Disability Employment Initiative

Overview

The federally-funded Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) brings together resources from employment, training, and social services programs to accomplish one goal: to help individuals with disabilities connect to employment opportunities. As a federally-designated Employment Network, the DEI program at netWORKKri is particularly well-suited to serve Ticket to Work customers receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits based on disability.

A founding principle of DEI is the value of community partnerships in service delivery. Program partners include The Office of Rehabilitation Services; The Governor's Commission on Disabilities; Workforce Solutions of Greater RI; Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH); business leadership networks; and community-based organizations.

DEI staff members, known as Disability Resource Specialists, are specially trained in workforce and disability issues and can help customers address unique barriers to employment and navigate through available services.

Strategic Service Delivery

The U.S. Department of Labor has entered into three-year DEI cooperative agreements with the public workforce systems in 23 states, including Rhode Island, to enact strategies for high-quality employment services to individuals with disabilities.

The Rhode Island DEI project has three strategic components:

- **Integrated Resource Teams.** Integrated teams help provide seamlessly coordinated services that meet the needs of each adult job seeker with a disability.

- **Blending and Braiding Funds.** The DEI program accesses funding from multiple sources in order to help its clientele meet their education, training and/or employment goals.

- **Partnerships and Collaboration.** Improved coordination among service providers helps job seekers maximize their education, training and employment opportunities.

If you have a disability and are interested in employment, contact a Disability Resource Specialist at one of the locations listed below to make an appointment:

**netWORKKri**
One Reservoir Avenue
Gisele: (401) 462-8979
Jan: (401) 462-8910
Lauren: (401) 462-8981
Tricia: (401) 462-8934

**West Warwick netWORKKri**
1330 Main Street
Rhonda: (401) 828-6136

**Woonsocket netWORKKri**
219 Pond Street
Ellen: (401) 235-1255