

**Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Targeted Communities (TCs):
Educate, Empower, and Employ (Project E3): CFDA No. 84.264F: ABSTRACT**

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The VR system has traditionally been unable to adequately identify and address the persistent, pervasive, multi-layered economic, and disability-related barriers to employment for persons from marginalized groups. To strategically promote greater availability of comprehensive VR services to TCs, the **Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA (Congressional District six)** is requesting for five-year funding of **Project E3 (Dr. Madan M. Kundu, Project Director, 0.33 FTE; Dr. Alo Dutta, PI, 0.67 FTE), a collaboration of five IHE and CSAVR. Goal:** To provide State VR agencies and their partners with the skills and competencies needed to effectively-efficiently address barriers to competitive integrated employment and community integration encountered by persons with disabilities (PwD) from economically disadvantaged (ED) TCs and high-leverage groups with national applicability (HLNA). **Objective 1:** To involve all 80 VR agencies for development of knowledge and selection of TCs. **Objective 2:** To collaboratively design modules and strategies for provision of intensive, targeted, and general TA and coordination activities to VR stakeholders serving ED PwD. **Objective 3:** To provide TA to VR agencies, their partners, and employers to maximize community support services in TCs, complement VR services, and promote competitive integrated employment consistent with informed choice for ED PwD from HLNA. **Objective 4:** To conduct formative-summative evaluations to measure and track effectiveness of on-going TA, training, and alliance building activities. The **final outcome** will be: (1) during Years 4-5, participating VR agencies will attain **RSA Performance Indicator 1.2**

Percent of Employment Outcome (56% successful closure) for clients from TCs; and (2) intensive evidence based TA and coordination activities will involve VR and their partners in **all nine Census Divisions and nationwide.**