**Announcing State Plan Public Meetings on Vocational Rehabilitation**

**and Supported Employment Services**

 **The New York State Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), with the** [**State Rehabilitation Council**](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/src/home.html)**, is developing the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services for Federal Fiscal Year 2016 (beginning October 1, 2015).**

 **To assist in the development of the State Plan, individuals with disabilities, their families, advocates, employers and services providers are invited to attend the public meetings to provide comments on the provision of vocational rehabilitation services. The public comment period extends from January 26, 2015 through February 23, 2015.**

 **The current** [**State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services**](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/adult_vocational_rehabilitation_services/state_plan/about.htm) **is available for review.**

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| **Region** | **Location** | **Date** |  **Time**  |
| **Capital District** | **Albany Public Library****161 Washington Avenue****Large Auditorium****Albany, NY 12210** | **January 29, 2015** |  **2:30 pm - 4:30 pm** |
| **Statewide****Video-conference\*** | **Brooklyn, Garden City, Malone, Rochester, and** [**Syracuse**](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/syracuse/contact.htm) **ACCES-VR District Offices\*\*** | **January 30, 2015** | **10:00 am - noon** |
| **New York City** | [**Manhattan**](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/syracuse/contact.htm) **ACCES-VR****District Office\*\*****116 West 32nd Street, 5th floor****New York, NY 10001** | **February 3, 2015** | **1:30 pm - 3:30 pm** |
| **White Plains** | [**White Plains**](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/syracuse/contact.htm) **ACCES-VR District Office****75 South Broadway, Suite 200****White Plains, NY 10601** | **February 6, 2015** | **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm** |
| **Call in number** | for comments if unable to attend**:** **Phone#: 1.866.394.2346****Conf. Code: 1359204987** | **February 6, 2015** | **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm** |

**\* The statewide January 30, 2015 video-conference will be a facilitated discussion with the Director of ACCES-VR District Office Operations.**

**\*\* Photo identification is required for State District Office sites.**

 **Individuals will be allocated five minutes to provide oral testimony. Comments and recommendations may be submitted in writing or electronically. Written comments can be sent to: NYS Education Department, ACCES-VR Resource Development Unit - EBA 580, Albany, NY 12234. Electronic submission can be sent to** **VRpolicy@nysed.gov****.**

 These meetings are being held at accessible sites. Copies of materials will be made available at each session. Upon request, materials will be made available in alternate format. Interpreters are provided only upon request. To request an interpreter or other accommodations, contact ACCES-VR by calling 1-800-222-5627 (voice or TTY) at least 10 days in advance of the meeting and reference "State Plan Meeting” or email VRpolicy@nysed.gov .

Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires joint planning in the provision of services. How should ACCES-VR and the Department of Labor collaborate in providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities?
2. How can New York State improve employment outcomes for youth? What is ACCES-VR’s role in the process?
3. What can ACCES-VR do to educate the business community about hiring individuals with disabilities?
4. How can supported employment services be improved?