

Supporting Employment First Ad Hoc Committee

May 17, 2019

I'm pleased to report two employment solicitations have been released and we're looking forward to receiving solid proposals.

The ***inclusive employment grant*** will be awarded to grantee(s) that design and propose a best practice or promising program that leads to employment for people with I/DD in an inclusive, non-segregated setting. It can include recruitment, training, job retention, job supports, promotions, educating businesses, creating a diverse and culturally and competent workforce, and other evidence-based practices that promote competitive integrated employment.

The ***college inclusion grant*** will be awarded to grantee(s) that can demonstrate strong active support for inclusion of students with I/DD across all parts of the college experience, including academic, administrative, support services, and extra-curricular activities.

We're anxiously waiting for proposals from Vocational Rehabilitation (thank you Kristen Mackey for working with us!) on two important initiatives:

1. ***Pilot project to implement a customized employment process*** to be used by Vocational Rehabilitation, partner state agencies Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Education, Department of Child Safety and Community Rehabilitation Program (Employment Service Providers) to support achievement of competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. VR will partner with the Workforce Innovation and Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC), Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC), and Griffin Hammis and Associates to lead Arizona through development, implementation, and piloting of a customized employment process. WOW!
2. ***Training for job coaches and job developers and credentialing*** looking at trainings that will focus on knowledge, gains, resource sharing, problem solving, and intensive skill development related to implementation of supported and customized employment services.

Council staff will also work with the Sonoran UCEDD on finalizing the Scope of Work for the ***Research on Best Practices for Transition-Aged Youth***. It will be

systematic evaluation of the transition services currently provided across the state and identify areas of strength to build upon, as well as areas of potential improvement.

I've been really concerned about the number of families sharing their personal stories regarding their kids sitting at home after attending or graduating high school. This is happening everywhere I go and it's a similar story. I've discussed this with Erica and the employment committee, and we're proposing to collaborate on an activity with parents of youth that will promote career exploration activities among young adults with developmental disabilities.

On April 29, the Council's employment standing committee reviewed and approved the 2020 Workplan. It's ambitious and full of strategic activities and projects that support the employment goal.

Mike will be meeting with committee member Jason Snead on an idea he had for a pilot program related to self-employment which partners with Universities to help graduates with I/DD who want to launch their own business. Additional partners would be small business owners to provide mentorship and training. Jason's idea is centered on Venture for America a nonprofit that revitalizes American cities and communities. Mike will also meet with Scott Lindbloom in Show Low to meet with community representatives to explore creating a pilot project to provide on-site job training for people with disabilities.