

The Rehabilitation Counseling Education Program (RCEP)

US Dept of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS),
CFDA 84.129B

ED Grant Number: H129B100031

Start Date: 10/01/10 End Date: 09/30/15

Project Directors: Dr. Hanoch Livneh and Dr. Tina Anctil

Phone: 503-725-4719 Email: livnehh@pdx.edu – anctil@pdx.edu

The Rehabilitation Counseling Education Program (RCEP) at Portland State University (PSU), in Oregon, is a CORE-accredited, long-term graduate-level training program offered by the Counselor Education Department in PSU's Graduate School of Education. The RCEP is requesting funds so that, in partnership with Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs) it can recruit, train, and place 70 qualified and competent rehabilitation counselors by the year 2017, approximately 50 of whom will be awarded some level of a *RSA scholarship*.

Presently, Region X has only three other graduate-level, general rehabilitation counseling programs. PSU's RCEP is the only CORE accredited training program in the Portland Metropolitan area, where the need is most critical. There is a significant shortage of qualified rehabilitation counselors at OVRs: at present, more than 25 percent of their counselors only possess a bachelor's degree, and only 37percent have their CRC. Furthermore, the 2011 OVRs State Plan delineates an increased need over the next five years for qualified rehabilitation counselors, projecting a need for 56 new qualified hires to fill OVRs vacancies, as well as 20% more new Qualified Rehabilitation Professionals (QRP) for vacancies in OVRs affiliated agencies.

Available data on (a) the number of people with disabilities, (b) hired vocational rehabilitation counselors and (c) letters by potential employers and rehabilitation administrators and practitioners, demonstrate a number of opportunities in appropriate employment for rehabilitation counselors in vocational and related rehabilitation settings. With funding, the RCEP anticipates placing 90percent of its students and 100% of the RSA scholars in positions at OVRs or affiliated CRPs within six months of graduation, significantly increasing the number of qualified, culturally competent rehabilitation counselors providing services to people with disabilities.

Impact on community: Dr. Livneh is one of the most distinguished researchers in the area of rehabilitation research. In this project vocational rehabilitation counselors will be prepared to support Oregon vets with disabilities to prepare for and obtain employment.