

Nevada Rehabilitation Division
 Summary of Participant Services Policy Manual Revisions for Nevada State Rehabilitation Council
 Meeting Date: 02/06/2024

Abbreviations:

- VR- Vocational Rehabilitation

Target Revision Date: 02/12/2024

Note: Minor changes, clarification on current policy, as well as rearranging, re-formatting, or changes in wording that don't change the essence of the policy etc. are not summarized below.

Page numbers stipulated in this overview reflect the pages on the draft section pages attached that show the full revisions and additions. General revisions and updates are indicated in red text. Refer to the attached draft section pages for full changes (i.e. deletions, etc.).

Definition of Terms

Topic:	Clarification or Change Summary:	Explanation:
Additions to Definitions	<p>Definitions being added</p> <p><u>Client Assistance Program (CAP)</u> The Client Assistance Program (CAP) provides individual advocacy and legal representation, information and referral services, outreach, and education to vocational rehabilitation clients. CAP also provides information on Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p> <p><u>Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)</u> An IPE is a written agreement between VR and an individual client outlining the roles/responsibilities of VR and the client; scope of services to be used to assist the client in obtaining employment; funding sources for the various VR services; and projected timeline for training/other services and employment.</p>	Addition of other pertinent definitions.

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	<p><u>Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP)</u> An IWILP is a written plan that is developed by a client of the Older Individuals Who Are Blind program and a designated OIB staff person, to determine independent living goals, services needed to meet those goals, and objectives of the services. The plan also explains dates of service, participation requirements, rights, and responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)</u> SSDI is an entitlement program that an individual can access if they have worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes on their earnings. The program pays benefits to adults and children who meet SSA requirements for a qualifying disability and have limited income and resources. Verified beneficiaries of SSDI are presumed eligible for VR services.</p> <p><u>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</u> SSI provides monthly payments for people who are in special financial need and are disabled or an older adult. Because this program is funded completely by general taxes, there are stringent requirements that one must fulfill in order to receive it. Children with disabilities or who are blind may also get SSI. Verified beneficiaries of SSI are presumed eligible for VR services.</p> <p><u>Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)</u> WOTC is a Federal tax credit available to employers for hiring and employing individuals from certain targeted groups who have faced significant barriers to employment. Employers may meet their business needs and claim a tax credit if they hire an individual who is in a WOTC targeted group such as people with disabilities.</p>	
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	<p><u>Job Ready</u> Is when the participant has all the necessary training, hard and soft skills, and tools needed with supports in place to begin seeking employment in their chosen vocational goal. This is different for each participant, because each participant has different skills, abilities, interests, and vocational goals.</p> <p>Legal Representative <u>Guardian</u> An individual who has the legal authority to act on behalf of a participant, such as a parent, a legal guardian or one who has power of attorney. Any person appointed under NRS chapter 159.017 as guardian of the person, of the estate or of the person and estate. A guardian is an individual who has the legal authority and duty to care for another’s person or property, because of infancy, incapacity, or disability.</p> <p><u>Participant</u> The federal regulations cited above frequently refer to “eligible individuals or, as appropriate, the individual’s representative.” The term “participant” is used by the agency with the assumption that its use includes the phrase “or, as appropriate, the individual’s representative.” According to CFR 361.150 (a) (1) For the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, a participant is a reportable individual who has an approved and signed Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and has begun to receive services. Throughout the federal regulations it cites “eligible individuals or, as appropriate, the individual’s representative”. In this manual, the agency utilizes the term “participant” with the assumption that it also includes the phrase “or, as appropriate, the individual’s representative”.</p>	<p>Clarification</p> <p>Clarification</p> <p>Clarification</p>
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Remove Definition	Definition being removed <u>Individual Who Is Blind</u> Any person whose visual acuity with correcting lenses does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye, or whose vision in the better eye is restricted to a field of twenty degrees or less. An individual who is blind also means any person who by reason of loss or impairment of eyesight is unable to provide himself with the necessities of life, and who has not sufficient income of his own to maintain himself. (NRS 426.082 and 426.520 applicable Nevada law).	Removal of the definition "Individual Who is Blind" as it is not necessary to define this disability. The definition for a person with a disability includes all disability groups, including blindness as a category.
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Section 25: Older Individuals Who Are Blind

Topic:	Clarification or Change Summary:	Explanation:
Eligibility	<p>After receiving feedback from NSRC (11-07-23 mtg), revision on page 1 to include extension of time for eligibility determination</p> <p><u>Assessment of Eligibility</u> Determination of eligibility is required and must be completed within forty-five (45) days from the date of the receipt of the application. The determination of eligibility for the OIB Program services is based on a review of existing information. If additional data is necessary, assessments will be scheduled. Medical documentation of the visual impairment is required to determine eligibility. In extenuating circumstances, the case manager and applicant may agree to an extension of time.</p>	Addition to allow for an extension of time for eligibility determination in extenuating circumstances if agreed to by all parties.

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<p>Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP)</p>	<p>After receiving feedback from NSRC (11-07-23 mtg), revision on page 2 to update timeframe for plan development addition on page 2 to include extension of time for IWILP development</p> <p><u>Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP)</u> For Individuals eligible for the OIB program, a written signed Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP) will be developed within forty-five (45) business days of eligibility determination. Services provided will be developed jointly by the designated staff person and the participant. Services provided must be included on the IWILP and be pre-authorized.</p> <p>In extenuating circumstances, the case manager and participant may agree to an extension of time.</p>	<p>Update IWILP timeframe to be developed within 45 days from eligibility determination verses 45 “business” days. This will increase plan development in a timelier manner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Addition to allow for an extension of time for IWILP development in extenuating circumstances if agreed to by all parties.</p>
<p>Closure Notice</p>	<p>After receiving feedback from NSRC (11-07-23 mtg), revision on page 2 regarding mode of communication for closure notice</p> <p><u>Closures</u> All participants and/or their representative will receive a closure letter written notification in their preferred mode of communication that includes the reason for closure, notification of appeal rights and the availability of the Client Assistance Program at least 10 days prior to the closure of the case.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A case may be closed when the participant is unavailable to participate or complete an assessment of eligibility. The participant will receive at least two written contact attempts in their preferred mode of communication in addition to the a closure notice 	<p>Revision as many OIB participants don't check or can't read their mail.</p>

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	<p>to described above before the agency proceeds with closure prior to a determination of eligibility.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. A case may be closed from application status when the participant does not meet eligibility requirements.3. A case is closed successfully if the participant received services resulting in independent living.4. A case may close unsuccessful when the participant is unable to complete independent living services.	
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