

DD Council's Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan for Employment

July 29, 2015

Needs

- An understanding by individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems that it is possible for people with DD, including those with substantial employment support needs, to have successful competitive, individualized, inclusive employment
- State appropriation to draw down full federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) grant to serve those waiting for waiver services

Action Steps

- The DD Council will post its employment videos on social media
- The Human Development Center and the Advocacy Center will send a joint flyer on their Work Incentives and Planning Assistance (WIPA) programs to LA Rehabilitation Services (LRS), the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), and Families Helping Families Centers
 - LRS will disseminate the WIPA program flyer to
 - The Louisiana Rehabilitation Council,
 - Rehabilitation Counselors, regional and area managers and other LRS staff,
 - Community rehabilitation programs, and
 - Individuals and families they serve
 - OCDD will disseminate the WIPA program flyer to
 - Regional managers and other OCDD staff
 - Support Coordination agencies and community providers
 - Individuals served in sheltered workshops and their families
 - Families Helping Families will make the WIPA program flyer available to local education agencies, Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams, parents and individuals with disabilities
- The DD Council will continue to share information regarding the availability of WIPA through Facebook and LaDDC News.
- The DD Council will encourage Families Helping Families Centers to host meetings in which individuals with disabilities and families can share their competitive individual inclusive employment success stories with other individuals with disabilities and families
- The DD Council will consider adding advocating for a state appropriation that will draw down the full federal vocational rehabilitation award to its 2016 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Needs

- Improved quality of services from supported employment Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs)

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Action Steps

- The DD Council will monitor LRS' new provider report card system and quality outcomes.

Needs

- Stakeholders will know and participate in the process of how Louisiana implements the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Action Steps

- The DD Council will continue to push out information on LA Workforce Commission's (LWC) working groups to oversee the implementation of WIOA.

Needs

- Sufficient funding through the vocational rehabilitation, education and waiver systems
- Effective transition planning that results in employment
- Improved integration and collaboration of local LRS offices and local education agencies
- An understanding by individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals in the various service systems that it is possible for people with DD, including those with substantial employment support needs, to have successful competitive individualized inclusive employment

Action Steps

- OCDD will identify individuals who have moved from Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD), are not in sheltered workshops, and are not employed, and refer them to LRS, when age-appropriate.
- The DD Council and Families Helping Families centers will publicize the availability of programs like DECA and paid internship programs.

❖ Will we need both of the next two things?

- ❖ The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will encourage local education agencies (LEAs) to collaborate with LRS/LWC in fully implementing WIOA initiatives.
- The DD Council will advocate for the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) to:
 - Approach the design of the workforce development system in Louisiana from a universal design perspective
 - Include a broad range of stakeholders to participate in formal planning for implementation of WIOA. Specific recommendations of stakeholders to invite include:
 - The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)

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- A cross-section of local education agencies (LEAs) and
 - previous/current and prospective users of vocational rehabilitation services and the supported employment program, their families, and advocates
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- The DD Council will recommend for the LDOE to issue guidance for IEP meetings to include the expectation of employment beginning in elementary school
 - The DD Council and Families Helping Families Centers will disseminate newsletter articles on research pertaining to paid employment
 - LDOE will consider issuing general guidance on the benefits of paid employment for high school students with disabilities