



**Virginia  
Regulatory  
Town Hall**

**Notice of Intended Regulatory Action  
Agency Background Document**

<b>Agency Name:</b>	The Virginia Department of Social Services
<b>VAC Chapter Number:</b>	22 VAC 40-375-10 et seq.
<b>Regulation Title:</b>	Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons
<b>Action Title:</b>	Establish Regulation
<b>Date:</b>	August 15, 2001

This information is required prior to the submission to the Registrar of Regulations of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) pursuant to the Administrative Process Act § 9-6.14:7.1 (B). Please refer to Executive Order Twenty-Five (98) and Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) for more information.

**Purpose**

*Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulation. This description should include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.*

The purpose of the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons is to improve employability of disadvantaged persons through education and training. The program also extends eligibility for education and job training services to certain other hard-to-employ persons. The goal of the program is to promote self-sufficiency enabling eligible participants to move from minimum wage jobs to college and to employment and occupations that will facilitate career development and economic independence.

**Basis**

*Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority to promulgate the contemplated regulation. The discussion of this authority should include a description of its scope and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary. The correlation between the proposed regulatory action and the legal authority identified above should be explained. Full citations of legal authority and, if available, web site addresses for locating the text of the cited authority must be provided.*

On April 22, 1998, the General Assembly authorized the creation of the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons. The program is a result of Senate Bill 699 which grew out of a Joint Subcommittee of the Virginia General Assembly studying the status and needs of African-American males in Virginia. During the 2000 General Assembly the law was amended to extend educational and job training services to persons who are eligible to participate in vocational education and job skills training programs under state and federal welfare reform laws. Also during the 2000 General Assembly session, administrative responsibility for the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons was transferred from the Governor's Employment and Training Department (GETD) to Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) § 63.1-133.56. The Program shall comply with state and federal laws and regulations governing workforce training, welfare reform, adult literacy and education, and vocational and technical education programs and shall be consistent with existing state apprenticeship programs.

Section § 63.1-133.57 of the code of Virginia mandates the State Board of Social Services to promulgate regulations under which eligible projects are approved for grant awards by the Virginia Department of Social Services. The regulations are to establish the eligibility criteria for projects designed to serve certain hard-to-employ persons as provided in clauses (iv) through (vii) of subsection C of § 63.1-133.58.

### Substance

*Please detail any changes that would be implemented: this discussion should include a summary of the proposed regulatory action where a new regulation is being promulgated; where existing provisions of a regulation are being amended, the statement should explain how the existing regulation will be changed. The statement should set forth the specific reasons the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action would be essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. In addition, a statement delineating any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed shall be supplied.*

The proposed regulatory action is essential to protect the welfare of participants by providing ongoing services to reduce long-term dependence on welfare, to emphasize personal responsibility and to enhance opportunities for personal initiative and self-sufficiency by promoting the value of work.

### Alternatives

*Please describe, to the extent known, the specific alternatives to the proposal that have been considered or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action.*

State law clearly defined the objectives, goals and responsibilities of the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons. Also moving the Program from GETD to VDSS allows for improved coordination among the various programs that provide assistance to disadvantaged populations and the hard-to-employ.

**Family Impact Statement**

*Please provide a preliminary analysis of the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.*

The potential impact of the proposed regulatory action is positive in relation to the institution of the family and family stability. The Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds from the 2000 General Assembly. Therefore, grantees must operate their programs within the parameters of TANF objectives. One of the objectives of TANF is to end dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

The design of the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons is to emphasize personal responsibility and to enhance opportunities for personal initiative and self-sufficiency by promoting the value of work. Grantees are to develop employment and skills training programs and other initiatives that will ensure participants ability to attain jobs with viable career options. Grantees are also expected to identify employment and career paths that provide higher paying wages and benefits.