

Cooperative Agreement

I. Introduction

A. Parties Involved

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

B. Purpose

This agreement is established between Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as WDVR) and Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (herein referred to as GLITC VRNA) to enhance, to the greatest extent possible, the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to eligible American Indians with disabilities who live within the GLITC VRNA service area in the State of Wisconsin.

WDVR has the responsibility to provide vocational rehabilitation services to all qualified residents of the State of Wisconsin. However, GLITC VRNA is the recipient of a Section 121 grant from the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration which enables GLITC to provide vocational rehabilitation services to qualified individuals with disabilities residing on or near the reservations, in GLITC designated service areas. Because of the long and historic relationship that exists between the WDVR and GLITC VRNA, this is a renewal of the agreement for collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the provision of services to American Indian consumers with disabilities residing in the GLITC service area.

II. Joint Agreement

The Parties Mutually Agree:

- A. To have at least two meetings per year between the staff of WDVR and GLITC VRNA for the purpose of collaboration in delivering services to qualified applicants and consumers.
- B. To cooperate in the operation of a system of service provision which ensures a smooth interface and sharing of cases and information between WDVR and GLITC VRNA.
- C. The primary responsibility for serving a given consumer living on or near the reservation will be GLITC VRNA. However, GLITC VRNA may transfer the consumer to WDVR or have the consumer access resources that may not be available from GLITC VRNA, so the consumer may use those resources for an employment outcome. WDVR may also transfer applicants and/or eligible consumers who live on or near the reservation and are enrolled tribal members to GLITC VRNA.

- D. In situations in C above, each agency will maintain separate case files on mutual or joint consumers during the course of service delivery. All appropriate and necessary documentation and information will be maintained and shared by each agency.
- E. GLITC VRNA will be responsible for funding of all eligible individuals living within GLITC VRNA designated service areas, and WDVR will have the responsibility for funding eligible individuals with disabilities that fall outside the GLITC VRNA designated service areas. Nothing in this section will preclude WDVR from funding individuals within the GLITC VRNA designated service areas. Both WDVR and GLITC VRNA will work jointly and collaboratively to ensure that no obstacles interfere with the provision of vocational rehabilitation services.
- F. Determination of eligibility, Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) development and plan implementation is the sole responsibility of GLITC VRNA for individuals residing within the designated GLITC VRNA service areas. American Indians with disabilities living outside the designated GLITC VRNA service area will have their eligibility, IPE and plan implementation completed by WDVR.
- G. WDVR and GLITC VRNA may take credit for action on a case and each may close the case successfully if each has provided significant services for an appropriate employment outcome.
- H. For joint cases, resources of both agencies are available to ensure that the case is properly managed. See E above.
- I. Individuals served by GLITC VRNA and WDVR shall be informed about their right to make informed choices. Individuals who require assistance in exercising informed choice shall be offered support services to assist them in this process.

III. WDVR Agrees To:


- A. Provide technical assistance and consultation regarding case service issues and documentation requirements to GLITC VRNA.
- B. Provide informal review resolution for GLITC VRNA cases when the need arises.
- C. Provide services to joint consumers of GLITC VRNA and consider them eligible for WDVR services if they are certified eligible by GLITC VRNA.
- D. Assign VR counseling staff throughout the state as liaison to the Tribal VR Counselors, and to establish at least quarterly meetings/contact for collaboration between GLITC VRNA counselors and WDVR liaisons.

- E. Continue to provide training to WDVR staff, and specifically liaisons. Provide additional training to WDVR staff on issues relative to American Indian concerns and sensitivity to their special needs.


IV. GLITC VRNA Agrees To:

- A. Collaborate with WDVR in the writing of IPEs and in the provision of services for mutual consumers, which will assure the provision and transition of services for mutual consumers.
- B. As part of GLITC VRNA outreach efforts, refer non-tribal residents to WDVR to be assessed and served if eligible.
- C. Seek technical assistance from WDVR as appropriate.
- D. Provide cultural awareness training, and assist WDVR in learning and understanding other Native American cultural issues.

We accept the statements above as defining the working relationship between WDVR and GLITC VRNA in the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians with disabilities. GLITC VRNA and/or WDVR should provide 30 days written notice if changes to the agreement are needed.

WDVR:  Date: 3/13/2019

Delora Newton
Division Administrator
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

GLITC VRNA:  Date: 3/11/2019

Wayne LaBine
CEO
GLITC

