

2015-16 Third Party Cooperative Arrangement (TPCA)

Questions and Answers Brief

1. When will the new TPCA application be available?

VR will be sending the 2015-16 TPCA application out to ESE Directors and Transition Coordinators on **March 16, 2015**. The application materials will also be made available in the next BEESS Weekly Memo after the initial release. The deadline for submitting a TPCA application is **April 17, 2015**.

2. How can I apply for a TPCA?

Complete the materials and submit the application following the instructions provided. You may contact Myron Cobbs directly by email at Myron.Cobbs@vr.fldoe.org or by phone at **(850) 245-3348** if you did not receive an application or if you have any questions about completing the application.

3. Can my current TPCA be renewed?

Yes, those school districts with a current TPCA in good standing will receive a renewal letter from the VR Contracts Manager and may disregard the application.

4. How many Employment Specialists may I have under the TPCA?

Each school district may have up to two Employment Specialists under the TPCA.

5. My district had one Employment Specialist, but now wants two. Do we have to apply?

Yes, you must complete an application for a new TPCA contract.

6. Why is the TPCA limited to students with the most significant disabilities?

VR is federally mandated to prioritize services to individuals with the most significant disabilities. During the most recent TPCA review, we found that the students with the greatest need were not consistently selected to receive work experiences and/or did not have access to a job coach needed to benefit from a work experience. As of February 2015, Priority Category 1 is current and there are no individuals in Category 1 on the waitlist.

5. What is the staffing commitment for the Employment Specialist(s)?

School districts must commit a FTE who will spend 100% of their time delivering services described in the contract to a minimum of six (6) students during the school year. School districts should have at least eight (8) students who require services to allow for attrition of students that fail to participate or decide not to pursue work experiences after being determined eligible for VR services.

6. What is the financial requirement for participation in the TPCA?

The school district will provide \$8,520 in non-federal, general revenue funds. VR will offset this cost, by providing \$31,480 for services delivered under the TPCA.

7. How do students get to and from the community work sites?

The school district is responsible for assuring the student's transportation to and from the work site.

8. What about those students with disabilities that need work experience, but do not qualify for the TPCA?

VR eligible students who do not require the intense supports that will be offered under the TPCA may access On-the-Job (OJT) Training through VR providers over the summer or when school is not in session.

9. How does the TPCA help VR?

The TPCA offers students that are not likely to benefit from traditional postsecondary training options the opportunity to acquire needed work skills and behaviors. It helps VR determine what accommodations and/or assistive devices may be provided, assisting the student to seamlessly transition from school to employment. Employers are also introduced to the abilities of individuals they may not have otherwise considered for employment.

10. My question(s) has not been answered, is there more information?

You may contact **Myron Cobbs**, Contract Manager, by email at Myron.Cobbs@vr.fldoe.org or by phone at (850) 245-3348 for questions regarding the contract or invoicing. You may also contact **Kirk Hall**, Transition Program Administrator, by email at Kirk.Hall@vr.fldoe.org or by phone at (850) 245-3360 for questions regarding TPCA services.