

Status of Resolution of Audit Findings

December 2012

Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)

Agency: 315

Audit Report: 2011 F

Finding Number: 014

Finding: The Department of Services for the Blind is not complying with federal requirements for suspension and debarment for its federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Resolution: The Department concurs with this finding and took the following steps to ensure all vendors receiving more than \$25,000 in vocational rehabilitation funds are not suspended or debarred:

- Expanded its general terms and conditions (GT&Cs) to include suspension and debarment certification language.
- Attached the expanded GT&Cs to all service delivery outcome plans and contracts.
- Started monthly reviews to determine if a current vendor has received more than \$25,000 in grant funds in the preceding twelve months. If so, staff will verify the vendor has signed the GT&Cs providing the necessary certification.
- Trained staff to ensure these procedures are implemented.

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December 2012

Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)

Agency: 315

Audit Report: 2011 F

Finding Number: 015

Finding: The Department of Services for the Blind did not comply with federal requirements regarding services charged to the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Resolution: The Department acknowledges the finding. The Department provided training to vocational rehabilitation counselors on the importance of meeting individual plans for employment (IPE) timelines while acknowledging that, in providing individualized services, circumstances may arise that don't allow timelines to be adhered to. In those cases, documentation needs to describe the justification for delay to signing a plan. Training was provided at the April 25 and October 10, 2012, counselor meetings. As well, IPE timelines for each caseload are reviewed monthly with counselors. This is to ensure that timelines are met or justification for delay is documented.

Training was also provided encouraging the best practice of service item description within the plan, with best estimated costs listed.

In March 2012, the Department submitted to the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) a request for determination on whether the tools and methods developed by the Department for documenting estimated IPE goods and services costs, modification of cost estimates, service date ranges, extension of general timeliness guidelines and active client involvement in decision making meet necessary requirements.

RSA replied in a letter received by the Department on October 1, 2012, that the Department met necessary requirements and the finding is considered closed. The letter states that as procedural training to staff was implemented, all client services provided were allowable under the grant; and all consumers listed in the audit were eligible for services; they consider the finding closed. No recovery of funds is sought by RSA.

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