



Raising  
Expectations  
Building  
Independence

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# Vocational Rehabilitation(VR)

- Mission Statement: To Assist Oregonians with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and independence
  - Works in partnership with the community and business to develop employment opportunities that matches skills, interests, strengths, abilities and limitations
    - ✓ Eligibility based program
    - ✓ Individualized services
    - ✓ Competitive Community Employment

# Benchmarks

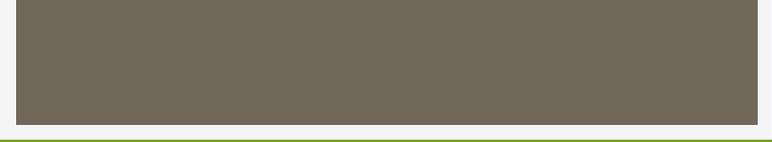
- ❖ Orientation
- ❖ Intake
- ❖ Application
- ❖ Eligibility in 60 days
  - ✓ Interests, assessments,
- ❖ Plan in 90 days
  - ❖ Pre-employment activities
- ❖ Employment 90 days after stability

# Partnerships

- ❖ Community Agencies
- ❖ worksource
- ❖ Schools
  - Transition Specialists/teams
  - Special Education Teachers/teams
  - YTP Specialists
  - 504, IDEA, WIOA considerations
- ❖ Provider Agencies
  - ❖ Job developers/Employment Specialists

# Pre-Exit Employment Activities

- Interest inventories
- Skill Building
- Identify Needs and supports
- Paid and unpaid work experiences
- Career counseling
- Benefits counseling
- Introduction to Worksource and Res-Care



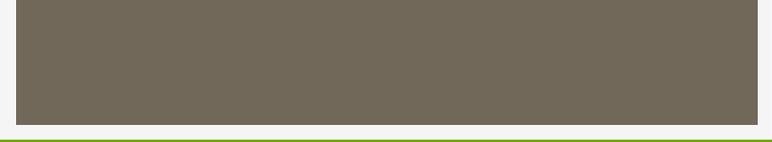
# Discovery

## Big 'D' vs little 'd'

- Discovery: a comprehensive and person-centered employment planning support service to better inform an individual seeking competitive integrated employment in an integrated employment setting of potential job avenues for them and create a discovery profile. Discovery includes a series of work or volunteer related activities to inform the individual and the job developer about the strengths, interests, abilities, skills, experiences, and support needs of the individual, as well as identify the conditions and settings in which the individual will be successful. Discovery is an opportunity for the individual to begin active pursuit of competitive integrated employment.

## Discovery Cont.

- Performed by qualified professionals
- Integrated setting
- Identify needs and supports
- Identify assistive technologies/Accommodations
- Competitive community employment
  - No less than minimum wage



# Qualifications

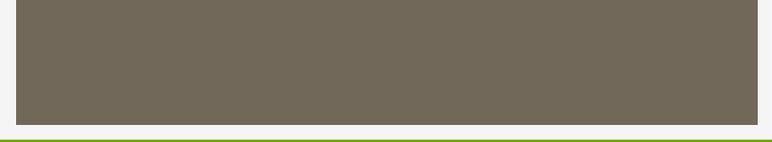
- All Employment Service Contractors are required to have one year documented experience working with individuals with disabilities or one year of human service related experience such as economical disadvantages, employment, abuse and neglect, substance abuse, aging, disabilities, prevention, health, cultural competencies, or housing.

# Qualifications: Handout

- ❖ Job Developers/Employment Specialists
- ❖ Job Coaches
- ❖ Approved Discovery Providers
  - ❖ Must be enrolled with ODDS Services
  - ❖ Must be a qualified VR vendor
  - ❖ <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/ar/2015/ar15004.pdf>

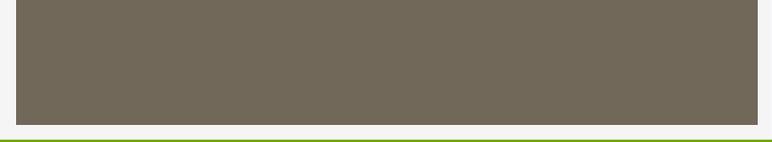
# Raising Expectations

- Pre-ets
- School based work experiences
  - ✓ Emphasis on integrated environment
  - ✓ Can satisfy some big 'D' requirements and provide information
  - ✓ Seamless transition
  - ✓ This work can translate and transfer to SpEd, Transition, YTP, 504, IDEA and GenEd students as programs grow and successes are shared



# Benefits

- ❖ Seamless transition
- ❖ Assist with goal development; more engaged
- ❖ Reduce anxiety and fear about employment
  - ❖ Realization of possibilities
  - ❖ Concept of choice
  - ❖ Buy in by students, families, administrators, community and employers



# Building Independence

- All this work, dedication, and commitment assists individuals with disabilities and their peers, educators, and supports become more engaged and directly relate to students and families and how to support them post-exit. Evidence has proven that an increasingly integrated environment and pre-employment support prepares pre-transition and transition aged students to be successful in education, independent living, and employment environments to the greatest extent possible.