
NTAR Leadership Center

National Technical Assistance and Research Center to Promote Leadership for Increasing the Employment and Economic Independence of Adults with Disabilities

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Program for Disability Research, School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Center for Workers with Disabilities, American Public Human Services Association

National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, University of Delaware

Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Community Solutions Group, LLC

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January 28, 2008

Dear Governor:

The National Technical Assistance and Research Leadership Center to Promote Employment and Economic Independence for Adults with Disabilities (NTAR Leadership Center) is **soliciting applications from states interested in becoming national leaders in pioneering innovative, demand-side approaches that improve employment for adults with disabilities.**

The NTAR Leadership Center, whose mission is to increase the employment and economic independence of adults with disabilities by promoting engaged and sustained leadership and partnerships, **invites your state to apply to participate in a *State Leaders Innovation Institute to Expand Employment for Adults with Disabilities.***

The NTAR Leadership Center is seeking **three states** interested in further enhancing the employment prospects for adults with disabilities by:

- Integrating disability employment policy into the state's economic development, economic growth, or sector initiatives;
- Implementing innovative demand-side approaches to increasing the employment of adults with disabilities;
- Implementing strategic actions that improve the economic wellbeing of adults with disabilities; and/or
- Establishing leading-edge universal and customized approaches for the organization and delivery of state workforce policy that improves connections to training and work for all job seekers including adults with disabilities.

Each state selected to be in the Innovation Institute will develop a state team, appointed by the Governor, representing economic development, workforce development, disability employment, and the employer community. The three selected state teams will receive:

- An in-state orientation by NTAR Leadership Center faculty;
- A 2.5 day teambuilding and strategy development session;
- Access to a peer learning and information sharing network;
- Customized technical assistance and training; and
- A discretionary grant up to \$50,000 for project implementation.

The NTAR Leadership Center will cover the cost of travel, food, and lodging for up to 10 team members from each state to attend Innovation Institute sessions as well as cover the costs of Institute-sponsored technical assistance.

Participation in the Innovation Institute offers states an exciting chance to interact with peers from other states, work with national experts and employers, and receive customized technical assistance and coaching as they position the state as an innovator and model for leadership in the area of employment and disability.

The solicitation for the State Leaders Innovation Institute is enclosed. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on March 31, 2008. Applicants who have questions on the solicitation are invited to participate in an information teleconference on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. (EST). To participate in the conference call or to ask questions about the solicitation process, please contact Maria Heidkamp at the NTAR Leadership Center at heidkamp@rci.rutgers.edu or at (732) 932-4100, ext. 6313. For additional information on the NTAR Leadership Center, please visit our website at www.ntarcenter.org.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to receiving a proposal from your state.

Sincerely,



Kathy Krepcio
Executive Director
NTAR Leadership Center

cc: Governor's Chief Policy Adviser; State Workforce Development Agency, State Human Services Agency, State Medicaid Agency