DRS Customers, Advocates and Stakeholders:

The Department of Human Services’ Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS/DRS) is conducting a needs assessment survey to learn more about the services people with disabilities feel are most needed in Illinois. This survey is part of our ongoing efforts to stay in touch with the people we serve and those who might need our services in the future. I hope you will be able to share this survey information with any people with disabilities who may be interested in the services provided by our vocational rehabilitation program.

This year DRS is conducting our needs assessment survey online rather than using a mail survey process. In addition to reducing costs, we feel this method makes it easier for people to respond to the survey and provide information back to us.

The direct link to the online survey is: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=65931>

Or, you can go to our DRS Success web page ([drs.illinois.gov/success](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=51120)) and click on the link on the right column labeled “Vocational Rehabilitation Service Needs Assessment”.

The survey asks questions about specific services that an individual may or may not need. The respondent indicates whether he or she receives the service now, needs the service now, or may need the service in the future. The composite data from many respondents will give DRS an idea of the relative need for each type of service. Information from the survey data will be used to direct resources to areas where there are specific service needs.

There is also a section that asks for information about the respondent, including personal information such as disability, race, gender and so on. Respondents can leave this section blank if they choose, or only answer some of the questions. The survey also provides an opportunity for respondents to connect with DRS to obtain more information about services.

I will appreciate it very much if you distribute information about our online needs assessment survey to people with disabilities known to you and your organization. This will be a great help to DRS in moving forward with improvements to our VR program.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David Hanson

Director

DHS-Division of Rehabilitation Services