

7-14-17

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: [Employment First](#): Innovation Grant Awardees Announced**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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The Oregon Legislature awarded a Policy Option Package in the 2015-17 session for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund innovative Employment First projects to increase capacity throughout the state.

The purpose of these grants is to expand efforts to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

We are pleased to award more than 20 organizations throughout Oregon with innovation grants. Congratulations to the providers, family organizations, and case management entities that were awarded grants for innovative projects starting June 2017.

**Awardee:** Abilities at Work

**Location/Region:** Portland metro

**Project Summary:** Create and implement curriculum, performance management and data tracking for a team-based, supported employment model.

**Awardee:** Ackley Counseling and Employment Services

**Location/Region:** Jackson County

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement four I/DD career exploration workshops in partnership with Worksource to increase capacity of staff providing employment services in Southern Oregon.

**Awardee:** Ackley Counseling and Employment Services

**Location/Region:** Jackson County

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement Social Security work incentives training program in Southern Oregon.

**Awardee:** Arc of Lane County

**Location/Region:** Lane County

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement a job fair and employer appreciation gala. Develop marketing campaign to include social media, email and coffee table books for distribution. Develop and disseminate curriculum for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

**Awardee:** Arc of Lane County

**Location/Region:** Lane County

**Project Summary:** Complete TEACCH advanced training and obtain certification, create customized training plan created for each recipient employee, create intranet site for use by recipient's staff for training, plan and implement job coach trainings provided for recipient's staff and others in the community.

**Awardee:** Catholic Community Services

**Location/Region:** Linn, Marion and Clackamas counties

**Project Summary:** Develop a written guide to planning and hosting business engagement luncheons. Provide technical assistance to two partner agencies, to plan and implement their own employer engagement business luncheons.

**Awardee:** Creating Community Impact

**Location/Region:** Jackson County

**Project Summary:** Develop and implement job coach training. Develop and implement mentor program for people with I/DD.

**Awardee:** Dirkse Counseling & Consulting, Inc.

**Location/Region:** Portland metro

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement training for students, parents and professionals in self-advocacy as it relates to competitive integrated employment for transition-age students. Plan and implement self-advocacy "Train-the-Trainer" training for providers of transition-age students.

**Awardee:** Dirkse Counseling & Consulting, Inc.

**Location/Region:** Portland metro

**Project Summary:** Create and implement an employer engagement campaign and model tool kit for other providers to replicate campaign.

**Awardee:** Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage

**Location/Region:** Eastern Oregon

**Project Summary:** Mid-Columbia Employment First team to plan and implement an employer engagement event in Eastern Oregon.

**Awardee:** Family and Community Together (FACT)

**Location/Region:** Statewide

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement family outreach to further the Employment First initiative through online trainings, one-to-one coaching support, blogs, public relations and email blasts.

**Awardee:** Full Access High Desert

**Location/Region:** Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties

**Project Summary:** Central Oregon Employment First team to plan and implement a strategic plan for marketing, social media development and print media for Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties.

**Awardee:** Garten Services, Inc.

**Location/Region:** Marion/Polk counties

**Project Summary:** Three partner agencies will each have a staff member certified to do benefits counseling. Create materials and provide benefits counseling to families and individuals.

**Awardee:** Garten Services, Inc.

**Location/Region:** Marion/Polk counties

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement summer youth work experience, including job coach training, family outreach and job placement services for transition-age youth.

**Awardee:** MV Advancements

**Location/Region:** Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement educational sessions to further the Employment First initiative for middle school families in six school districts.

**Awardee:** MV Advancements

**Location/Region:** Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement multi-week training program for high school staff of transition-aged youth in six school districts.

**Awardee:** Partnerships in Community Living

**Location/Region:** Marion/Polk counties

**Project Summary:** Obtain Social Security benefits training certification for one staff member. Plan and implement training and benefits counseling for stakeholders and people experiencing I/DD.

**Awardee:** Partnerships in Community Living

**Location/Region:** Marion/Polk counties

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement family outreach materials to further the Employment First initiative including creating a recruitment video, portfolio of program materials and a PowerPoint.

**Awardee:** Pearl Buck

**Location/Region:** Lane County

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement four family and four residential provider Employment First informational gatherings with marketing materials.

**Awardee:** Roccas Family Network

**Location:** Eastern Oregon

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement film festival and family and community outreach to promote Employment First in six eastern Oregon counties.

**Awardee:** Shangri-La

**Location/Region:** Marion, Lane and Lincoln counties

**Project Summary:** Plan and implement eight community forums with marketing materials for individuals and families to support competitive, integrated employment.

**Awardee:** Sunny Oaks

**Location/Region:** Marion and Polk counties

**Project Summary:** Develop presentation and training materials for presentations to community partners and potential employers on equity and inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

~ Acacia