



CENTER ON EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY

Background:

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) at the U.S. Department of Education is funding a *Center on Effective Rehabilitation Technology (CERT)* **to identify, document, and analyze models of rehabilitation technology (RT) service delivery shown to be effective in promoting successful employment outcomes.** CERT is led by the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University and the Institute for Matching Person and Technology (IMPT), in collaboration with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA), the National Council for Independent Living (NCIL), and Rehabilitation Technology Associates.

CERT is expected to have a national impact by generating new knowledge on the systematic supports needed for effective RT service delivery, promoting changes at state and local levels through replication of effective practices, improving sustainable collaborations among key stakeholders, and improving informed decision-making to better match RT with the individual's needs and preferences. Major outputs will include:

- ❖ A model policies and procedures template for “effective service delivery.”
- ❖ A quality indicators self-assessment check list for service delivery programs.
- ❖ Development of a new RT assessment tool and measures designed to create a better match between consumers and technology to advance employment outcomes.
- ❖ Technical assistance and training opportunities based on research findings

The Center's research activities will start with a baseline survey to assess the current state of practice in RT service delivery throughout the country.

1. What does CERT plan on doing?

CERT's multidisciplinary research team will evaluate selected model VR and non-VR programs to identify policies, procedures, and practices that result in the effective delivery of RT to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve employment. CERT will conduct in-depth case studies of state VR agencies, non-VR based service delivery programs such as State AT Act programs and CILs, and employer-based programs. Crucial to this process is the identification and development of quality indicators of service delivery, including systemic supports, policies and procedures, information management, and quality assurance mechanisms. Further, CERT will develop a new validated instrument and system

of measurement to improve RT service delivery and reduce RT non-use and poor employment outcomes. The tool will be accompanied by an interactive training program for VR counselors and an improved assessment process for VR agencies and other programs to improve RT service delivery.

2. Who can I contact for more information?

Deepti Samant, Project Director
Senior Research Associate, Burton Blatt Institute
ddsamant@law.syr.edu, (202) 296-5393

3. Funding Details:

CERT is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), for the “Center on Effective Delivery of Rehabilitation Technology by Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies,” Grant No. H133A090004.