



**U.S. Department of Labor
Disability Employment Initiative Cooperative Agreements**

New Jersey

Grantee: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Location of Grant Activities: Multiple Workforce Investment Boards in the State

Amount of Grant: \$2,479,280

Period of Performance: Three Years

Key Partnerships: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant – DiscoverAbility, Division of Disability Services, TANF, Elizabeth Boggs Center, Henry H. Kessler Institute, Business Leadership Network, NJ Chamber of Commerce, Mental Health Association, Veterans Employment and Training Services, Juvenile Justice Commission, New Jersey schools and community college system.

Individuals to be Served: Individuals with Disabilities

Project Description: The New Jersey Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) cooperative builds upon earlier Work Incentive Grant and Disability Employment Navigator grant activities. The New Jersey DEI will focus their cooperative agreement on youth strategies for ages 14 through 24. The New Jersey DEI will utilize Rehabilitation Services Administration Technical Assistance and Continuing Education training for workforce center staff. They will also use the Medicaid Infrastructure grant program to conduct outreach to employers and expand the availability of Technical Assistance Centers as well as market DiscoverAbility events. Strategic approaches include year round career exploration, career education and planning, self assessment, and work readiness skills training.

Youth will also be provided pre-apprenticeship opportunities through the New Jersey Youth Transitions to Work program. The New Jersey Youth Corps provides training and community service projects, earning General Equivalency Diplomas (GEDs) and building upon inherent strengths of the individual youth. Another key strategy will be focused on the development of self-employment opportunities, including working with the Business Leadership Network's Disability Supplier Diversity Program to certify companies as disability owned and operated companies.

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