

10-31-14

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: [Employment First](#): Grant Announcement**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

DHS has awarded grants to 25 service provider agencies that currently provide facility-based employment or day services to help transform their organizational and program models to community-based, integrated employment services.

The goal of this transformation is to increase capacity of providers who can provide integrated employment services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As part of the application, the providers had to demonstrate their desire to help people with I/DD get jobs in the community. Each provider is committing to people obtaining individual community supported employment, as a part of participation in this transformation initiative.

In early September, the Department of Human Services (DHS) put out a Request for Grant Applications for this transformation initiative. DHS is distributing a total of \$2.57 million with awardees receiving between \$35,000 to \$150,000, depending on the scale of their operation.

Facility-based providers will be paired with a training and technical assistance entity to assist them in their transformation efforts. The outcomes must include:

- Increase the specific capacity, in terms of provider numbers and skill levels, to deliver employment services in integrated employment settings;
- Increase the opportunities for individuals with I/DD to join the general workforce by being competitively employed in workplace settings typically found in our communities. This includes opportunities for self-employment, business ownership, or other entrepreneurial endeavors; and
- Reduce the use of facility-based or small group employment services.

The selected providers are located in all areas of Oregon, including Eastern and Southern Oregon. The awardees are:

- Alternative Services-Oregon, Inc.
- Arc of Lane County
- Bethesda-Lutheran Communities

- Catholic Community Services
- Community Services, Inc.
- Eastco Diversified Services
- Exceed Enterprises, Inc.
- Garten Services, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of Southern Oregon
- Mentor Oregon
- Mid-Valley Rehabilitation
- Opportunity Connections/Hood River Sheltered Workshop Inc.
- Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon
- Partnerships in Community Living
- Pearl Buck
- Rise, Inc.
- Serp Enterprises, Inc.
- Shangri-La Corporation
- Southern Oregon Aspire
- Star of Hope
- Sunny Oaks
- Sunrise Enterprises of Roseburg
- Tualatin Valley Workshop
- Willamette Valley Rehabilitation Center
- Western Idaho Training Company

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or other questions, please email them to [employment.first@state.or.us](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us).

~ Mike