

DISABILITY RIGHTS SOUTH DAKOTA

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities and Objectives

CAP will advocate for clients and client applicants of projects, programs, and facilities funded under the Rehabilitation Act.

PRIORITY I: *People with disabilities will fully exercise their individual rights.*

GOAL I: CAP will provide case services to clients, applicants, and service providersⁱ to ensure that appropriate services and programs are available to all eligible individuals and plans are responsive to client choice and written with client's active participation.

Objective 1: CAP staff will inform, and educate service providersⁱ about various rights protections. Each service providerⁱ will be supplied with information relevant to applicable statutes and regulations. CAP will verify adherence to these requirements and respond to client issues identified during outreach activities.

Objective 2: CAP staff will provide case services to ensure that all eligible persons have access to, appropriate services from, and information regarding Vocational Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as "VR"), the Native American 121 VR programs, and the Independent Living Centers in accordance to the individual's expressed goals.

- i. CAP will assist people with obtaining services and supports from VR and the Native American 121 VR programs intended to assist in obtaining, maintaining, and advancing in competitive integrated employment.
- ii. CAP will assist people with obtaining services and supports from the Independent Living Centers (Independent Living Choices & Western Resources for Independent Living) intended to assist the individual to live independently in the community to the greatest extent desired and appropriate for that individual.

Objective 3: CAP will work with Community Support Providersⁱⁱ, Sheltered/subminimum wage employers, and schools to encourage and educate adherence to the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Students, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities. CAP will emphasize and promote the presumption favoring competitive integrated employment.

GOAL II: CAP staff will work with the component programs of DRSD to identify work-related issues, gather referrals for other programs within the DRSD agency, and continue to develop collaborative relationships with the Department of Labor, VR offices, and other groups.

Objective 1: CAP staff will develop and maintain professional working relationships with the South Dakota Career Centers, Independent Living Centers, VR Services, et al. in the delivery of employment related services. This will be accomplished, in part, through participation in and appointment to various boards, committees, and work groups as appropriate for CAP involvement.

Objective 2: CAP staff will continue to develop and maintain relationships on unserved and underserved tribal lands while maintaining a culturally sensitive approach in the delivery of advocacy services to native peoples with disabilities. One means of effectuating this Objective will be by maintaining a consistent and periodic presence at the physical locations of tribal and frontier service providersⁱ, including especially the various Native American 121 VR programs.

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PRIORITY II: *People with disabilities will receive appropriate services.*

GOAL I: CAP staff will continue systemic efforts intended to expand access to VR services for transition age students and other unserved or underserved people in South Dakota.

Objective 1: CAP staff will pursue policy and practice changes that would encourage an IEP goal and the initiation of Pre-Employment Transition Services as early as possible but no later than age 14.

Objective 2: CAP staff will pursue policy and practice changes that would encourage the initiation of integrated work experiences in the community as opposed to artificially created “in-school” developed small business projects, school maintenance/environmental tasks, or sheltered workshop activities. The purpose of this activity would be to ensure a student’s multiple individualized and meaningful exposures to traditional workplace environments. CAP will work in conjunction with VR, Project Skills, Parent Connection, and the Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP) to effectuate this objective.

Objective 3: Promote the use of *iTransitions South Dakota* with educators and organizations closely related to special education in the state. CAP will collaborate with SD Parent Connection, Transition Services Liaison Project, and other agencies to effectuate this objective.

GOAL II: CAP/PADD: Study and address the issue of low competitive integrated employment rates for persons with intellectual disabilities in South Dakota.

Objective 1: CAP will research and discuss with service providersⁱ and state agencies the disparity that exists between being first in the nation for employment for people with disabilities and being last in the nation for employment of people with intellectual disabilities.

Objective 2: CAP will work toward and promote *substantive* competitive integrated employment for all South Dakotans with disabilities.

ⁱ *Service Providers* is a general term which refers to the various agencies and organizations who provide services and supports to people with disabilities in South Dakota. These can include, but are not limited to: Vocational Rehabilitation; the Independent Living Centers (Independent Living Choices and Western Resources for Independent Living); the Native American 121 Vocational Rehabilitation programs; Community Service Providers; Local Education Agencies; Job Coaches; Mental Health support providers (HSC, PRTF’s, behavioral health centers, etc.); the South Dakota Developmental Center; et al.

ⁱⁱ *Community Support Providers* refers to any of the nineteen of those agencies funded, certified, and monitored by the South Dakota Division of Developmental Disabilities as defined by SDCL 27B-1-17(4).