

RTAC Expert Summit: Introducing the VR Program Management Framework as a Tool for WIOA Implementation

Monday, September 28, 2015, 12:00PM – 4:00PM EST
Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 12:00PM – 3:30PM EST

On Monday, September 28 and Tuesday, September 29, the Research and Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) on VR Program Management will host an online virtual conference, Expert Summit: *Introducing the VR Program Management Framework as a Tool for WIOA Implementation*. The RTAC Expert Summit will discuss the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Management Framework, and will highlight effective program management practices in the context of adapting to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The two-day virtual conference will be a forum to bridge research, policy, and practice. We invite researchers, service users, providers, consultants, and administrators to join us as we discuss priority issues regarding WIOA and identify avenues for future research and development.

This summit will stimulate a dialogue between Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) researchers, state VR agency leadership and staff, and content experts regarding all components of the VR Program Management Framework.

[Register for the Summit!](#)

To obtain CRC credits, participants must complete an evaluation for each session attended. We offer CRC credits for sessions 2-5. Each session is 1.5 CRC credits. Certified Rehabilitation Counselors may receive up to 6 CRC credits for participation.

RTAC Expert Summit Session Descriptions

Session 1: The VR Program Management Framework

Presenter: Susan Foley, ICI

Description: Susan Foley will provide an overview of the VR Program Management Framework and the lessons learned from the 29 VR agencies across the country that implemented RTAC initiatives. Dr. Foley will discuss the interaction between the components of the RTAC framework, the transferability of RTAC framework components to practice and policy development, and how these components can help the VR system build its capacity to address common program management issues.

The following four sessions (sessions 2-5) focus on the application of the VR Program Management Framework as it applies to WIOA implementation in four key areas: Employer Engagement, Pre-employment Transition Services, Customized Training, and Extended Services.

Session 2: Employer Engagement

Presenters:

Amy Porter, Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services

Hugh Bradshaw, Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Facilitator: Brenda Moore, ICI

Description: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) charges agencies to work with employers to determine regional and local hiring needs and design training programs that meet those needs. WIOA also charges agencies to measure the success of these training efforts.

Amy Porter and Hugh Bradshaw will discuss the following questions that agencies can ask about employer engagement as they implement WIOA:

- How can agencies use the VR Program Management Framework to implement changes mandated by WIOA?
- Is the dual-customer approach part of an agency's strategic plan?
- How is the dual-customer approach being incorporated into agency services and processes?
- What are the WIOA implications for workforce development?
- Does the agency have staff or resources that meet business service needs?
- Do counselors and support staff need additional training and supports to better align with the mission of integrated engagement?
- How will the agency collect data to determine if these efforts are positively impacting its outcomes?

Session 3: Pre-employment Transition Services

Presenter: Andrea Guest, Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Facilitator: Joe Marrone, ICI

Description: Andrea Guest will discuss the following questions to guide agencies as they implement Pre-employment Transition Services:

- Have you developed a strategy for identifying groups of transition-age youth who would be considered “potentially eligible” for VR services?
- Have you developed effective relationships with businesses and educational partners that allow your agency to provide an array of experiential work for transition-age clients?
- What policies have you developed to ensure a structured, consistent outreach approach with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for engaging transition-age students with disabilities?
- How could your agency use the model to implement these changes?
- How will you collect data to determine if these efforts are positively impacting your outcomes?

Session 4: Customized Training

Presenter: Mark Schultz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation

Facilitator: Bob Burns

Description: In the workforce investment system, local boards can use funds for effective strategies that meet employers’ workforce needs, including incumbent worker training, registered apprenticeship, transitional jobs, on-the-job training, and customized training. WIOA now requires that states place a greater emphasis on entities that offer training programs that relate to in-demand occupations. WIOA also provides for reimbursement for customized training that is tailored to meet the specific requirements of a job, and leads to an industry-recognized credential.

Mark Schultz will discuss the following questions regarding Customized Training at VR agencies:

- Who should be brought to the table in the identification and development of customized training programs?
- How can labor market information and other industry data inform how VR agencies invest their training resources?
- How could agencies use the model to implement this change?
- How will the agency collect data to determine if these efforts are positively impacting outcomes?

Session 5: Extended Services

Presenter: Dan Madrid, Delaware Division for the Vision Impaired

Facilitator: Vito DeSantis, ICI

Description: Under WIOA, youth with the most significant disabilities will have up to four years of extended services. Dan Madrid will discuss the following questions as they relate to extended services at VR agencies:

- What impacts will this extended service period have on an agency's services, processes, and policies?
- How will this extended period change the partnerships between VR and other entities serving this population?
- What mechanisms need to be in place to ensure good communication between all parties over this extended period?
- Since this change has implications for VR funding and resource allocation, what impacts will it have on the agency's long-term strategic plan?
- How could agencies use the framework to implement this change?

RTAC Expert Summit Agenda

Day 1: Monday, September 28, 2015, 12:00PM – 4:00PM EST

12:00PM – 12:15PM

Welcome, Logistics, & Session Overview
Presented by DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley

12:15PM – 12:30PM

Message from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)
Presented by Leslie Caplan

12:30PM – 12:45PM

Session 1 – The VR Program Management Framework
Presented by Susan Foley

12:45PM - 2:15PM

Session 2 – Employer Engagement
Presented by Amy Porter and Hugh Bradshaw
Facilitated by Brenda Moore

2:15PM – 2:30PM BREAK

Session 2 Evaluations

2:30PM – 3:45PM

Session 3 – Pre-employment Transition Services
Presented by Andrea Guest
Facilitated by Joe Marrone

3:45PM – 4:00PM

Day 1 Wrap-Up & Session 3 Evaluations
DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley

Day 2: Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 12:00PM – 3:30PM EST

12:00PM – 12:15PM

Day 1 Review & Day 2 Overview
Presented by DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley

12:15PM – 1:30PM

Session 4 – Customized Training
Presented by Mark Schultz
Facilitated by Bob Burns

1:30 – 1:45PM BREAK

Session 4 Evaluations

1:45PM – 3:00PM

Session 5 – Extended Services

Presented by Dan Madrid

Facilitated by Vito DeSantis

3:15PM – 3:30PM

Summit Closing & Wrap-Up

Session 5 Evaluations

Presented by DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley