

## Illinois DEI Project

### Vision, Goals and Strategies

#### **Vision:**

Improving employer access to skilled workers with disabilities while expanding the skills of our Illinois workforce.

#### **Goals:**

- To create innovative employment opportunities through partnerships which build a workforce development model that will become the new state standard for excellence,
- To increase the number of job seekers with disabilities being served, trained and employed through Illinois workNet Center and partner services.

#### **Strategies**

Several strategies will be used to ensure that the DEI program fulfills its goals and vision. These include Partnerships, Financial Literacy, Training and Technical Assistance, Service Accessibility, and Outreach.

**Partnerships:** Integrated Resource Teams (IRTs) will work together to provide education, training, intensive support and job placement services for people with disabilities. These staffing teams will include a variety of stakeholders including public and private disability agencies, educational providers and other community based organizations. By coordinating their services and funding, the IRTs will better support job seekers.

**Financial Literacy:** Teams will provide financial literacy information and services to assist customers in accessing beneficial programs and resources. These may include SSA Work Incentives and benefits, Medicaid Works, Earned Income Tax Credits and other programs which promote financial stability and self-sufficiency.

**Training and Technical Assistance:** Teams will present training, information and technical assistance on best practices to staff, customers, partners, service providers and businesses. They will engage employers to promote employment of job seekers with disabilities and increase their knowledge of effective practices and accommodations.

**Service Accessibility:** The Illinois workNet portal will be expanded to provide improved access to online resources for job seekers, partners and employers. Employment Network services will be enhanced to increase the number of job seekers with disabilities who use the One-stop system. Both online and physical sites will become more welcoming, user-friendly and accessible to customers of all abilities.

**Outreach:** Teams will market and promote workNet services to employers, job seekers with disabilities, and service provider partners.. These outreach strategies will include contacting and communicating with stakeholders, promoting program awareness, and encouraging participation in services leading to employment.