

NC DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Section:	R
Title:	Rehabilitation Counselor II Authority
Current Effective Date:	02/08
Revision History:	Revised 08/00; 08/02

In recognition and support of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counseling as a profession, the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor as a professional, and the Agency's commitment to the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) expects Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to develop the ability to function independently in the delivery of quality VR services. This will be demonstrated by exceptional proficiency in the areas of service delivery, caseload management, timely decisions, individual advocacy, employer relationships, community and vendor relations, knowledge of Federal and State regulations and Agency policy and procedures, management of budgetary resources and use of similar benefits, and attainment of successful employment outcomes.

Once a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor has been promoted to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor II, authority is given to autonomously accept individuals for VR services, develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), issue authorizations for case services, and close individual case records. There are exceptions to this authority for some services related to the expenditure of case service funds through the issuance of authorizations. The Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor II must obtain approval and countersignatures by the Area Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor or the Chief, Vocational Rehabilitation Field Services for the following services:

1. Cases involving excess resources on the Economic Need Survey
2. All requests for exceptions to maximum fees
3. Payment of provider rates which exceed usual and customary fees
4. Out-of-state services
5. Job and worksite modification
6. Residence modification
7. Small business operations
8. Training & Occupational Equipment