**WorkAbility Cooperative Programs Overview**

**Program Overview**

The development of collaborative programming is a core principle of current workforce development legislation including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which re-authorizes the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This legislation requires the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to collaborate with partner agencies to strategically plan, cost-share, and integrate activities and information systems.

In this spirit, DOR, county mental health agencies, and local and state education agencies joined together to establish more than 200 cooperative programs that provide successful training, pre-employment transition services and employment services.

### WorkAbility III (WA III)

The WorkAbility III program, initiated in 1985, was designed to enhance collaboration between the Department of Rehabilitation and California’s Community Colleges. The programs are administered through cooperative agreements with select California community.

WorkAbility III serves individuals with disabilities who are both community college students and Department of Rehabilitation consumers. Statewide there are 14 WorkAbility III programs administered through cooperative agreements with Community Colleges.

Consumers are referred to the WorkAbility III Programs by their vocational rehabilitation counselor for in-plan vocational services. Services may include vocational assessment, internships, employment services, job development and placement and non-supported job coaching.

### WorkAbility IV (WA IV)

The WorkAbility IV program began operation in 1992 as a jointly administered project between the Department of Rehabilitation and California’s State University campuses.

The WorkAbility IV Program serves individuals with disabilities who are Department of Rehabilitation consumers and either California State University students, or University of California students, desiring and in need of employment. Statewide, there are 4 programs administered through cooperative agreements with California State Universities.

Consumers are referred to the WorkAbility IV Programs by their vocational rehabilitation counselor for in-plan vocational rehabilitation services. Department of Rehabilitation consumers receive specialized vocational services such as vocational assessment, internships, employment services, and job development.