

4-28-17

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Summer Work Experience Opportunity Available

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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I am excited to announce today that we have an opportunity to increase summer work experiences for young people with disabilities through a collaboration between the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Oregon Department of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Request for Application (RFA) No. 4448 for Summer Work Experience Programs will fund pilot programs throughout the state aimed at giving youth with disabilities experience with summer work.

Providers, schools, and other organizations that meet the approved criteria of this RFA can now apply at: <http://orpin.oregon.gov>

The goal is to develop a work experience program that increases job opportunities for young people with disabilities. Applicants must demonstrate a sustainable summer work experience program that supports student employment and higher education preparation as well as community engagement.

Summer work experiences for students are supervised, school-coordinated activities which provide opportunities for students to achieve employment-related competencies in a workplace environment. These activities extend the classroom into the workplace and are related to students' career interests. Examples of these activities include: paid summer jobs, job shadowing, volunteering, internships, apprenticeships, work readiness, and much more.

This RFA is looking for programs that blend and braid agency funds to achieve the best employment outcomes for young people with disabilities to work. Studies show that work-based learning during school leads to greater success in adult employment for all categories of disability. Applicants should not duplicate services or invoices for their same clients.

This RFA is part of ongoing efforts in ODDS, VR and ODE to increase job opportunities for transition-age and high school youth. Our hope is that a model

program emerges from this process. All applicants must issue a report on the program and its outcomes at the end of the process.

The funds are available on a rolling basis through Dec. 31, 2018. Ongoing awards may be made during this period.

If you have questions about the RFA, please contact Brenda Pearson, Office of Contracts & Procurement, (503) 945-6273; brenda.l.pearson@state.or.us.