**RAISE Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Fact Sheet**

**Eligibility for VR Services**

**Basic Eligibility Criteria**

* To receive services, an individual must have a disability which results in a “substantial impediment” to employment and require VR services “to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment”
* Any service an individual is to receive from the VR system must be connected to employment goal

**Potential Employment Outcomes**

* Full or part-time competitive employment in an integrated setting
* Supported employment
* Other employment in an integrated setting such as self-employment, customized employment, telecommuting and business ownership
* Must be consistent with person’s strengths, abilities, and informed choice

**Disability Criteria**

* Must have mental, physical, or learning disability that interferes with the ability to work
	+ Need not be so severe as to qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income(SSI)
	+ Must only be a substantial impediment to employment
	+ Recipients of SSDI or SSI are presumed eligible, as individuals with a significant disability

**Presumption of Eligibility**

* VR services may be denied if person cannot benefit
* All presumed capable of employment, despite the severity of a disability, unless VR shows by “clear and convincing” evidence that he or she cannot benefit
* VR agency must explore individual’s work potential through variety of trial work experiences, with appropriate supports

**Order of Selection**

* If state lacks resources to serve all eligible individuals who apply:
	+ Must specify order for selecting who will receive services
	+ Must ensure that individuals with “most significant disabilities” are selected first
	+ Cost of services cannot be a criteria
	+ If state goes to Order of Selection, must continue to provide all necessary services to anyone who started receiving services prior to effective date, regardless of severity of individual’s disability