Rules of
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Division 90—Vocational Rehabilitation
Chapter 8—Centers of Independent Living

Title

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Chapter 8—Centers of Independent Living

PURPOSE: This rule sets the standards and procedures for establishing and maintaining state-funded centers for independent living. H.B. 975 passed by the General Assembly April 20, 1988 states: “The division shall, in consultation with persons with disabilities, develop a plan to fund and maintain organizations meeting the guidelines set forth in sections 1 to 5 of the act for centers and establish and maintain new centers to assure services statewide.”

(1) Definitions. As used in this rule, except as otherwise required for the context—

(A) Centers or centers for independent living mean community-based nonresidential programs designed to promote independent living for persons with disabilities;

(B) Division means the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(C) Nonprofit corporation means a corporation in which no part of the net earnings inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual and the income of which is exempt from taxation under 26 USC section 501(c)(3);

(D) Person with a disability means any person who—

1. Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one (1) or more of the person’s major life activities; or

2. Is regarded as having or has a record of such an impairment;

(E) Independent living philosophy means control over one’s life based upon the choice of acceptable options that minimize or eliminate reliance on others in making decisions and in performing everyday activities. This includes managing one’s affairs, participating in day-to-day life in the community, fulfilling a range of social roles and making decisions that lead to self-determination and the minimization or elimination of physical and psychological dependence on others.

(F) Equipment. Subject to appropriations, the division will provide financial assistance in the form of grants to centers. Amounts of the grants and purposes for which the grants can be used shall be determined by the division. Funding for these centers will not be awarded to more than one (1) center in any city.

(G) Meet or exceed program standards for approval by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or a certification process accepted by the division;

(H) Use sound organizational and personnel management practices;

(I) Have qualified staff;

(J) Have a positive impact on consumer achievement of independent living goals; and

(K) Have a positive impact on community options.

(2) Funding. Subject to appropriations, the division will provide financial assistance in the form of grants to centers. Amounts of the grants and purposes for which the grants can be used shall be determined by the division. Funding for these centers will not be awarded to more than one (1) center in any city.

(3) Requirements. A center for independent living must be a community-based, not-for-profit organization. At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the board membership must be persons with disabilities. Also, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the staff of the center shall be persons with disabilities. Programming shall be nonresidential and promote independent living. A center shall serve at least four (4) of the following types of disabilities:

(A) Mobility;

(B) Orthopedic;

(C) Hearing-impaired or deaf;

(D) Vision-impaired or blind;

(E) Neurological;

(F) Mental retardation;

(G) Developmental;

(H) Psychiatric or mental; or

(I) Learning.

(4) Grant Funding. The grant cycle for any state funding shall be on an annual basis coincident with the state fiscal year. The grants will be submitted in a format prescribed by the division on an annual basis coordinated with the state fiscal year. The amounts of the grants will be determined by the division subject to the amount of monies appropriated by the state and the scope of approved services provided by the centers. Continuation grants must show evidence of effective results for previous grant periods, such as meeting or exceeding stated program objectives, having a positive impact on consumer achievements, having a positive impact on community living options, and having a sound management structure and effective management procedures. The grant application must reflect assurances that the grantee program will—

(A) Manifest independent living philosophy;

(B) Establish clear priorities through annual and three (3)-year program and financial planning;

(C) Establish measurable program objectives;

(D) Maintain an evaluation system and records adequate to measure performance standards. (Financial and program records will be maintained for a period of not less than three (3) years);

(E) Practice sound fiscal management and submit to the division annual audit reports equivalent to those prescribed in OMB Circular A-110;

(F) Maintain records which identify the source and application of all center funds. (Governmental funds must be identified by source, purpose, etc.; private funds may be identified in the aggregate only);
of title. The depreciation schedule shall be at
the discretion of the division.
(J) Any change from the budget for equip-
ment must be requested in writing and
approval received from the division before
proceeding with the proposed change.
(K) Equipment funds will not be transferred
to another category.
(L) An inventory list with a control number
assigned to each item of equipment with a unit
value of three hundred dollars ($300) or more
shall be communicated to the division.

(6) Center Services (mandatory). The center
must make available to persons with disabili-
ties the following independent living services:
(A) Advocacy;
(B) Independent living skills training, to
include, but not be limited to, health care and
financial management;
(C) Peer counseling; and
(D) Information and referral.

(7) Center Services (optional) The center may
provide or make available, but not be limited
to, the following:
(A) Legal services;
(B) Other counseling services, which may
include non-peer, group and family counseling;
(C) Housing services;
(D) Equipment services;
(E) Transportation services;
(F) Social and recreational services;
(G) Educational services;
(H) Vocational services, including sup-
ported employment;
(I) Reader, interpreter and other commu-
nication services;
(J) Attendant and homemaker services; or
(K) Electronic services.

(8) A center shall make maximum use of
existing resources available to persons with
disabilities and shall not duplicate any
existing services or programs in the geogra-
phic areas to the extent that these services or
programs are available through other state
resources.

(9) Monitoring. Monitoring activities will be
performed by the division periodically during
each program year. The assistant commis-
ioner of the division or any of his/her
authorized representatives shall have the right
of access to any books, documents, papers or
other records of the grantee which are perti-
inent to the center’s grant in order to monitor
program, business and accounting functions
of the center. Monitoring activities shall
include, but not be limited to, the following:
(A) The numbers and types of individuals
with disabilities assisted;
(B) The extent to which individuals with
varying disabling conditions were served;
(C) The types of services provided;
(D) The sources of funding;
(E) The percentage of resources committed
to each type of service provided;
(F) How services provided contributed to the
maintenance of or the increased independence
of the individual with a disability;
(G) The extent to which individuals with
disabilities participate in management and
decision-making in the center;
(H) The extent to which the center collabor-
ates with other agencies and organizations;
(I) The extent of catalytic activities to
promote community awareness, involvement
and assistance;
(j) The extent of outreach efforts and the
impact of such efforts;
(K) A comparison, when appropriate, of
prior year(s) activities with the most recent
year activities;
(L) Outcomes of center activities in meeting
stated program goals and objectives; and
(M) Compliance with business and account-
ing functions according to OMB Circular
A-110.

(10) Repeated program deficiencies will be
cause for termination of center funding.

(11) Continuation of funding beyond the first
year will be based on performance in meeting
program objectives, availability of funding
and continued need of center services.

(12) A center shall operate in compliance with
all applicable local laws and ordinances.

Auth: sections 178.651—178.658, RSMo
(Supp. 1988). Original rule filed Oct. 27,