

**REACH RESOURCE CENTERS ON INDEPENDENT LIVING
THREE-YEAR PROGRAM PLANNING OBJECTIVES
FY 2003-2005**

REACH, which stands for Rehabilitation, Education, and Advocacy for Citizens with Disabilities (formerly Handicaps), is a North Texas based non-profit corporation with the mission of providing services to people with disabilities (PWDs) and education to the community on disability-related topics. In order to accomplish this mission, REACH operates the REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Denton. Through the centers, REACH provides an array of services including information and referral, peer counseling, independent living skills training, employment assistance, volunteer assistance, loaner adaptive equipment, ADA technical assistance, Braille/enlarging assistance, sign language interpreter assistance, and individual advocacy assistance. Information and referral and ADA technical assistance are also provided to callers/visitors to the centers that may be family/friends of PWDs, rehabilitation professionals, students, employers, etc.

REACH is administered by enlisting the support of a dedicated group of people who sit on the board of directors; having experienced management staff oversee the day-to-day operation of the centers; employing knowledgeable and empathetic employees who provide direct services to PWDs (consumers). REACH's objectives each year are to:

Maintain an effective and efficient management system that includes a working board of directors, a competent and knowledgeable executive director, and capable staff.

Provide the four core services required of all centers for independent living (CILs)-information and referral, independent living skills training, advocacy, and peer counseling, but to also add other services to the array which fill the gaps in the local service delivery system.

Conduct community advocacy activities covering a wide variety of issues including transportation, housing, physical and attitudinal accessibility, sensitivity to people with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act, worksite adaptations, job accommodations, inclusion, transition, and the Rehabilitation Act.

Increase the centers' financial resources to continue and expand their activities.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the centers' services by gathering feedback from consumers, referral sources, and rehabilitation professionals, via questionnaires, public forums, etc.

The result of achieving these objectives is that consumers learn about their options, make their own decisions, receive the appropriate support services they request, and ultimately live more independently in the manner in which they chose.

These objectives and the following center activities are consistent with the State Plan for Independent Living as developed by the Texas State Independent Living Council, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, and the Texas Commission for the Blind. REACH embraces the State Plan's philosophy of independent living, which includes the belief in the importance of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of PWDs. REACH also embraces the concept of integration and full inclusion into mainstream American society of all people with disabilities.

**REACH OF DALLAS RESOURCE CENTER ON INDEPENDENT LIVING
THREE-YEAR PROGRAM PLANNING OBJECTIVES
FY 2003-2005**

Goal: Establish and maintain an Independent Living Center serving the Dallas County area that provides consumer-directed services enabling people with disabilities to live independently.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS & THE COMMUNITY-DALLAS

Activities	Measurable Outcomes		
	2003	2004	2005
I&R requests handled	10,000	11,000	12,000
New consumer service records set-up during the year	200	200	200
Total number of consumers assisted during the year	600	600	600
Services to PWDs	#of PWDs Receiving Ea. Service		
Peer counseling	300	300	300
Counseling (non-peer)	300	300	300
Adjust. to Disability counseling	40	40	40
IL skills training	300	300	300
Individual advocacy	225	225	225
ADA technical assistance	125	125	125
Peer counseling training	10	10	10
Volunteer assistance	150	150	150
Employment assistance	300	300	300
Employment placements	50	55	60

<u>Services to PWDs (Continued)</u>	<u>#of PWDs Receiving Ea. Service</u>		
Transportation/escort assistance	25	25	25
Sign language inter./readers, etc.	80	80	80
Sign language training	50	50	50
Social/recreational activities	200	200	200
Loaner equipment	70	70	70
Home of Your Own consumers helped	75	100	125
Enlarging/Braille assistance	100	100	100
Community Living Program consumers assisted	5	6	7
Money Management Program consumers assisted	5	5	5
 <u>Services to the Community</u>			
Sensitivity training sessions held	30	30	30
Presentations to community groups	300	300	300
ADA TA to businesses/employers	50	50	50
Systems advocacy	125	125	125
Joint projects w/other groups	45	45	45
Interviews with the media	5	5	5
Participation in community mtgs.	200	200	200
Minority outreach	12	12	12

**REACH RESOURCE CENTER ON INDEPENDENT LIVING-FORT WORTH
THREE-YEAR PROGRAM PLANNING OBJECTIVES
FY 2003-2005**

Goal: Establish and maintain an Independent Living Center serving the Tarrant County area that provides consumer-directed services enabling people with disabilities to live independently.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS & THE COMMUNITY-FORT WORTH

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Measurable Outcomes</u>		
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
I&R requests handled	2,500	2,500	2,500
New consumer service records set-up during the year	200	200	200
Total number of consumers assisted during the year	400	400	400
 <u>Services to PWDs</u>			
Peer Counseling	75	75	75
Counseling (non-peer)	50	50	50
Adjust. to Disability counseling	30	30	30
IL skills training	125	120	125

<u>Services to PWDs (Continued)</u>	<u>#of PWDs Receiving Ea. Service</u>		
Individual advocacy	200	200	200
ADA technical assistance	50	50	50
Weekly peer counseling			
support group meetings	40	40	40
Peer counseling training	10	10	10
Social/recreational activities	50	50	50
Loaner equipment	25	25	25
Project Ramp (# ramps built)	40	40	40
Supplemental Food Bank Program	15	15	15
 <u>Services Provided to the Community</u>			
Disability awareness/sensitivity			
training sessions held	12	12	12
Presentations to community groups	50	50	50
ADA TA to businesses/employers	50	50	50
Systems advocacy	50	50	50
Community education (# people contacted)	1,250	1,250	1,250
Minority outreach (# groups Contacted)	12	12	12
Outreach to potential consumers (# of consumers contacted)	1,500	1,500	1,500
Participation in community mtgs.	175	175	175
Media interviews	5	5	5
Joint projects w/other groups	15	15	15

**REACH OF DENTON RESOURCE CENTER ON INDEPENDENT LIVING
THREE-YEAR PROGRAM PLANNING OBJECTIVES
FY 2003-2005**

Goal: Establish and maintain an Independent Living Center serving the Denton County area that provides consumer-directed services enabling people with disabilities to live independently.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS & THE COMMUNITY-DENTON

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Measurable Outcomes</u>		
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
I&R requests handled	1,600	1,600	1,600
New consumer service records set-up during the year	50	50	50
Total number of consumers assisted during the year	150	150	150
 <u>Services to PWDs</u>			
Peer counseling	200	200	200

<u>Services to PWDs (Continued)</u>	<u>#of PWDs Receiving Ea. Service</u>		
Adjust. to Disability counseling	18	18	18
IL skills training	100	100	100
Individual advocacy	100	100	100
ADA technical assistance	50	50	50
Peer counseling training	20	20	20
Adaptive equipment	50	50	50
TCB ILS consumers assisted	50	50	50
Social/recreational activities	70	70	70
<u>Services Provided to the Community</u>			
Presentations to community groups	60	60	60
ADA TA to businesses/employers	55	55	55
Systems advocacy	50	50	50
Community education to the general public (# of instances)	100	100	100
Outreach to PWDs (# of instances)	150	150	150
Participation in community mtgs.	50	50	50
Media interviews	5	5	5
Joint projects w/other groups	10	10	10

REACH, through the centers, will continue publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis, holding bi-monthly board meetings, conducting quarterly meetings of the center's Consumer Advisory Committee, soliciting donations of equipment and volunteer assistance, generating fees-for-service as appropriate, monitoring local, state, and federal legislative initiatives affecting people with disabilities, collaborating with other organizations on joint projects, maintaining appropriate insurance coverage, submitting funding proposals as appropriate, doing outreach to various minority communities, participating in interviews with the media, maintaining appropriate organizational records, policies and procedures, conducting annual employee performance reviews, and gathering feedback from participants in REACH activities.

REACH will review and revise, as needed, the organization's long range plan, public relations/marketing plan, personnel policies, financial policies, general policies, program development plan, etc. on a regular basis.

REACH of Dallas will continue generating program income by accepting ads for the newsletter, providing ADA technical assistance and disability awareness/sensitivity training, offering sign language classes, providing job readiness and placement assistance to TCB and TRC consumers, and sponsoring a yearly Job Fair for consumers.

REACH of Fort Worth will continue generating program income by accepting ads for the newsletter, providing ADA technical assistance and disability awareness/sensitivity training, teaching the Confident Living Program for people with vision and/or hearing impairments, and providing IL skills training to Tarrant County MHMR consumers.

REACH of Denton will continue generating program income by accepting ads for the newsletter, providing ADA technical assistance and disability awareness/sensitivity training, and providing IL skills training to Texas Commission for the Blind consumers.