



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**  
**FOR**  
**INCREASING VR SERVICE DELIVERY**  
**TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**RFI 2018-63**

Florida Department of Education  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

**Please email submissions to:**

Florida Department of Education  
Attn: Winston McGriff  
Email: [Winston.mcgriff@fldoe.org](mailto:Winston.mcgriff@fldoe.org)





**Florida Department of Education  
Increasing VR Service Delivery to Students with Disabilities**

**Purpose and Scope**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The State of Florida, Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as the Department, is requesting information regarding new and innovative service options for serving students with disabilities. For purposes of this Request for Information (RFI), a student is an individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who:

- is not younger than the earliest age for the provision of transition services under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) unless the state elects a lower minimum age for receipt of pre-employment services and is not younger than that minimum age; and
- is not older than 21; unless the individual state law provides for a higher maximum age for receipt of services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.); and is not older than that maximum age; and
- is eligible for, and receiving, special education or related services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or
- is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

**II. PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

The Florida Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR) is a federal/state program that works with people who have physical or mental disabilities to prepare for, gain, or retain meaningful employment. The program is authorized by the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and Chapter 413, Part II, Florida Statutes. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on a 4:1 ratio, or 78.7% federal dollar to 21.3% state general revenue. Passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) established VR as the primary agency for preparing students with disabilities for employment while still in high school, including being able to access services while pursuing postsecondary education.

**III. PROGRAM GOALS**

The primary goal of the program is to increase service delivery to students with disabilities. Under WIOA, Pre-Employment Transition Services (also known as Pre-ETS) must be offered to students with disabilities without requiring them to apply for, or be determined eligible for, these services. VR must provide, at a minimum, the following five (5) pre-employment transition services:

1. Career Exploration Counseling – may be provided individually or in a group setting. Information needed includes but is not limited to; identification of in-demand industry sectors and occupations, local labor market information, and a discussion of the student(s)'s vocational interests.
2. Work Readiness Training – may include instruction to assist in the development of social skills and independent living, such as communication and interpersonal skills and financial literacy. Instruction may be provided in a generalized manner in a classroom setting or tailored to fit a student's individual needs.
3. Self-Advocacy and Peer Mentoring – activities designed to teach the students their rights and how to speak up for themselves. Instruction may be delivered in a group setting, individually, or using a combination thereof.
4. Postsecondary Counseling – information could be also be delivered individually or in a group setting. Examples of instruction include presenting information on postsecondary opportunities associated with specific career pathways and information on course offerings at institutions of higher education, as well as identifying resources that may be used to support the student through their education.
5. Community-Based Work Experiences - may also be provided either individually or in a group setting and focuses on workplace learning to explore the student's area of interest. Work experiences could include job shadowing, mentoring opportunities in the community, or internships.

#### **IV. PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

This RFI is issued for the purpose of obtaining information regarding innovative approaches to delivering the pre-employment transition services listed above.

VR is interested in developing a minimum of one project in each of the VR Areas outlined below:

Area 1 – Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties.

Area 2 – Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Union and Volusia Counties.

Area 3 – Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Polk, St. Lucie, Seminole, and Sumter Counties.

Area 4 – Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties.

Area 5 – Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties.

Area 6 – Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Area 7 – Palm Beach and Broward Counties.

Information provided may include any or all of the five (5) services described in Section III, Program Goals. The goal of any information provided should be helping students with disabilities,

as defined in 34 CFR 361.5(c)(51), train for a job, continue their education, or find a job after high school. We are not interested in information with regards to the use of non-competitive, non-integrated settings for work experiences or duplicating any services currently provided by VR, whether done in-house or via existing contracts.

Respondents are encouraged to visit VR's website at [www.rehabworks.org](http://www.rehabworks.org) for information on current programs and service delivery.

Responses should provide information that supports the below Response Format section based on the above paragraphs.

## V. PROCESS

Department management will review and analyze information received in response to this RFI to determine the feasibility of issuing a competitive solicitation for these products/services. Any request for cost information received will be used solely to gain a perspective of the potential budgetary magnitude.

**Responses to this request will be reviewed for informational purposes only and will not result in the award of a contract. Vendors submitting a response to this RFI are not prohibited from responding to any related subsequent solicitation.**

## VI. RESPONSE FORMAT

In addition to providing the above information Respondents are asked to include the following in their response:

- 1) Company literature, such as corporate overview and company structure, financial soundness and stability, and services currently offered; and
- 2) Point of contact information, including representative name and alternative, if available, telephone number(s), and e-mail address(s).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### A. Time Schedule

The following timetable shows the approximate dates for this Request for Information. All times indicated are Eastern Time (ET).

<b>Request for Information Issued</b>	<b>January 31, 2018</b>
<b>Questions Due to no later than</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. February 12, 2018</b>
<b>Answers to Vendors on or about</b>	<b>February 16, 2018</b>
<b>Receipt of e-mailed RFI responses</b>	<b>March 01, 2018 BY 3:00 P.M. ET</b>

**PLEASE PROVIDE RESPONSES VIA EMAIL ONLY**

**B. Questions and Restrictions**

The Department may be contacted via email or fax regarding submission of questions concerning this RFI. Any respondent's questions must be submitted in writing and received by the Department on or before the specified due date at the following email address (preferred) or fax:

**Florida Department of Education  
Attn: Winston McGriff  
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 332  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Email (preferred): [Winston.mcgriff@fldoe.org](mailto:Winston.mcgriff@fldoe.org)  
Fax Number: 850-245-0719  
Telephone Number: 850-245-9884**

The Department will provide written answers to all questions that respondents submit by the specified due date. Questions and Answers and notice of changes (addenda) will be posted on the Florida Vendor Bid System (VBS) at [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com) (click on Business & Industry, under Doing Business with the State of Florida click on State Purchasing, click on Everything for Vendors and Customers, then Vendor Bid System and Search Advertisement, select the Department of Education in the Agency window and initiate search), under this RFI number. It is the responsibility of all respondents to monitor this site for any changing information prior to submitting a response.