



## PRESS RELEASE

### Findings of the 2020 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Presented to the Community

**February 22, 2021, Washington, DC**—The Department on Disability Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration (DCRSA) will present findings of the 2020 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) on **Wednesday, February 24, at 1 pm** via Zoom. Sharron Harris, Senior Vice President of the [Promesa Consulting Group](#) will lead the discussion.

The District of Columbia conducts a comprehensive needs assessment of disability services every three years as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. More than 600 people participated in the 2020 assessment through virtual interviews, focus groups, and electronic surveys. Data collected examined the overall performance of DDSRSA, the needs of individuals with the most significant disabilities, the needs of youth and students with disabilities, and the needs of business. Results of the assessment will assist the Department in refining program development, outreach efforts and allocation of resources to address the needs of people with disabilities.

Zoom log in details below. CSNA Fact Sheet included.

**CSNA Report to the Community on Zoom:** <https://bit.ly/3dyDs78>

**Meeting ID:** 817 4037 7811 **Passcode:** 100278

**One tap mobile**

+13017158592,,81740377811#,,,,\*100278# US (Washington D.C)

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**Find your local number:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81740377811>

If you need assistance in another language, materials in multilingual or alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity or service, please contact the DDS Language Access Coordinator at [dds.languageservices@dc.gov](mailto:dds.languageservices@dc.gov) before the event.

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For more information, contact DDS Public Information Specialist [Jocelyn.Harris2@dc.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Harris2@dc.gov) or 202-664-2162

The Department on Disability Services is a dynamic organization serving people with disabilities through the services of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). We provide innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces, and communities. Learn more at: [www.dds.dc.gov](http://www.dds.dc.gov), follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).



Rehabilitation Services Administration  
**2020 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**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.