 NC DHHS Notice of Funding Availability

Reporting Form



# DHHS Division/Office issuing this notice:

Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities

**Date of this notice:** April 30, 2024

**Program Name:** Community Rehabilitation Programs

# Purpose:

According to the 2022 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and US Census, 21.3% of individuals with disabilities were employed compared to 65.4% of individuals without disabilities who were employed in 2022. In State Fiscal Year 2022-2023 the North Carolina Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (the Division) served about 30,172 Division eligible consumers with disabilities who were seeking competitive employment.

The goal of these service contracts is to provide individualized job supports for Division consumers with disabilities to reach successful competitive integrated employment. The Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) will provide community based services that may include assessment, job development and job placement, along with required job supports needed to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment.

CRPs are integral partners in the network of services designed to provide people with disabilities equal opportunity in achieving their highest level of economic and social independence. Service models include:

# Supported Employment (SE)

* Supported Employment
* Project Search®

# Work Adjustment Services (WA)

**Description:**

The objective of this Application for Community Rehabilitation Partnership (RACRP) is to identify CRPs that can provide quality services in the areas of supported employment and work adjustment services. These services are designed to develop competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities.

**Supported Employment (SE):** Activities include job development/placement and intensive job coaching support to foster greater success and independence on the job. Initial activity

may include community based supplemental evaluation to determine required supports and vocational direction. Long term vocational support is a required element of supported employment and is not funded by the Division. The vendor is responsible for the provision of long term vocational supports regardless of the funding source.

**Project SEARCH®:** A fidelity model in which activities include transition training and placement services for students with disabilities who have significant intellectual or developmental disabilities. Services are provided in the context of a local, multi-agency collaborative team. <https://www.projectsearch.us/>

# Work Adjustment Services (WA)

* Community Based Work Adjustment Training: Includes activities to improve and increase productivity, attendance, punctuality, ability to work with others, work tolerance, and ability to work under supervision. This service is provided only in integrated work settings offering three broad occupational categories of work. Only approved providers as of March 1, 2024 are eligible for consideration of continued provision of community based work adjustment training.
* Job Development/Placement - Assistance with securing competitive integrated employment that is consistent with the goals of the consumer.
* Job Coaching – One on one, short term job support with the consumer to ensure successful employment.

**Funding Availability:** $28,000,000

# Eligibility:

All current and previous awardees must be in good standing with the Division. Applicants are public and private for-profit or non-profit CRPs. Applicants shall be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Council on Accreditation (COA) or the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). In all models, in lieu of current accreditation or pending approval for accreditation at the time of application, a vendor shall provide evidence of training regarding accreditation before approval as a vendor, or evidence of training regarding accreditation is required within one year of vendor application with accreditation rendered within three years. A copy of the accreditation shall be submitted to the Division. All vendors must have a criminal background policy to provide services. Each CRP shall comply with the accessibility and nondiscrimination standards set forth in federal and state law. The Division may deny funding to and refuse to contract with any CRP which fails to comply with such provisions.

In addition to the above requirements, ONE of the following two conditions must be true:

* The CRP shall have a minimum of three years of experience as a service provider in the area of service delivery for which they are seeking approval, or
* Key staff providing direct consumer services for the CRP (such as the coordinator of the program) must have a minimum of three years of experience providing services in the area for which the CRP is applying to become an approved vendor.

Once the community rehabilitation program is an approved vendor they shall maintain accreditation in the areas that they are providing service for the Division. A copy of the current accreditation must be submitted to the Division.

# Eligibility for Project SEARCH®:

In addition to eligibility noted above, evidence must be provided that indicates the CRP is part of a local, multi-agency collaborative team in which a team member has been licensed or is in the process of being licensed to adhere to Project SEARCH® model fidelity.

# How to Apply:

1. **For new Agencies that are not currently considered a Division Approved CRP**, please refer to the [Community Rehabilitation Services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/disability-services/vocational-rehabilitation-services) webpage on the Division’s public website to obtain more information to initiate the application process. All prospective CRP providers are ***required*** to contact a [Regional CRP Specialist](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/health-care/provide-community-rehabilitation-services) before beginning the process of becoming an approved CRP vendor by the Division.

Below are steps in the new application process:

* 1. Review North Carolina’s Community Rehabilitation Program Standards at the following address: “[Community Rehabilitation Program Standards](http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2010a%20-%20health%20and%20human%20services/chapter%2089%20-%20vocational%20rehabilitation/subchapter%20d/10a%20ncac%2089d%20.0204.pdf)”.
  2. Contact a [Regional CRP Specialist](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/health-care/provide-community-rehabilitation-services) to discuss the need for services in your area.
  3. New CRP applicants must complete the [***Application for Community Rehabilitation Partnership***.](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/3-application-community-rehabilitation-partnership-racrp-1059/open)
  4. Submit your application and supporting documentation to the CRP application email: [dvr.CRPRACRP@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dvr.CRPRACRP@dhhs.nc.gov)
  5. You will be contacted within 30 days for further information regarding the status of your application.
  6. Final approval will be determined only after a completed new application packet is received, a satisfactory site review has been conducted for new CRPs, and funds have been identified for contractual agreement.

1. **Division Approved CRPs that have a current contract** are encouraged to contact the Regional CRP Specialist for any questions regarding the renewal application process.
   1. Review North Carolina’s [Community Rehabilitation Program Standards](http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2010a%20-%20health%20and%20human%20services/chapter%2089%20-%20vocational%20rehabilitation/subchapter%20d/10a%20ncac%2089d%20.0204.pdf) at the following address: “Community Rehabilitation Program Standards”.
   2. If you have any questions about the renewal application, contact a [Regional CRP](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/health-care/provide-community-rehabilitation-services) [Specialist](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/health-care/provide-community-rehabilitation-services) in your area.
   3. Current CRP providers must complete the [***Renewal Application for Community Rehabilitation Partnership***](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/4-renewal-application-community-rehabiliation-partnership-racrp-1059/open).
   4. Submit your application and supporting documentation to the application email: [dvr.CRPRACRP@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dvr.CRPRACRP@dhhs.nc.gov)
   5. You will be contacted within 30 days for further information regarding the status of your application.
   6. Final approval will be determined only after a completed renewal application packet is received and funds have been identified for contractual agreement.

# Deadline for Submission:

Applications received by **5:00 pm May 30, 2024** will be in consideration for a November 1, 2024 award. Applications received after 5:00 pm May 30, 2024, will be considered for a future award date. Applications will be considered on an ongoing basis.

# How to Obtain Further Information:

**For further information email** [dvr.CRPRACRP@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dvr.CRPRACRP@dhhs.nc.gov) .

[**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIP (RACRP # 1059)**](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/request-applications-community-rehabilitation-partnership-racrp-1059/open)