



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

SEP 19 2012

Laurie R. Gill  
Secretary  
Department of Human Services  
3800 East Highway 34, Hillsvie Plaza  
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Ms. Gill:

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) acknowledges your electronic submission via RSA's Web site of the State Plan for the Title I Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program and Supplement for the Title VI-B Supported Employment (SE) Services Program in the form of a preprint of affirmative assurances and required attachments on behalf of the South Dakota Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) in compliance with Sections 101(a) and 625 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended (the act).

The State Plan, in the form of a preprint of affirmative assurances and required attachments, was reviewed to ensure conformity with statutory provisions of the act, implementing regulations and the administrative requirements of RSA. Based on this review, the State Plan is approved. In accordance with the approval of the State Plan materials, RSA is making available to South Dakota its fiscal year (FY) 2013 Title I, Part B, and Title VI, Part B, grant awards.

The approved FY 2013 SBVI State Plan will be published by RSA and available to the general public on RSA's Web site by Monday, October 1, 2012. Individuals, who wish to read the State Plan at that time, may visit <http://rsa.ed.gov>, select the appropriate state, search for "VR State Plan" and select "View the VR State Plan."

SBVI continues to improve its ability to develop a state plan that may be useful in providing direction to agency efforts, and in sharing this strategic direction with the State Rehabilitation Council and other VR program stakeholders. The degree to which the agency can hold itself accountable for achieving measurable results will be one way to determine the effectiveness of this approach. This is especially pertinent in proving the value of SBVI's service delivery system as a major conduit to employment for transition-age youth, who may have a co-existing disability such as autism, severe and persistent mental illness, or a traumatic brain injury. Using more data obtained from existing systems and projects will be helpful in developing a more proactive approach to planning, and in promoting the VR program with legislators, employers and others.

If you or your staff have questions related to this review or the approval of the FY 2013 State Plan, please contact your state liaison, Julya Doyle, at (202) 245-6170 or [julya.doyle@ed.gov](mailto:julya.doyle@ed.gov).

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

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We appreciate your timely submission of this information and your continuing efforts to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve high-quality employment outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward Anthony".

Edward Anthony, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Gaye Mattke, Director, SD SBVI  
Julya Doyle, RSA State Liaison