



LIFE. YOUR WAY.
Department on
Disability Services

Rehabilitation Services Administration 2020 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the 2020 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA)?

An assessment of the rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities that reside within the District of Columbia. The CSNA is required by federal law to be completed every three years. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires all state vocational rehabilitation agencies to assess the rehabilitation needs of people within the respective states and relate the planning of programs and services and the establishment of goals and priorities to those needs.

2. What is the purpose of the CSNA?

The purpose of the CSNA is to identify and describe the employment related rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities residing in the District of Columbia. As identified in federal law, the CSNA specifically seeks to identify the rehabilitation needs of:

- People with the most significant disabilities
- People who are from racial and cultural minority groups
- People who are unserved or underserved by vocational rehabilitation programs
- People with disabilities served through other components of the statewide workforce development system, and
- Youth and students with disabilities including their need for and coordination of pre-employment transition services; and

To assess the need to establish, develop and/or improve community rehabilitation programs within the District. In addition, the 2020 CSNA also sought the needs of businesses in recruiting, hiring, accommodating and retaining individuals with disabilities in competitive integrated employment.

3. What is the intended use of the CSNA?

It is expected that the data from the needs assessment effort will inform the DC Rehabilitation Services Administration's (DCRSA) efforts to relate the planning of programs and services and the establishment of goals and priorities to the needs identified in the CSNA. Helping DCRSA prepare people with disabilities to retain, maintain, regain or sustain competitive integrated employment that will enable District residents with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives.

4. How are people in supports, their families and advocates involved?

By serving as key stakeholders, participating in the needs assessment data collection process and providing input and feedback about their needs, through interviews, responding to surveys and focus group discussions, people in supports, their families and advocates provide the information that comprise the CSNA report.

5. Are other DC Government Agencies involved?

Yes, other District agencies like DC Public Schools (DCPS), DC Public Charter Schools, the Department of Employment Services (DOES), Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and others through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with DCRSA participate. In addition, others that comprise the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) are invited to participate as well.