

# Community Participation Support (CPS) Provider Transformation Training and Regional Learning Collaborative

## ODP Announcement 21-045

### **AUDIENCE:**

Providers of Community Participation Support funded through the Consolidated, Community Living, and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) waivers or base funding

### **PURPOSE:**

To announce an opportunity for Community Participation Support providers to participate in a free virtual training. The training will be provided by national experts and focus on how Community Participation Support services providers can transform from a facility-based model to a competitive integrated employment business model. This initiative also includes the opportunity to receive technical assistance and participate in regional learning collaboratives facilitated by a national expert to assist in developing and implementing concrete and targeted measures to make the transformation.

This opportunity is free to providers and jointly funded by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **WHY PROVIDERS SHOULD APPLY FOR THE TRANSFORMATION TRAINING:**

- Pennsylvania is an “Employment First” state, meaning that competitive integrated employment is the first consideration and preferred outcome of all publicly funded services for working-age Pennsylvanians with a disability.

- The [Employment First Oversight Commission](#) has created measurable goals to annually decrease segregated employment by a minimum of 10% and achieve competitive integrated employment for 30% of working age individuals served by ODP.
- With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the changes required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule, providers of Community Participation Support prevocational services in a facility-based setting must begin changing the model and scope of services they provide. Providers delivering services in facility-based settings should develop service models that support and promote competitive integrated employment in community settings.
- ODP and OVR believe that all people with an intellectual disability or autism must be encouraged to pursue their vision for an everyday life, which may include working in competitive integrated employment. Competitive integrated employment offers a person an opportunity to achieve economic independence, build self-confidence, enhance self-determination, and meet new people while building new skills.
  - 55 Pa. Code Chapter 2390 states that the primary objective of vocational facilities is to assist clients in the development of skills necessary to move out of the vocational facility into competitive integrated employment.
- Recognizing that the national and state landscape is changing to one of Employment First, coupled with the challenges of operating a facility-based program during the COVID-19 pandemic, now is a pivotal time to transform from a non-integrated model of service to one that is equitable, integrated and inclusive within the community.

ODP and OVR recognize that transformation is a difficult and long process. ODP and OVR are seeking providers interested in embracing the future to participate in a Transformation Training and Regional Learning Collaborative provided by national experts in transformation.

### **TRANSFORMATION TRAINING**

The Transformation Training will be held virtually and is free to providers enrolled with ODP to provide Community Participation Support. The training will be limited to 30 provider agencies that are selected through an application process. Providers interested in participating in the training must be willing to commit at least two executive level staff to participate in all three days of training. The training will take place virtually July 19, 2021 through July 21, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Breaks are built-in to the sessions.

### **TRANSFORMATION REGIONAL LEARNING COLLABORATIVE**

After the conclusion of the Transformation Training, 15 providers will be given the opportunity to receive at least 12 hours of virtual technical assistance and consultation from the national experts. Five providers each, in three regions of the state (West, Central, East), will be selected. Each provider will be asked to identify no more than three executive level staff to participate, for a total of no more than 15 people in each Transformation Regional Learning Collaborative. The team must consist of any combination of the organization's Executive Director/CEO, Finance Director/CFO, Senior Program Director/COO, or Board Officer, preferably the President. Providers will receive assistance with developing and implementing a strategy and action plan to transform their business model at no cost to the provider. Each provider will be afforded a 1:1 consultation with the national expert in addition to the Transformation Regional Learning Collaborative.

Providers that wish to be selected for the Transformation Regional Learning Collaborative must be selected for and attend the Transformation Training. Selection will be based on a provider's attendance and participation in training as well as demonstrated commitment to transforming their organizations from a non-integrated model of services to a model that promotes and supports competitive integrated employment.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please complete an application to help us to get to know your organization and to measure your interest and commitment to Employment First and changes needed to better attain that goal. Providers that are interested in applying to be part of the Transformation Training and Regional Learning Collaborative and receive technical assistance from a national expert must do the following:

1. Complete and submit the attached application to Laura Cipriani at [lcipriani@pa.gov](mailto:lcipriani@pa.gov) no later than Friday, July 2, 2021.
2. ODP will notify each provider applicant whether they have been selected for the 3-day Transformation Training. Notification will be sent via email to the email address that was used to submit the application.
3. After the 3-day training, ODP will notify the 15 providers that have been selected to participate in a Transformation Regional Learning Collaborative.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Cipriani at [lcipriani@pa.gov](mailto:lcipriani@pa.gov).