Requirements and Considerations for WIOA Unified and Combined State Plans:

Modifications and Beyond—Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Portion

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Welcome to the Requirements and Considerations for WIOA Unified and Combined State Plans: Modifications and Beyond webcast.

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My name is Shannon Moler and I will be presenting today’s training. I am a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Specialist for the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) at the Department of Education. The purpose of this training is to provide instructions regarding the four-year submission and two-year modification process specific to the VR services portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Unified or Combined State Plan for program years (PYs) 2020 through 2023.

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In this training, we will be discussing key requirements for the VR services portion. To begin, VR agencies must use the State Plan Information Collection Request, or ICR, to develop and submit or modify a Unified or Combined State Plan. The structure of the State Plan portal mirrors the ICR requirements. Guidance about the new State Plan portal will be issued separately from this webcast.

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Section 101(a)(23) of the Rehabilitation Act requires VR agencies to assure, in the VR services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plans, that they will submit certain annual updates. These required updates must be included with every four-year submission and every two-year modification of the State Plan. VR agencies also must gather and analyze this required data annually to more effectively manage the VR program and ensure that the needs of individuals served are met.

Additionally, VR agencies are responsible for determining which previously submitted State Plan descriptions reflect the current administration of the VR program. If the State determines that an approved description located in the VR services portion of the State Plan no longer meets this requirement, then the VR services portion must be updated accordingly.

Please note that all required updates included in the VR portion of the State Plan must be reported on a Program Year basis unless otherwise indicated.

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Note the following descriptions located in the VR services portion that require updates: descriptions (a), (i), (k), (m), (n), (o) and (p). These descriptions must be updated with every four-year submission and two-year modification. The only exception is description (m), which would only require an update if circumstances related to order of selection have changed.

Further, note that description (k), annual estimates, must include projections on a Federal fiscal year basis.

Additional training on requirements related to the VR services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan will be provided by RSA in a separate training.

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Note the descriptions located in the VR services portion that may be updated if the agency determines that they do not reflect the current administration of the VR program. These include descriptions (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (j), (l), (o) and (q).

If the VR agency determines that any of these descriptions do not reflect the current administration of the VR program, then the VR services portion must be updated accordingly.

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The VR services portion lists the nine certifications and seven assurances specific to the VR program, which must be verified with each four-year submission and two-year modification of the Unified or Combined State Plan. The information must accurately reflect the current status of the VR program.

The individual with the authority to sign the State Plan must also sign and date the VR services portion of the State Plan certifications within the WIOA State Plan portal.

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Additional resources related to the VR services portion can be found on RSA’s website and in the ICR. For questions related to this guidance please contact your RSA State Liaison.

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Thank you for participating in this webcast specific to the VR services portion.