| CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST) | EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION |
|---|---|
| COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT. Section 101(a)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992, commonly referred to as the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), requires State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies to establish qualified personnel standards for rehabilitation personnel, including VR counselors, that are consistent with any national or State-approved or recognized certification, licensing, or registration that apply to a particular profession. In order to comply with the Rehabilitation Act and its State Plan requirements, there is hereby authorized for the Department of Career Education-Arkansas Rehabilitation Services a general waiver of the Financial Management Guide, R1-19-4-522 Continuing Professional Education. This waiver allows the agency to provide college level coursework in degree programs for any eligible employees selected by the agency. This provision covers any and all formula and discretionary grants funded by the U.S.D.O.E. Rehabilitation Services Administration, now or in the future, including, but not limited to, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Supported Employment, Independent Living, and the Staff Development Grant. The waiver applies to federal financial participation (FFP), state general revenue share, and program income.<br>The provisions of this section shall be in effect from July 1, ~~2013~~ 2015 through June 30, ~~2014~~ 2016. | AGENCY REQUEST |

| CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST) | EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION |
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| FORGIVENESS OF STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM. The Forgiveness of Student Loan Program shall be available to counselors employed by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services that have been determined eligible by rules promulgated by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as required by Arkansas Code §25-30-206. These rules shall be submitted to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council and receive prior review. These rules must include the following eligibility requirements:<br>(1) Satisfactory completion of any probationary period;<br>(2) Proof of a student loan that remains unpaid, including the name and address of the creditor;<br>(3) An executed employment contract in which the counselor agrees to the following:<br>(a) work for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for a term that equals two (2) years for each year that the program makes a payment on the counselor's student loan and<br>(b) reimburse the program the full amount of any loan payments made under this program in the event that the counselor resigns or is terminated for cause before the term of the contract terminates.<br>The amount of payment to be made directly to the counselor's student loan creditor may not exceed:<br>(1) Two thousand dollars ($2,000) per year; or<br>(2) Ten thousand dollars ($10,000) per employee.<br>The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services agency shall pay for the Forgiveness of Student Loan Program from the Rehabilitation Program | AGENCY REQUEST |

**0520 Department of Career Education - AR Rehabilitation Services** **ACT#: 176** **SECTION#: 10**

| CURRENT SPECIAL LANGUAGE (WITH AGENCY REQUEST) | EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION |
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| Grants - Grants and Aid line item authorized for the appropriation entitled Rehabilitation Services - Operations in an amount not to exceed eighty thousand dollars ($80,000) per fiscal year.<br><br>In addition, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services agency shall provide a formal, written notification to all counselors employed by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services of the availability of the Forgiveness of Student Loan Program by July 1 of each fiscal year. The agency shall include with the notification, the promulgated rules which shall outline the eligibility requirements for participation.<br><br>The agency shall submit a copy of this notification to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee by July 1 of each fiscal year. In addition, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services shall report bi-annually, by the 15th day of the month following the end of each six month period, to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee the number of employees participating in the program. | |