



LEAD CENTER

Employment First Technical Brief #4:

Federal Resources Available to Support State *Employment First* Efforts

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Employment First Technical Brief #4:

Federal Resources Available to Support *State Employment First Efforts*

This technical brief is the fourth in a four-part series. This brief is intended to provide State governments and external stakeholders with information about available Federal funding resources and technical assistance available to further state *Employment First* systems change efforts. The Federal government utilizes funding vehicles such as competitive grants, direct programmatic funding, demonstration projects, pilot initiatives, and increased Federal matching funds to help State and local governments prioritize strategies that lead to competitive, integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Funding can also be used to discourage certain practices or policies, as in the case of reduced reimbursement rates or decreased funding invested in services that lead to segregated outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Current Federal Resources to Support State *Employment First* Systems-Change Efforts

The primary Federal agencies tasked with providing supports to individuals with disabilities have engaged in a number of initiatives in recent years to encourage a greater emphasis on combining Federal funding support and state systems change action focused on the successful transition of youth and adults with significant disabilities into competitive, integrated employment. These agencies include the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. These Federal agencies have made several strategic investments in recent years to help states initiate the systems transformation necessary for realizing *Employment First* goals. **Appendix I** provides a representative list of Federal funding opportunities currently available to support state systems change and capacity building efforts to promote competitive, integrated employment outcomes for youth and adults with significant disabilities.

Leveraging Federal-State Match Methodologies to Promote Effective Practices that Lead to Increased Focus on Improved Competitive, Integrated Employment Options for People with Disabilities

In addition to these Federal grant opportunities, another set of initiatives has been introduced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to help states prioritize specific structural reforms and systems change efforts. The Federal Matching Assistance Percentage (FMAP) is the Federal

percentage that CMS applies to reimburse states for specific activities. For example, states can now receive higher FMAP rates for realigning funding toward home and community-based services for persons with disabilities. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), numerous incentives are available that result in increased FMAP rates for states that implement various efforts to increase integrated community and employment options for persons with significant disabilities, including:

- **Community First Choice Option:** Section 2401 of the Affordable Care Act establishes a new state option to provide home and community-based attendant services and supports. The Community First Choice (CFC) Option gives states the opportunity to provide home and community-based attendant services to Medicaid enrollees with disabilities under their State Plan. This option became available on October 1, 2011 and provides a six percentage point increase in FMAP for the provision of CFC services and supports. The final rule, which sets forth the requirements for implementation of CFC, can be found at <https://www.Federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/07/2012-10294/medicaid-program-community-first-choice-option>. The final rule includes the following requirements: establish the individual's need for an institutional level of care to be eligible for CFC services; make available home and community-based attendant services and supports to assist in accomplishing activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), and health-related tasks through hands-on assistance, supervision, and/or cueing¹; and use a person-centered service plan that is based on an assessment of functional need, also allowing for the provision of services to be self-directed under either an agency-provider model, a self-directed model with service budget, or other service delivery model.
- **Money Follows the Person:** The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant helps states rebalance their Medicaid long-term care systems. Over 51,000 people with chronic conditions and disabilities have transitioned from institutions back into the community through MFP programs as of December 2014.² The ACA strengthened and expanded the MFP program allowing more states to apply. There are currently 44 states and the District of Columbia participating in the demonstration.
- **Balancing Incentive Program (BIP):** The Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) was created by section 10202 of the ACA. It authorized grants to states to increase access to non-institutional long-term services and supports (LTSS) from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2015. The BIP increased the FMAP to states that make structural reforms to increase nursing home diversions and access to non-institutional LTSS, including: a no wrong door/single entry point system (NWD/SEP); conflict-free case management services; and core standardized assessment instruments. Total funding over the four years was \$2.4 billion in Federal enhanced matching

¹ Additionally, the following services may be provided at the state's option: transition costs such as rent and utility deposits; first month's rent and utilities; the purchase of bedding, basic kitchen supplies, and other necessities required for transition from an institution; and the provision of services that increase independence or substitute for human assistance to the extent that expenditures would have been made for the human assistance, such as non-medical transportation services.

² "**Money Follows the Person Demonstration: Overview of State Grantee Progress, January to December 2014,**" published June 10, 2015 by Mathematica Policy Research. <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/~media/publications/pdfs/health/mfp-grantee-progress-jandec2014-final.pdf>

payments. To participate in the Balancing Incentive Program, a State must have spent less than 50 percent of total Medicaid medical assistance expenditures on non-institutionally-based LTSS for Fiscal Year 2009 and submit an application that meets programmatic and structural reform requirements. Twenty-one states participated in the program and 13 states continue to participate past the September 30, 2015 deadline. The 22 participating states include³: [Arkansas](#), [Connecticut](#), [Georgia](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), Nebraska, [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [Ohio](#), [Pennsylvania](#) and [Texas](#). The BIP provided models of new ways to serve more people in home and community-based settings, in keeping with the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as outlined by the Supreme Court in the *Olmstead* decision.

Overview of Technical Assistance Available to Support State Employment First Efforts

ODEP, in partnership with other Federal agencies, is committed to supporting state *Employment First* strategies to ensure a prioritization of competitive, integrated employment as the preferred outcome of day and employment services for individuals with significant disabilities. A number of Federal agencies have invested in the provision of technical assistance and ongoing training supports for State governments who are committed to increasing competitive, integrated employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Most of these offer virtual trainings, informational resources, technical education programs, communities of practice, and other supports to promote the expanded use of effective practices and policy strategies in *Employment First* systems change efforts. **Appendix II** provides a representative sample of such programs available to states. In addition, the LEAD Center, funded by ODEP to advance sustainable individual and systems level change to improve competitive, integrated employment and economic self-sufficiency outcomes for all people with disabilities, has organized a virtual link to over 15 national technical assistance (TA) efforts funded by Federal agencies that provide TA on employment or related supports. The purpose of this virtual Knowledge Translation Center is to bring together, in one place, information on each Center's focus and use of knowledge translation tools and information to collectively improve employment and economic advancement outcomes for individuals with disabilities. See <http://www.leadcenter.org/>.

ODEP's Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP)

ODEP recognizes that many states desire to align their policy and funding in support of an *Employment First* approach, but may not yet possess the knowledge, skills, abilities, and/or resources necessary to lead and facilitate such change. To address this need, ODEP initiated the *Employment First* State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP), a cross-disability focused, cross-systems change initiative. EFSLMP is providing the impetus for selected states to pursue systems change to fully implement the *Employment First* approach as the primary service delivery system for people with the most significant disabilities. The EFSLMP seeks to:

³ All approved state applications and structural change work plans can be downloaded at: <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services-and-Support/Balancing/Balancing-Incentive-Program.html> and state profiles can be downloaded at: <http://www.balancingincentiveprogram.org/resources/state-profiles>

- Provide peer-to-peer mentoring, intensive technical assistance, and training to core states by peer-to-peer mentors and a pool of national subject matter experts as they transform employment delivery systems toward an *Employment First* approach;
- Sponsor a community of practice (CoP) comprised of interested cross-systems state teams across the country in order to facilitate shared experiences and strategies related to effectuating *Employment First* policies and practice; and
- Link participating states with current Federal initiatives that are focused on promoting state-level systems-change conducive to *Employment First* objectives.

Intensive Technical Assistance to Core States

In addition to the intensive technical assistance and training being offered to a group of core states, ODEP also runs a National *Employment First* Community of Practice, which is open to any interested disability stakeholder across all 50 states. Approximately 1,300 individuals across 43 states are currently participating in ODEP's *Employment First* CoP. ODEP is striving to coordinate its efforts with similar technical assistance being provided by other Federal agencies and national entities to ensure continuity and seamless access of multiple technical resources and sources of assistance. Additionally, ODEP is collaborating with Federal partners and other national entities to develop a National Strategic Policy Framework for outlining a roadmap of proposed policy reforms for strengthening the Federal government's promotion of *Employment First* at a national level.

ODEP's *Employment First* CoP provides state teams with a variety of services to support state *Employment First* teams, including:

- **Systems Change TA/Training Webinars:** ODEP hosts monthly educational presentations on a variety of *Employment First* topics facilitated by national leaders in the field of systems reform.
- **Vision Quest Policy Working Group Series:** Beginning in 2014, a select group of core states participating in the EFSLMP have had the opportunity to participate in a topic-specific policy development working group with two national subject matter experts over the course of a year.
- **ePolicyWorks Virtual Workspace:** ODEP's ePolicyWorks provides a virtual policy workspace for all EFSLMP CoP participating states along with an array of resources and services to stimulate virtual communications, resource sharing, and policy collaboration in a safe and user-friendly environment.
- **Access to Technical Assistance Resources and Policy Tools Developed through ODEP's EFSLMP:** A variety of technical assistance resources and policy tools are available to provide additional support free of charge to participating CoP states.
- **Real-Time Consulting Advice from National Subject Matter Experts:** State teams are able to submit questions or inquiries regarding various aspects of state systems change efforts to solicit real-time guidance and advice from a large pool of national subject matter experts.

Expectations of State Employment First Teams Participating in the EFSLMP Community of Practice

In exchange for participation in the EFSLMP Community of Practice, CoP states are asked to commit to the following –

- A continuation of cross-agency work aimed at establishing an *Employment First* strategic policy framework, inclusive of, but not limited to, active CoP engagement from the following state entities: education, intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) adult services, Medicaid, mental health, vocational rehabilitation, and workforce development.
- Frequent utilization of the virtual workspace provided through ePolicyWorks, and the sharing of any policy outputs that are produced on the state level to further *Employment First* efforts with ODEP and the EFSLMP CoP.
- Regular cross-agency participation by the above-mentioned systems in monthly EFSLMP CoP webinars, as well as other planned CoP activities.
- Full participation in all EFSLMP evaluation activities (including completion of online surveys, telephone interviews, and virtual focus groups).

In addition to the EFSLMP, ODEP offers a dedicated website containing comprehensive information on competitive, integrated employment for a variety of audiences at: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/ietoolkit/>. Contact ODEP at (202) 693-7880 for more information on the EFSLMP pilot and how your state might participate.

Comprehensive Employment First Web Platform

This platform, funded by ODEP and housed on the National LEAD Center's website, provides a unique, comprehensive resource for policy-makers, researchers, and external stakeholders to learn about national trends and activities in *Employment First*, including but not limited to:

- Downloading outcome data across respective Federally-funded systems (education, I/DD adult services, mental health, vocational rehabilitation (VR), workforce development, and others) at an individual state level, as well as the ability to compare data from up to three states at a time;
- Reviewing comprehensive profiles for each individual state with respect to relevant legislation, policies, gubernatorial actions, funding initiatives, pilots, and strategic partnerships going on in each state as it relates to increasing competitive, integrated employment options for individuals with disabilities; and
- Conducting queries to ascertain all policies/actions around a specific topic based on a customized search process. The site is available: <http://employmentfirst.leadcenter.org>

APPENDIX I: List of Federal Funding Opportunities Specifically Designed to Support Employment First Systems Change Activities

FUNDING INITIATIVE	FEDERAL AGENCIES	PURPOSE & DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATES RECEIVING ASSISTANCE
Partnerships in Employment Systems Change	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	<p>The purpose of these grants is to prioritize employment as the first and preferred option for youth and young adults with I/DD. Grantees will enhance collaboration across existing state systems, including programs administered by state developmental disabilities agencies, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, state educational agencies, and other entities to increase competitive employment outcomes for youth and young adults with I/DD.</p> <p>The grantees will develop and conduct initiatives designed to improve employment outcomes, expand competitive employment in integrated settings, and improve statewide system policies and practices for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The grantees will document their systems change efforts throughout the five-year project period. For additional information: http://www.acl.gov/Programs/AIDD/Programs/PNS/Resources/PartnershipsInEmplSystemsChangeGrants.aspx.</p>	<p>AIDD's eight Partnerships in Employment Systems Change projects are funded under Projects of National Significance.</p> <p>FY 2011 Grantees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of California Los Angeles (CA) Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MS) Iowa Department of Human Services (IA) University of Rochester (NY) University of Missouri Kansas City (MO) Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WI) <p>FY 2012 Grantees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanderbilt University (TN) Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (AK)
Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE)	Joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Labor	<p>The PROMISE initiative is intended to improve the provision and coordination of services for child SSI recipients and their families. The services help child recipients achieve better outcomes, including graduating from high school ready for college and a career, completing postsecondary education and job training, and obtaining competitive employment in an integrated setting. As a result, these child SSI recipients can achieve long-term reductions in reliance on SSI. Additionally, a national technical assistance center was awarded to the Association of University Centers on Disabilities in FY2014 to support the PROMISE grantees and Mathematica Policy Research has been contracted to conduct a nine-year evaluation. For additional information: http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/promise/index.html.</p>	<p>More than \$211 million was awarded in 2013 for five-year grants to the following five individual states (Arkansas; California; Maryland; New York; Wisconsin) and one consortium of six states (Arizona; Colorado; Montana; North Dakota; South Dakota; Utah) to establish and operate model demonstration projects designed to improve the education and employment outcomes of child Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and their families.</p>
Disability Employment Initiative	U.S. Department of Labor (Employment Training Administration & Office of Disability Employment Policy)	<p>Provides funding and technical assistance to State governments focused on improving service delivery strategies and outreach to job seekers with disabilities through the workforce development system. For additional information: http://www.dei-ideas.org/.</p>	<p>Since 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded over \$95 million to 26 states under DEI. A map outlining all state DEI grantees can be located at: https://www.doleta.gov/disability/DEI.cfm.</p>

FUNDING INITIATIVE	FEDERAL AGENCIES	PURPOSE & DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATES RECEIVING ASSISTANCE
Supported Employment for Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities, Title VI-B State Grants	Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education	Provides grants to assist states in developing and implementing collaborative programs with appropriate entities to provide programs of supported employment services for individuals with the most significant disabilities who require supported employment services to achieve employment outcomes. Grant funds are administered under a state plan supplement to the Title I state plan for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services designated by each state. Supported employment grant funds are used to supplement funds provided under the state VR grants program for the costs of providing supported employment services. Program funds may be used to supplement assessments under the Title I program and supplement other VR services necessary to help individuals with the most significant disabilities find work in the integrated labor market. Funds cannot be used to provide the extended services necessary to maintain individuals in employment after the end of supported employment services, which usually do not exceed 18 months but can be supported for 24 months under WIOA. For additional information: https://rsa.ed.gov/programs.cfm?pc=se .	All states are eligible to receive this currently-funded formula grant program, but must submit a supplement to their Title I Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants program plan. States may carry over unobligated funds to the next fiscal year. Funds are distributed on the basis of population, except that no state receives less than \$300,000, or one-third of 1 percent of the sums appropriated, whichever is greater. The minimum allotment for territories is one-eighth of 1 percent of the sums appropriated. More information on current state allotments can be found at: http://rsa.ed.gov/programs.cfm?pc=se .
Employment Development Initiative (EDI)	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	The purpose of EDI is to assist states in developing and expanding employment opportunities for people with psychiatric disabilities, substance abuse issues, and/or mental health needs. This grant program has provided funding to 18 states thus far to pilot innovative strategies and disseminate effective practices in an effort to further state systems change activities that promote competitive, integrated employment for individuals with psychiatric disabilities, substance abuse issues, and/or mental health needs. For additional information: http://www.nasmhpd.org/content/employment-development-initiative-edi-0 .	FY2011 Grantees: Alabama; Connecticut; Georgia; Missouri; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York; Vermont; Wisconsin FY2012 Grantees: Iowa; Michigan; Nebraska; North Dakota; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; South Carolina; Texas; Virginia
Transforming Lives through Supported Employment	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	The purpose of this program is to enhance state and community capacity to provide and expand evidence-based supported employment programs (such as the Individual Placement and Support model) to adults with serious mental illnesses, including persons with co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. The expected outcome of the program is for states to have the necessary infrastructure in place to maintain and expand supported employment services throughout the state and increase the number of individuals with serious mental illness and co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who obtain and retain competitive employment. More information can be found at: http://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center/grant-grantees/transforming-lives-through-supported-employment-program .	The following seven states were awarded grants in FY2014: Alabama; Connecticut; Illinois; Kansas; Ohio; Utah; Washington. These grants can be funded for up to five years.

APPENDIX II: List of Federally-Funded Technical Assistance Resources Available to Support *Employment First* State Systems Change Activities

AGENCY	T/TA PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	STATE PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)	<i>Employment Learning Community</i>	In 2012, AIDD awarded funding to the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston to establish a community of practice of state governments, with the goal of building capacity, reforming delivery systems, and improving strategies to increase inclusive, competitive employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Training and technical assistance is conducted in partnership with AIDD's Developmental Disabilities Network, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, and other relevant state agencies. This program was originally named " <i>Community of Practice for Supporting Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.</i> " For additional information: http://www.thinkwork.org/employment-learning-community-improving-systems-and-services-individuals-idd .	Eight states participate in the Community of Practice: District of Columbia; Idaho; Kentucky; Maryland; Minnesota; Nevada; North Dakota; West Virginia
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)	<i>Balancing Incentives Program</i>	For more information on the required structural changes or to gain information on technical assistance opportunities and resources available to states who are participating in the Balancing Incentive Program, refer to: www.balancingincentiveprogram.org .	These states participate in BIP: Arkansas; Connecticut; Georgia; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; Mississippi; Missouri; Nebraska; Nevada; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York; Ohio; Pennsylvania; Texas
CMS, HHS	<i>Money Follows the Person (MFP)</i>	National contractors with subject matter expertise are available to support MFP grantees and others with technical assistance on program implementation to promote best practices and provide guidance on MFP quality improvement strategies to enhance system performance improvement and individual consumer outcomes. For additional information: https://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Medicaid-State-Technical-Assistance/Money-Follows-the-Person-Tech-Assist/Money-Follows-the-Person-TA.html .	States participating in MFP: Alabama; Arkansas; California; Colorado; Connecticut; Delaware; Georgia; Hawaii; Idaho; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Mississippi; Montana; North Carolina; North Dakota; Nebraska; New Hampshire; New Jersey; Nevada; New York; Ohio; Oklahoma; Oregon; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; South Carolina; South Dakota; Tennessee; Texas; Virginia; Vermont; Washington; Washington, D.C.; Wisconsin; West Virginia

AGENCY	T/TA PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	STATE PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY
Employment & Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)	<i>Disability & Employment Community of Practice</i>	<p>The U.S. Department of Labor is requiring the public workforce development system to expand its capacity to provide integrated, seamless, and accessible services and programs to people with disabilities and/or other challenges to employment. To achieve this goal and building upon lessons learned from the Employment and Training Administration's Disability Program Navigator (DPN) initiative, the workforce system is collaborating with a wide range of partners to help people with disabilities obtain meaningful and effective employment opportunities. This Community of Practices is an e-learning, knowledge sharing web-space that offers workforce professionals, employers, economic development, and education professionals a dynamic network featuring innovative workforce solutions. Online learning events, resource information, and tools help organizations learn how to develop strategies that enable individuals and businesses to be successful in the 21st century economy. Information from DOL's Disability Employment Initiative (DEI), cosponsored with ODEP, which builds on the promising practices of the DPN initiative, is shared on the site, as well as other successful strategies and model programs of service delivery in the workforce system to improve employment outcomes of youth and adults with disabilities:https://disability.workforce3one.org/.</p>	<p>All state and local workforce investment systems and personnel have access to https://disability.workforce3one.org/.</p>
Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)	<i>ODEP National Research & Technical Assistance Centers</i>	<p>To develop and influence disability employment-related policies and practices, ODEP sponsors the following research and technical assistance resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Accommodation Network (JAN) — Leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. (Contract Period FY 2012-FY 2017) • Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) — Collaborative that researches, influences and develops inclusive employer practices and policies, and helps employers hire and retain workers with disabilities. (Contract Period FY 2015-FY 2020) • National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) — Partnership to promote success for youth with disabilities entering the world of work. (Contract Period FY 2012-FY 2017) • National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities (LEAD Center) — Collaborative of disability, workforce and economic empowerment organizations dedicated to advancing sustainable individual and systems-level change to improve competitive, integrated employment and economic self-sufficiency for adults across the spectrum of disabilities. (Contract Period FY 2012-FY 2017) 	<p>Technical assistance, trainings, and informational resources available to external stakeholders in all 50 states.</p>

AGENCY	T/TA PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	STATE PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY
ODEP, DOL	<i>Knowledge Translation Consortium</i>	In its efforts to facilitate strong coordination among Federally-funded national technical assistance centers that are focused on the employment and economic advancement of youth and adults with disabilities, the National LEAD Center (www.leadcenter.org) launched the Knowledge Translation (KT) Consortium in 2013. The LEAD Center hosts discussions of the KT Consortium on timely topics of mutual interest to the participating technical assistance centers and Federal agencies, so as to create a vehicle for these partners to share information on relevant activities and identify opportunities to leverage resources across centers and coordinate efforts.	Over 20 Federal agencies and national entities participate in the discussion. Federal agency partners include TA centers from the following Federal agencies: Education: RSA, OSEP, OESE; Social Security; HHS: ACL NIDILRR, AIDD, SAMHSA; DOL: ETA, ODEP.
Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education	<i>National Technical Assistance Center on Transition</i>	NTACT , a partnership of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Oregon, Western Michigan University, the Transition Coalition at the University of Kansas, and TransCen, Inc., assists State Education Agencies, Local Education Agencies, State VR agencies, and VR service providers in implementing evidence-based and promising practices ensuring students with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities, graduate prepared for success in postsecondary education and employment. (Contract Period January, 2015-December, 2019)	Technical assistance, trainings, and informational resources available to external stakeholders in all 50 states.
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)	<i>Rehabilitation Research & Training Center on VR Practices for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities</i>	The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Practices for Youth and Young Adults is designed to provide a comprehensive, balanced, and rigorous view of the strategies, methodologies, and models of VR service for youth and young adults with disabilities in the United States. The Center will contribute to ongoing academic analysis, policy development, and in-the-field practice, providing extensive information to educators, rehabilitation professionals, youth with disabilities and their families, advocates, researchers, and policy makers. The Center is a partnership of TransCen, Inc.; University of Maryland-College Park; Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.; the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts-Boston; and the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR). It is supported through a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Information is available at http://vrpracticesandyouth.org .	Educational programming and informational resources will be made available to external stakeholders in all 50 states.

AGENCY	T/TA PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	STATE PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY
Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education	<i>Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Centers</i>	<p>RSA awarded more than \$12.6 million in grants to seven technical assistance centers. Together, they will help improve the outcomes of individuals with disabilities—from cradle through career. The investments are aimed at promoting inclusion, equity, and opportunity for individuals with disabilities to help ensure their economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and full community participation. A list of the centers is available: http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/126-million-grants-awarded-help-improve-outcomes-individuals-disabilities-vocational-rehabilitation-and-workforce-development.</p> <p>The Technical Assistance Centers replace 10 regional <i>Technical Assistance & Continuing Education (TACE) Centers</i> that conducted annual needs assessments and provided technical support and continuing education programs to state VR agencies and their partners. The Centers provided information on quality management practices, service delivery, and VR skillsets. The TACE National Collaborative continues to be a central repository of information at: http://interwork.sdsu.edu/sp/ntc/.</p>	<p>Educational tools and informational resources available to external stakeholders in all 50 states.</p>
Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education	<i>Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center</i>	<p>In FY 2014, RSA funded the establishment of a Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (CFDA 84.264A) to provide training and technical assistance to improve the capacity of State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies and their partners to equip individuals with disabilities with the skills and competencies necessary to help them obtain high-quality competitive employment. (https://rsa.ed.gov/choose.cfm?menu=nfp264a)</p>	<p>The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts-Boston is the principle entity managing the new Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center. http://www.communityinclusion.org/</p>
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)	<i>Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS-TACS)</i>	<p>In 2011, SAMHSA launched the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) to promote the widespread adoption of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems for people in recovery from substance use and/or mental health conditions. BRSS TACS (http://beta.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs) offers resources and opportunities to a wide audience, including states, territories, tribes, direct service providers, advocates, families, and people in recovery.</p> <p>Building on the accomplishments of mental health and addictions recovery movements, BRSS TACS serves individuals and communities that are vital for moving the field towards a recovery orientation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in recovery • State, county, tribal, and city behavioral health authorities • Policy makers • Researchers • Behavioral health providers, including peer providers • Other health and human service providers • Family members 	<p>Technical assistance, trainings, and informational resources available to external stakeholders in all 50 states.</p>
SAMHSA, HHS	<i>Olmstead Activities</i>	<p>SAMHSA provides technical assistance and other opportunities for states to learn about federal rules, regulations, and available resources to promote community integration and support Olmstead implementation and compliance. More information is available at: http://www.samhsa.gov/recovery/samhsas-efforts.</p>	<p>Resources available to all states and territories.</p>

AGENCY	T/TA PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	STATE PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY
Social Security Administration (SSA)	<i>National TA for WIPAs and CWICs</i>	<p>The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 authorized Social Security to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to provide community-based work incentives expertise to beneficiaries of Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits based on disability. SSA awarded 95 cooperative agreements throughout every state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These projects began providing services to beneficiaries in August of 2013. Contact information for WIPA projects can be found at: http://choosework.net. The goal of the WIPA program is to enable beneficiaries with disabilities to make informed choices about work and to support working beneficiaries to make a successful transition to self-sufficiency. Each WIPA project has Community Work Incentives Coordinators who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide in-depth counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits; • conduct outreach efforts to beneficiaries of SSI and SSDI (and their families) who are potentially eligible to participate in Federal or state work incentives programs; and • work in cooperation with Federal, state, and private agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve disabled SSI and SSDI beneficiaries. <p>The Social Security Administration has a contract with Virginia Commonwealth University to provide training and technical support to the nation's Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WIPA) project staff, as well as Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs). You may visit VCU's website at http://www.vcu-ntc.org/.</p>	<p>All Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) staff and Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs) from all 50 states are eligible to receive technical assistance, training, and informational resources.</p>