

2-27-15

To: Employment First stakeholders
From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator
Re: Employment First: Start-Up Grant Recipients
(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

In January we announced a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) to expand Oregon's capacity to provide individual integrated employment services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The purpose of this grant is to expand the number of employment specialists available to provide services. Today's message is to share with you the results of that grant process.

We viewed 34 applications, with requests totaling far more than \$750,000 we had to distribute. To make sure the grant benefitted as many areas of Oregon as possible, the review panel decided to distribute the funds equally to 12 different applicants. Ultimately, the grant awards will provide time-limited funding for a total of 14 new full-time employment specialists. Each applicant has developed a plan for sustaining the new positions after the grant funding ends.

The 12 recipients of the RFGA and the areas they serve are:

- [Abilitree](#) (Deschutes County)
- [Ackley Counseling and Employment Services](#) (Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties)
- [Bay Area Enterprises, Inc.](#) (South Coast, including Coos County)
- [Coast Rehabilitation Services](#) (North Coast, including Clatsop County)
- [Collaborative Employment Innovations](#) (Linn and Benton counties)
- [Community Access Services](#) (Portland metro and Columbia County)
- [Dirkse Counseling & Consulting, Inc.](#) (Portland metro)
- [Employers Overload Supported Employment, Inc.](#) (Portland metro area)
- [Lane Community College Specialized Support Services](#) (Lane County)
- [United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon and Southwest Washington](#) (Portland metro)
- Spruce Villa, Inc. (Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties)
- [Step Forward Activities, Inc.](#) (Baker and Grant counties)

All 12 organizations have individual plans in place to hire and train these new employment specialists to provide integrated, community job services. This

training must be in a manner that meets established requirements and core competencies of the position and services provided.

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 questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike