

I. INTRODUCTION

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The Agency went live with a new electronic case-management system on October 1, 2010. Our practice is that any information needed prior to that date will be retrieved from the manual file. All documentation after October 10, 2010, will be available for review in the electronic case file.

I. INTRODUCTION

LEGISLATION

This manual is based on:

- State and Federal statutes
- Federal and State regulations
- State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

HISTORY AND CURRENT LEGISLATION

Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-30-201, Rehabilitation Act of Arkansas

Arkansas Code Annotated § 20-79-207, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 - 29 U.S.C. § 701 et. seq.

State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program – 34 C.F. R. Part 361

Workforce Investment Act of 1998 - 20 U.S.C. § 9201 et. seq.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - 20 U.S.C. §1400 et. seq.

Americans with Disabilities Act - 42 U.S.C. §12101 et. seq.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 - 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et. seq.

Arkansas Workforce Investment Act of 1998 - Arkansas Code Annotated § 15-4-2201

Other Federal and State laws

PURPOSE

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) receives a federal grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education) to operate a comprehensive, coordinated, effective, efficient and accountable program designed to assess, plan, develop, and provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and informed choice, in order to prepare for and engage in gainful employment. 34 C.F.R. § 361.1

PUBLIC ACCESS TO ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

State Plan - This multi-year plan contains a description of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) vocational rehabilitation services program, the policies to carry out the program and other information as requested by Rehabilitation Services Administration. This multi-year plan seeks input from the public and others designated by the Rehabilitation Act. 34 C.F.R. § 361.10 (a.), 34 C.F.R. § 361.10 (d.), 34 C.F.R. § 361.20 (a.) and 34 C.F.R. § 361.21

Rehabilitation Council - The Council partners with ARS on a regular and on-going basis by providing advice on the development, implementation and amendments to the State plan, policies and procedures pertaining to vocational rehabilitation services. The Council is Governor appointed consisting of individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, vocational rehabilitation counselor, and representatives from parent training center, Client Assistance Program, business industry and labor. The Commissioner serves as a non-voting member. 34 C.F.R. § 361.17

Policy Promulgation Process - Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act requires ARS to receive public input on policies and procedures.

Arkansas Independent Living Council (AILC) -ARS works jointly with the AILC in the development and implementation of a statewide Independent Living State Plan.