

ABSTRACT: School to Work Transition

ISSUE

Improving transitions to employment for youth and young adults with disabilities.

GOAL #7

Improve knowledge, capacity and collaborations among high schools, post-secondary training and education and career services to increase competitive employment outcomes for youth with disabilities.

RATIONALE

In New York State, thousands of young people with disabilities leave high school without an opportunity for employment or further education. Those who do go on to higher education, complete two or four year degrees and enter the workforce at much lower rates than the general New York population. Transition programs and services in the secondary education system, through VESID and other state agencies, and into and through higher education lack coordination and communication mechanisms to collectively support and improve labor market participation of New Yorkers with disabilities. This goal includes examining funding strategies across state agencies, local education agencies and federal sources that support successful transitions for young people with disabilities. It will expand model transition programs at 20 sites, and build a Community of Practice (COP) among disability service offices and career service offices at 10 community colleges and universities throughout NYS. We will provide training and TA to break down historical barriers between these offices, improve their collaboration and coordination, and improve employment outcomes for students with disabilities.

STATUS

The project has examined and compared model transition programs with NTLs-2 data. We have created a COP including the disability service (DSOs) and career service offices (CSOs) of Syracuse and Cornell Universities, Onondaga Community College, and seven other public, private, and community colleges.

2010 KEY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

- Identify model transition program (MTP) service models, and provide seed money & TA to targeted NY program sites
- Determine proven and sustainable patterns of funding based on MTP and extended site experience
- Improve collaboration between disability service offices (DSOs) and career service offices (CSOs) at two- and four-year colleges in NYS
- Increase the access of youth with disabilities to post secondary career training including private, trade, community college and four-year college programs
- Increase post-secondary graduation and workforce entry of students with disabilities

PARTNERS

- MISCC EC** – Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council Employment Committee
- VESID** – Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
- OMRDD** – Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- OMH** – Office of Mental Health
- OASAS** – Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- VA** – Division of Veterans Affairs
- CBVH** – Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- DOL** – Department of Labor
- COSD** – Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

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1-888-224-3272 voice, 1-877-671-6844 TDD or visit <http://www.NYMakesWorkPay.org>.