

7-22-16

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: New Transformation Grants available

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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I am excited to announce today that we are launching the next phase of transformation grants to help expand community job opportunities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has announced a Request for Applications (RFA) for providers to improve employment services and outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Providers who may want to apply for this RFA can now apply at:

<http://orpin.oregon.gov>

DHS is seeking service provider agencies looking to transform their business models from the delivery of facility-based employment services (sometimes known as sheltered workshops) for individuals with I/DD to community-based, integrated employment services. Interested providers will be selected via an ongoing application process. DHS will review service provider applications every six months through July 2017 (August 2016, January 2017, July 2017), or until all available funding for transformation grants has been awarded.

The selected providers will receive training and technical assistances as well as an award of up to \$150,000 in order to initiate and sustain their transformation from facility-based to community-based employment services. Providers must commit to providing community-based, integrated employment services and to ending facility-based or sheltered employment services.

Living Opportunities, Inc. of Medford and the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (WISE) will provide training and technical assistance for at least 12 months to the selected providers.

Investing in provider transformation is part of the DHS strategy to make continual improvements to employment services in Oregon by:

- Increasing capacity, in terms of provider numbers and skill levels, to deliver employment services in integrated employment settings;
- Increasing the opportunities for individuals with I/DD to join the general workforce by being competitively employed in workplace settings typically found in our communities;
- Reducing the use of facility-based services; and
- Assisting providers to comply with new federal rules that require Medicaid-funded services to be community-based.

If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us

~ Acacia