
2010	9,181
2011	9,163
2012	9,145
2013	9,145 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration's request for the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) is \$9.145 million, which would maintain funding at the fiscal year 2012 level. The request would support the Center's range of educational and training programs that expand independent living and employment opportunities for individuals who are deaf-blind.

The Federal appropriation for HKNC represented about 67 percent of HKNC's total budget in 2011, the most recent year for which this information is available. Most of the Center's budget supports operations and programs associated with serving clients in the headquarters program. In 2011, the Center served 65 adult clients in the intensive training program and 16 short-term clients at headquarters. HKNC also served 1,336 clients through its regional offices.

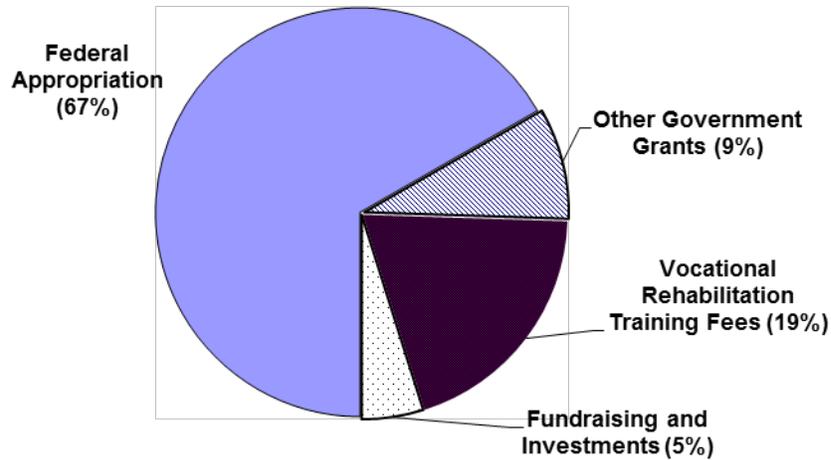
Other Sources of Funding: In addition to funds provided through the appropriation, the Center receives funding from a variety of State, private, and other Federal sources. For example, as a member on the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, HKNC received \$844,019 in fiscal year 2012 through a grant from the Department's Office of Special Education Programs to provide technical assistance to State and local educational agencies. In recent years, the Center has also received a number of non-Federal grants. This includes a 5-year grant from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities for \$1.1 million per year to operate housing and provide supported employment services for individuals who are deaf-blind with intellectual disabilities who were former participants in HKNC's training program. HKNC also has a contract with the New York State Commission for Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVH) to

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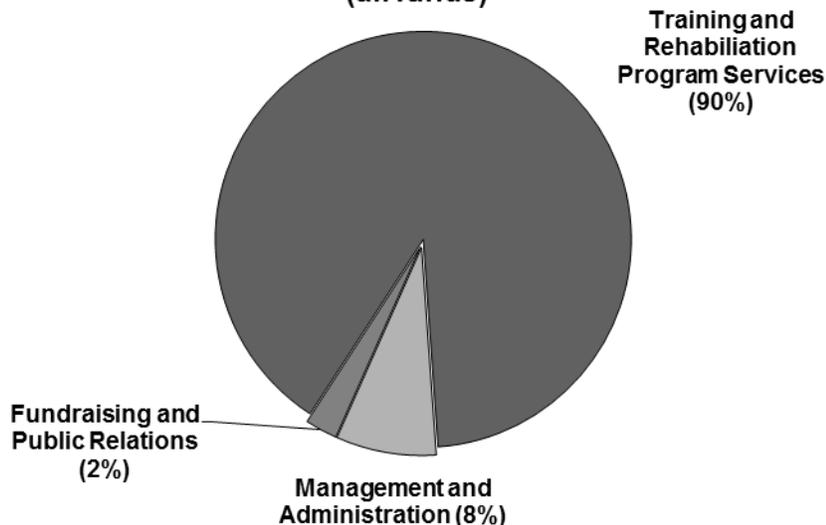
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operate a Community Services Program (CSP) that provides rehabilitation teaching, orientation and mobility, case work, and job placement to deaf-blind individuals in the New York metropolitan area who do not require the comprehensive services offered at the headquarters training program. In recent years, HKNC has also actively expanded its efforts to raise funds from private sources, including charitable foundations. The Center's largest private grant is a \$2 million per year award from the Helmsley Foundation for 2012 to 2014. The following charts show the revenues and expenses from the Center's audited financial statements in program year 2010-2011.

2010-2011 Program Year Sources of Funds (\$13.74 million)



**2010-2011 Program Year Expenses (\$14.28 million)
(all funds)**



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In fiscal year 2014, HKNC would use a majority of the funds requested to support client training, program support activities, consumer housing and residence life expenses, maintenance and plant operations, and administrative functions at the Center's headquarters facility. These funded activities are carried out by the Center's 11 departments: audiology; case management; communications; independent living; low vision; medical; orientation and mobility; vocational services; adaptive technology; clinical social work services; and staff functions such as payroll and benefits. At the request level, the Center estimates that it would serve approximately 65 adult clients with deaf-blindness at its headquarters intensive training program and provide specialized short-term training for approximately 11 high school students, 3 senior citizens, and 2 individuals who need training in the use of technology or other targeted skills.

HKNC would devote approximately estimated 20 percent of the amount requested to its field services and community education programs, including the activities of HKNC's 10 regional offices and its national training team for other service providers. These programs help reach consumers in their home communities and assist personnel at State agencies and other organizations to serve or acquire the capacity to serve individuals who are deaf-blind through training, community education, and technical assistance.

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

<u>Measures</u> ¹	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Number of individuals served at headquarters:			
Adult training program clients	65	65	65
Specialized training services:			
Transition for high school students	11	11	11
Senior citizens	3	3	3
Targeted skills training	2	2	2
Number of individuals served through regional representatives: ²			
Consumers	1,336	1,336	1,500
Families	332	332	332
Agencies/organizations	991	991	991
HKNC FTE staff	140	140	140

¹ Output data are provided according to fiscal year, not HKNC's program year of July to June. These figures are estimates based on data from HKNC and expected funding levels.

² 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 assessment, advocacy, counseling, training, or referral services from regional staff.

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PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, 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 fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as 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.*

Measure: The percentage of training goals set and achieved by adult consumers, 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	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
	# of Adult Consumers	# of Adult Consumers	% in Less Restrictive Settings	% in Less Restrictive Settings	% of Training goals met	% of Training goals met	% Placed in Employment	% Placed in Employment
2009	95	74	75	75	90	90	45	47
2010	95	72	75	93	90	92	45	43
2011	90	64	75	81	90	94	45	43
2012	90	65	75	89	90	89	45	38
2013	68		85		95		46	
2014	70		86		95		47	

Additional information: The number of adult clients attending the HKNC rehabilitation training center in fiscal year 2012 (65) increased from the prior year but was below the target of 90. 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 agencies' funding. We anticipate that the fiscal year 2013 data will be available in January 2014.

In addition to traditional adult consumers, HKNC also provided short-term training for eleven high school students, three senior citizens, and two individuals seeking assessment or training in skill acquisition in specific activities, such as independent living, adaptive technology or work experience. The high school students participate in career exploration, college preparation, and other services offered by the Center and return to high school after their training. The high school students and senior citizens receiving short-term training are not included in the counts

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of adult consumers, consumers placed in employment or less restrictive settings, or consumers who meet their individualized training goals. Adult clients who participate in short-term targeted skills training are included in the measure on training goals set and achieved, but not included in count of adult consumers or the measures of consumers placed in employment or less restrictive settings.

The Center evaluates the progress of clients in achieving the goals stated in their individualized training plans (ITPs). This measure represents the percent of adult consumers served by Helen Keller National Center headquarters who successfully achieved identified training goals during the program year. The consumers and their instructors mutually develop these instructional objectives. To ensure that the measure is an accurate reflection of the Center's performance, the Department and HKNC have agreed that it should only include the outcomes for adult clients enrolled in the long-term formal program and the targeted skills training program. Clients in the short-term programs for high school students and senior citizens are not included in the calculation. In 2012, 89 percent of adult consumers achieved their training goals, which is very close to the target set for this measure, but a decrease from the previous year.

The less restrictive settings measure refers to clients who move from settings such as living with parents or guardians, assisted living settings, and nursing homes to more independent living arrangements such as their own home or apartment or group homes. The percentage is taken only of those consumers with a specific goal to move to a less restrictive living situation. This measure includes 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 as important to help consumers who need assistance in maintaining their ability to live independently as those seeking to move to less restrictive settings. In 2012, 89 percent of clients moved into, or remained in, less restrictive settings, which exceeded the target set for this measure.

The percent placed in employment measure refers to outcomes for those individuals who came to the Center with a specific vocational objective. In 2012, 24 of the 52 individuals who terminated training had a desire to achieve a vocational outcome. Of the 24 who had a vocational objective, 9 (38 percent) achieved this goal, which did not meet the target for this measure and is a decrease from the prior year. Another 15 individuals are at home and seeking competitive or supported employment. Among the 28 individuals not seeking a vocational outcome, 4 were homemakers and 4 are continuing in postsecondary education. Five consumers did not complete the program and/or took a leave of absence. Two consumers received short term training, 3 were senior adults, and 10 were in high school.

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

Measure: The number of individuals (or families on behalf of individuals) referred to State or local agencies or service providers by HKNC's regional offices.

Year	Target	Actual
2009		303
2010		272
2011		239
2012		300
2013	245	
2014	265	

Measure: The percentage of consumers who participated in services of programs (other than HKNC) as a result of receiving a referral from HKNC's regional offices.

Year	Target	Actual
2009		65
2010		63
2011		63
2012		74
2013	66	
2014	67	

These measures provide information on the activities of the field services programs, including the 11 regional representatives and the national training team, which consume a significant portion of the Center's resources. Regional representatives serve individuals with deaf-blindness in their home communities, which often lack other service providers that are trained and equipped to the unique and multi-faceted needs of these consumers. The referrals provided by regional representatives often are the gateway to finding appropriate and individualized supports from various agencies and organizations. The intensity of consumers' interactions with HKNC field staff varies significantly. Some consumers interact with staff only once over the phone, while others benefit from repeated in-person visits for a variety of services, such as skills assessments, counseling, and advocacy. Data for 2013 is expected in January 2014.

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Helen Keller National Center

Objective: *HKNC will assist State vocational rehabilitation and employment programs in increasing employment outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind.*

Measure: The number of referrals by HKNC's regional offices to vocational rehabilitation or related employment programs.

Year	Target	Actual
2009		90
2010		131
2011		32
2012		57
2013	84	
2014	88	

Measure: The percentage of individuals who achieved successful employment outcomes in which HKNC's regional offices played a collaborative role contributing training, advocacy and/or support to the consumer or job training agency.

Year	Target	Actual
2009		32
2010		24
2011		28
2012		45
2013	28	
2014	30	

HKNC plays an important role in connecting individuals who are deaf-blind to vocational rehabilitation agencies. Many vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies lack sufficient numbers of personnel trained in providing services to consumers who are deaf-blind. HKNC field staff frequently facilitate interactions between consumers and VR agencies, train VR agency staff about the specialized needs of these clients, and assist consumers who are returning to their State's VR system after attending intensive training at HKNC headquarters. The steep decrease in the number of consumers who received referrals to State VR agencies in 2011 may reflect the lower number of all types of referrals and funding constraints on VR agencies in recent years. The number of referrals partially rebounded in 2012. The number of referrals to VR agencies is also limited by the fact that not all consumers served by HKNC field staff have vocational goals. Data for 2013 is expected in January 2014.

In addition to these measures, the Department may adopt new measures proposed by the recently completed study of HKNC. Possible measures may address the cost efficiency and cost effectiveness of the Center's services, however, it is unclear whether the Center currently has the data management capacity needed to ensure that consistent, reliable, timely information is collected, particularly for measures that require follow up with clients who have left the Center or detailed information about the cost of specific services.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

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Other Performance Information

In July, 2011 the Department received the final report of a comprehensive study of HKNC conducted by an independent contractor, Westat. The purpose of the study was to examine the alignment of the Center's programs with the needs of the various populations served by HKNC and its regional offices; the Center's interactions with vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies; and the outreach that HKNC provides to other service providers and to the family members of deaf-blind individuals who, in turn, support those individuals. The research team's data sources included: detailed in-person interviews with HKNC staff and deaf-blind former HKNC consumers; telephone interviews with family members of deaf-blind individuals, VR agency staff, service providers, and representatives of stakeholder organizations; HKNC administrative records; an email survey of VR agencies; and site visits to HKNC headquarters and regional offices.

Notable findings include:

- Many stakeholders familiar with HKNC's work consider HKNC to be the "gold standard" for the provision of services to deaf-blind individuals.
- VR agency respondents indicated that HKNC is offering an appropriate array of services, but more of the same services are needed to meet their needs. Specifically, the demand for training from the National Training Team and technical assistance from the regional representatives far outstrips the available supply of these services.
- Service providers generally reported that HKNC training led to enhanced capacity to serve deaf-blind populations. About two-thirds of service providers said there were no local training alternatives available for learning how to serve deaf-blind individuals.
- Some State VR staff, regional representatives, and family members expressed concerns that resources for post-training follow-up were often insufficient, citing the elimination of job development and community placement positions at HKNC headquarters and the already overloaded schedules of the regional representative.
- HKNC is filling a gap in services in many communities. VR agencies and former consumers reported that their States and local communities generally lack services and resources for deaf-blind individuals who do not attend programs at HKNC's headquarters. The survey of VR agencies revealed that only six States believe that they offer all of the services available from HKNC and that their services were as or more effective.
- Deaf-blind individuals who had participated in HKNC headquarters programs were generally satisfied with the training they received. Among the 13 studied service areas, orientation and mobility received the highest helpfulness rating (85%) and audiology received the lowest helpfulness rating (50%).
- Overall, the study found that HKNC is meeting its legislative mandate of providing specialized intensive services to maximize personal development of deaf-blind

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consumers. Data indicate that HKNC, in accordance with its mandate, also provides services to family members and allied service providers, and participates in applied research and development projects with respect to deaf-blind issues.

In addition, the study drew on these findings to make several recommendations focused on improving HKNC's services and the outcomes of deaf blind persons served by the Center:

- Regional representatives could provide more extensive outreach to the relatively large population of deaf-blind individuals who do not attend HKNC headquarters programs. These individuals are often underserved in their local communities.
- The study found no evidence to indicate that the performance measures included in the fiscal year 2011 program performance plan are insufficient for the level of monitoring needed for a small Federal direct grant program. However, several additional measures could provide useful information to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and HKNC. These measures include cost efficiency data to capture the cost per consumer served and a cost-effectiveness measure for achieving consumers' training, independent living, and employment goals.
- Consumers returning from HKNC headquarters programs could benefit from better coordination and follow-up from HKNC staff and State VR agency staff. In particular, HKNC and VR staff could clarify and communicate their respective post-training responsibilities, especially for follow-up employment services.
- Within applicable resource constraints, HKNC should consider expanding the National Training Team to meet the needs for additional training of service provider personnel in specialized deaf blind services. HKNC and RSA should investigate other cost-efficient service models, such as recorded webinars and train-the-trainer resources that could provide assistance to States with deaf blind services.

HKNC should examine the length and cost of consumer assessment and training programs to address the perception of some State VR agency representatives that HKNC HQ assessment and training is not as efficient as it could be. The Center should take appropriate action to ensure that adequate instructors are available to prevent reported delays during training programs at headquarters.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Assistive technology

(Assistive Technology Act of 1998)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Authorization: 0 ¹

Budget Authority:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change from 2012</u>
\$32,836	\$32,836 ²	\$30,840	-\$1,996

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2011. The Administration proposes to continue funding in FY 2014 through appropriations language. Up to \$1,235 thousand may be used for National Activities, unless the amount available for AT State grants exceeds \$20,953,534, in which case up to \$1,900 thousand may be used for National Activities.

² Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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. Grants support comprehensive statewide programs that are designed to increase the:

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

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Assistive technology

Assistive Technology (AT) State grant program

The AT State grant program is a population-based formula grant program to support comprehensive statewide programs that maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to access and acquire 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 initially allocated a base amount equal to the amount of funds they received under the AT program in fiscal year 2004 (totaling \$20,288,534). Any funds appropriated in excess of the fiscal year 2004 appropriation are initially distributed among the eligible entities with 50 percent of available funds distributed equally amongst them and 50 percent distributed according to the population of the State until each entity receives at least \$410,000. If any appropriated funds remain after each State receives this minimum, they are distributed with 20 percent divided equally amongst the States and 80 percent distributed according to their populations. To date, appropriated funds under this program have not been sufficient to necessitate this second round of distribution. The fiscal year 2012 allotments were based on the July 1, 2010 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 allotments are based on the July 1, 2011 population estimates published in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2012 Census data released in December 2012.

Each State must set measurable goals, with timelines, that address 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 State must determine whether it has met its goals each year, and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has the authority to hold States accountable for a lack of progress toward these goals through technical assistance, corrective actions and/or sanctions if States are determined to be in noncompliance with the applicable requirements of the AT Act or have not made substantial progress toward achieving the measureable goals.

The State must implement each of the activities required under the program, which 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) of the AT Act, as described below) of their formula grant funds on four State-level activities: State 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 focused on promoting the general awareness of the benefits of AT; skills

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Assistive technology

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 what a State must include in its annual progress report to RSA, including data on: the State's financing program, 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 the outcomes of any improvement initiatives carried out by the State. 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

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 2012 allotments were based on the July 1, 2010 population estimates published by the Census Bureau in December 2010. The fiscal year 2013 allotments are based on the July 1, 2011 population estimates published in December 2011. The fiscal year 2014 State distributions are based on the July 1, 2012 Census data released in December 2012.

National Activities

The AT Act provides authority for the provision of technical assistance—through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded on a competitive basis—to individuals with disabilities of all ages, to AT State grant program grantees, and to protection and advocacy systems. The AT Act also requires the Secretary to make an award to renovate, update, and maintain a national public Internet site (<http://www.assistivetech.net>). 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.

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In designing its technical assistance activities, RSA 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 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 Program

The fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill provided \$1,966,220 for an alternative financing program authorized under appropriations language. Competitive grants were awarded to support alternative financing programs that are providing for the purchase of assistive technology devices, such as a low-interest loan fund; an interest buy-down program; a revolving loan fund; a loan guarantee; or insurance program. Applicants were required to assure that the alternative financing program will expand and emphasize consumer choice and control. State agencies and community-based disability organizations that are directed by and operated for individuals with disabilities were eligible to compete.

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

	(dollars in thousands)
2009	\$30,960
2010	30,960
2011	30,898
2012	32,836
2013	32,836 ¹

¹ Excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

FY 2014 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration requests \$30.840 million in fiscal year 2014 for Assistive Technology (AT) programs, \$1.996 million less than the fiscal year 2012 appropriation. The request does not include funds for an alternative financing program (AFP) of one-year competitive grant that was authorized through appropriations language in fiscal year 2012. In fiscal year 2005 Congress amended the AT Act to eliminate the separate AFP and establish an AT State grant program that requires States to conduct State financing activities, including alternative financing loan programs. No funds are requested for the duplicative competitive grant program funded in 2012.

Funding is requested for the AT State grant program, the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology program, and National Activities. These programs enable individuals with disabilities 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 endeavors.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Assistive technology

Assistive Technology (AT) State grant program

The request includes \$25.561 million for the AT State grant program, the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. These funds will be used by States to carry out the third year of their 3-year State plan. 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, achieve the measurable goals required by the AT Act, and comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology

The fiscal year 2014 request includes \$4.283 million for the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) program, the same as the 2012 level. At this level, 29 States would receive \$50,000, the minimum amount allowed under the AT Act for the protection and advocacy systems established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to carry out this program. Outlying areas each would receive \$30,000. Funds would be used to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of AT services or devices.

National Activities

The fiscal year 2014 request also includes \$996,246 for National Activities, the same as the fiscal year 2012 level. In fiscal year 2014, funds would be used to continue support for grants that began in previous fiscal years. The Act requires support for a national information internet system, and authorizes State training, technical assistance, data collection, and reporting assistance.

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES (dollars in thousands)

<u>Program Funding</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
AT State grant program	\$25,561	\$25,561	\$25,561
Protection and advocacy program	4,283	4,283	4,283
National activities	996	996	996
Alternative financing program	<u>1,996</u>	<u>1,996</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	32,836	32,836	30,840

NOTE: 2013 excludes 0.612 percent across-the-board increase provided in P.L. 112-175.

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Assistive technology

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data, and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2014 and future years, as well as the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Under the AT Act, each State is required to establish measurable goals for access to and acquisition of AT, with timelines for meeting those goals. These goals must address the AT needs of individuals with disabilities in the State in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology (IT).

Acquisition of AT: In order to measure the increase in the acquisition of AT, the following three measures have been established for the AT State grant program. 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.

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.*

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who obtained assistive technology devices or services for **educational purposes** through State financing activities or reutilization programs, who would not have obtained the device or service.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	75	75
2010	75	79
2011	69	87
2012	69	
2013	75	
2014	75	

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Assistive technology

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who obtained assistive technology devices or services for **employment purposes** through State financing activities or reutilization programs, who would not have obtained the device or service.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	75	61
2010	75	77
2011	64	79
2012	64	
2013	75	
2014	75	

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who obtained assistive technology devices or services for **community living purposes** through State financing activities or reutilization programs, who would not have obtained the device or service.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	90	73
2010	90	77
2011	81	81
2012	81	
2013	81	
2014	81	

Additional information: These measures assess the extent to which States are meeting targets for increasing the acquisition of AT by individuals with disabilities. For fiscal years 2008-2011 States had the flexibility to establish their own targets for each of these measures and the flexibility to change their targets over time. Therefore, the data for these years tell us how States did in relation to the performance targets they set for themselves, which ranged from as low as 65 percent to as high as 100 percent for these measures. In fiscal year 2011, RSA worked with States to establish a single performance target of 75 percent for each of the 3 acquisition measures that is to be used by all States. Beginning in fiscal year 2012, the data for these measures will tell us what proportion of the States were able to meet this acquisition target of 75 percent.

Access to AT: In order to measure the increase in access to AT, the following four measures have been established under the AT State grant program. The Department is requiring States to collect information from individuals served under this program to determine whether access to device demonstration or loan programs has enabled them to make informed decisions about AT devices or services (for **education, employment, community living, and telecommunications** purposes).

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Assistive technology

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

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

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who have accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs, and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for **educational purposes** as a result of the assistance they received from the Assistive Technology Program.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	90	73
2010	90	71
2011	79	85
2012	79	
2013	80	
2014	80	

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who have accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs, and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for **employment purposes** as a result of the assistance they received from the Assistive Technology Program.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	85	71
2010	85	84
2011	75	84
2012	75	
2013	80	
2014	80	

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

Assistive technology

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who have accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs, and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for **community living purposes** as a result of the assistance they received from the Assistive Technology Program.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	90	71
2010	90	71
2011	79	82
2012	79	
2013	80	
2014	80	

Measure: The percentage of States meeting or exceeding their target percentage of targeted individuals and entities who have accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs, and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for **technology/telecommunications purposes** as a result of the assistance they received from the Assistive Technology Program.

Year	Target	Actual
2009	80	68
2010	80	68
2011	69	84
2012	69	
2013	75	
2014	75	

Additional information: These measures assess the extent to which States are meeting targets for increasing the access to AT by individuals with disabilities. For fiscal years 2008-2011 States had the flexibility to establish their own targets for each of these measures and the flexibility to change their targets over time. Therefore, the data for these years tell us how States did in relation to the performance targets they set for themselves, which ranged from as low as 45 percent (for example, for the IT measure) to as high as 100 percent. In fiscal year 2011, RSA worked with States to establish a single performance target of 70 percent for each of the 4 access measures that is to be used by all States. Beginning in fiscal year 2012, the data for these measures will tell us what proportion of the States were able to meet this access target of 70 percent.

