

We have pursued multiple initiatives over several years in support of establishing a national disability examiner (DE) certification program.

- In 2001, we contracted with the Chauncey Group, International, to describe a certification process for State DEs and to assess the feasibility of a process with the Federal/State relationship.
- In 2007, we convened a workgroup to further explore the value of DE certification and make recommendations. The workgroup delivered a final report to serve as a flexible model for action on a variety of issues, including DE certification.
- Subsequently, we implemented various national training initiatives to ensure all DEs uniformly apply our rules, including greater use of a training advisory cadre and the creation of interactive training videos along with shared online software and programs. We also recently updated the national DE basic training program.

Challenges remain in establishing a national DE certification program. These challenges vary by State and include State bargaining agreements, implementation costs, staffing furloughs, hiring freezes, employee recruitment and retention, demographics, economic conditions, and the needs of the social safety net programs in each State. Due to the complexity of these challenges and limited resources, we have not moved forward with a national DE certification program.