

Index and Case Study of Promising VR Business Relations Practices: Study Fact Sheet

Overview

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in partnership with CSAVR and the NET, is conducting research on business relations and employment for people with disabilities served by state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies. As part of this project, we will be creating an index of “demand-side” or business relations strategies and conducting case study research on a small subset of those practices. The purpose of this research is to disseminate formal and informal promising practices that are applicable to VR and improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities. This study is featured on Explore VR, the data hub for a group of VR projects at the ICI.

What will the research consist of?

There are two major components to this research: the identification and indexing of business relations (demand-side) practices, and case studies.

1) Identification and index of practices

We are casting a wide net in an attempt to identify and catalogue all existing practices. In order to identify these practices, we have conducted a comprehensive web search and review of research efforts to date. We have also distributed a nationwide call for nominations through the VR network to identify emerging practices. These practices will be described and indexed in an accessible online database on ExploreVR.org.

2) Case studies

After identifying existing practices, we will ask a panel of experts to nominate practices for in-depth case study research.

How will this research benefit you?

The benefits of this study are significant to the field. In challenging economic times, VR agencies must be responsive to the needs of businesses in order to optimize employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This study will highlight promising practices and give recognition to agencies at the forefront of this effort. All VR agencies will gain knowledge of promising practices, as identified by this research, with the potential to adopt or transfer practices across agencies.

- The index will be available to you online, providing valuable information on existing practices throughout the nation across multiple public employment systems.
- Case study information will be shared, providing in-depth information on practices applicable to public vocational rehabilitation agencies.
- Webinars will be conducted in which case study sites will describe key features, challenges, benefits, and projected future of their practices.
- Knowledge obtained through accessing these resources will support your agency in meeting the needs of your business partners as they seek qualified employees, providing increased opportunities for employment for people with disabilities in your state.

Explore VR

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www.ExploreVR.org

