

(c) ["Sheltered workshop"] "COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAM" means a work oriented place or facility operated on a nonprofit basis that[:

(1) Is] IS operated principally to provide:

[(i)] (1) Suitable work, training, or retraining [in manufacture or handiwork] to [disabled] individuals WITH DISABILITIES who because of a disability cannot find gainful employment elsewhere; or

[(ii)](2) Gainful employment to INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES [severely disabled or mentally retarded individuals; and

(2) Except for its staff, employs only disabled individuals].

21-403.

(a) The Division of Rehabilitation Services shall maintain a register of private nonprofit agencies or organizations it considers qualified to provide [sheltered workshop] COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAM employment for [disabled] individuals WITH DISABILITIES.

(b) Before it registers any organization or agency, the Division of Rehabilitation Services shall inspect [the sheltered workshop facilities] COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS to determine if:

(1) They are appropriate;

(2) The agency or organization is eligible to receive funds under this subtitle; and

(3) The [facilities] PROGRAMS meet the standards for [sheltered workshops] COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS accepted by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the federal Department of Education.

21-404.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services may contract with any approved agency or organization to provide programs and services set forth in § 21-303(d) of this title to any [disabled individual] INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES if the Division is satisfied that the individual:

(1) Is at least 17 years old;

(2) Cannot find employment in the open labor market; and

(3) May be expected to benefit from the programs and services set forth in § 21-303(d) of this title or that the individual's best interests require this type of employment.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

Approved April 28, 1998.