

July 27, 2022

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDESIGNATE THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S  
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

This document constitutes **Notice of Hearing** to receive public comment on the proposal by Governor Kay Ivey to redesignate the agency or entity responsible for the administration of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) from the current designated agency, which is the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), to the Alabama Disability Advocacy Program (ADAP), which is the protection and advocacy agency serving Alabama.

The Office of the Governor, through the Governor's Office on Disability (GOOD), will hold a public hearing on August 16, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be live in the first-floor conference room of the ADRS building located at 560 S. Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 and via call-in conference line. Please contact the Governor's Office on Disability at [graham.sisson@good.alabama.gov](mailto:graham.sisson@good.alabama.gov) or [marlene.word@good.alabama.gov](mailto:marlene.word@good.alabama.gov) to obtain more information or ask questions.

Teleconference: **Dial 334-293-7368**  
**Enter 7354**  
**Enter 3986**

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from all interested persons regarding the redesignation of the CAP from ADRS to ADAP. The Governor will fully consider all public comments before issuing a written decision regarding designation. If there is no opposition to the redesignation, or if comments against redesignation are insufficient to overcome the need to redesignate, the Governor will issue a written decision to redesignate to ADAP effective on or after September 1, 2022.

Copies of this notice will also be mailed to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), the State Independent Living Council (SILC) and members of the public upon request.

Notice: People requiring reasonable accommodations or assistance at the hearing should contact Marlene Word, GOOD Deputy Director at 334-293-7228 or [marlene.word@good.alabama.gov](mailto:marlene.word@good.alabama.gov), on or before August 10, 2022.

CAP is a federally mandated program (34 CFR Section 370), which advises and informs clients and client-applicants of all services and benefits available to them as authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended 29 U.S.C. Section 732. In Alabama, these programs are provided through the vocational rehabilitation services division of ADRS.

As established in Section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the purpose of CAP is as follows:

*To provide assistance in informing and advising all clients and client applicants of all available benefits under this Act, and, upon request of such clients or client applicants, to assist and advocate for such clients or applicants in their relationships with projects, programs, and services provided under this Act, including assistance and advocacy in pursuing legal, administrative, or other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of the rights of such*

*individuals under this Act and to facilitate access to the services funded under this Act through individual and systemic advocacy.*

*The Client Assistance Program shall provide information on the available services and benefits under this Act and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.) to individuals with disabilities in the State, especially with regard to individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by vocational rehabilitation programs. In providing assistance and advocacy under this subsection with respect to services under this title, a client assistance program may provide the assistance and advocacy with respect to services that are directly related to facilitating the employment of the individual.*

CAP is one hundred percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) through an annual formula grant to the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the ADRS. The grant will be fully transitioned to ADAP upon redesignation.

Alabama is one of only a few states in the country in which the agency housing vocational rehabilitation services (ADRS) is the designated agency for administering CAP. The Governor holds the authority for the designation of the agency responsible for operating the CAP in accordance with Section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Federal regulations, 34 CFR Section 370.2(c), indicate that this designation should be to an agency independent of any agency that provides treatment, services, or rehabilitation to individuals with disabilities. ADRS has been allowed to continue as the designated state CAP agency because of its status as such prior to 1984 under 34 CFR Section 370.2(d).

ADAP's stated mission is to provide quality, legally based advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities in order to protect, promote, and expand their rights. ADAP's stated vision is one of a society where persons with disabilities are valued, exercise self-determination through meaningful choices, and have equality of opportunity.

The Governor believes that ADAP is better suited to administer CAP because its mission, vision, extensive experience, and existing infrastructure better align with the goals of CAP. It is uniquely prepared to advocate for vocational rehabilitation consumers. In addition, the Governor wishes to join the majority of states, which have CAP located within the designated protection and advocacy system.

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Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed action of the Governor's Office may appear at the scheduled public hearing or participate via phone. Persons wishing to provide their comments in writing or oral form may do so via phone, email or direct mail routed to:

Graham L. Sisson, Jr.  
CAP Re-designation  
Governor's Office on Disability  
602 S. Lawrence Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
E-mail: [graham.sisson@good.alabama.gov](mailto:graham.sisson@good.alabama.gov)  
Telephone: 334-293-7189

Written or oral submissions must be received by GOOD on or before August 26, 2022.