

C-3

Cross County Collaboration Pilot Project October 2009 to September 2009

The C-3 pilot project is a multi-agency, inter-county collaborative effort to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities who experience significant challenges to employment. The project agencies include Provail, Highline Community College and Service Alternatives. Financial support and assistance is being provided by King and Snohomish Counties. This project was initiated in response to progressive new state legislation called the Working Age Adult Policy and sets out to address the expectation that all individuals with developmental disabilities should be supported to work in the community if they choose. A common value among the partnering agencies is that no one is unemployable. The goal of this project is to develop and implement a replicable service model to support people with multiple and significant disabilities to obtain and retain paid employment.

This project's initial outcomes include:

- Utilize expertise of multiple employment agencies, Counties, Technical Assistance providers and State Division of Developmental Disabilities to create innovative new strategies and a new service model that will be successful in obtaining employment for people with significant disabilities on a broad scale.
- Determine effective consultation and planning resources necessary to address the unique needs of project participants.
- Identify information and training needed to assist agency staff.
- Develop relationships with the business community, particularly large corporate employers and enlist their assistance in designing employment around business needs.
- Ensure development of a replicable model and strategy while maintaining person-centered approaches.
- Reducing or eliminating attitudinal barriers and stigma within the business community through outreach and training.

The agencies represented in this project have chosen to collaborate based on common values, a dedication to providing service to individuals regardless of the significance of their challenges to acquiring employment, and the unique challenges of fully realizing the mission of the Working Age Adult Policy. We look forward to your participation in this exciting endeavor!

Participant's criteria:

1. Person's limited or lack of work history will be one of the considerations for admission to the project.
2. Traditional approaches / job development has not worked due to complexity of the person's disability.
3. Individual is willingly to participate in the discovery process to determine a task he/she could perform.
4. It is anticipated that the person will require a high level of support on the job.

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