**To:** State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies for the Blind

**From:** Vito DeSantis, Senior Policy Fellow

**Cc:** Mr. Russell Thelin, Senior Policy Fellow

**Date:** April 10, 2019

**Re:** Contractual Technical Assistance

I am writing to inform you of an initiative by the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), University of Massachusetts, Boston to assist agencies for the Blind to create a greater vocational emphasis for their Orientation & Training Centers.

This initiative is designed to assist agencies achieve:

* Stronger emphasis on employment within their centers,
* Increased integrated competitive employment opportunities for their graduates,
* Satisfaction of Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements,
* Optimized utilization of the Center for improved performance measures, and
* Strategic evaluation for continuous improvement of Center practices and training.

ICI will assist agencies in developing a strategic plan to ensure that all VR processes are aligned and a clear vision statement is articulated.

If you are interested in discussing please contact Vito DeSantis at Vito.Desantis@umb.edu