
NTAR Leadership Center

NTAR Leadership Center
Cooperative Inquiry System
Round 5, August, 2009

SELF-EMPLOYMENT RESPONSES

Self-employment is becoming an important workforce development strategy for individuals with disabilities. Factors including an interest in entrepreneurship, a desire to create a flexible work environment, economic conditions (for example, limited employment opportunities in very rural communities), and others are leading individuals and agencies to consider investing in self-employment ventures. We are interested in learning about activities in your state to support individuals with disabilities, or others who may experience barriers to employment, in pursuing self-employment.

California

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Business planning services
- Mentoring
- Training and technical assistance

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

The California Comprehensive Strategy for Employment of People with Disabilities has a self-employment goal and corresponding work group. CalMIG is finishing four on-line training modules on micro-enterprise self-employment topics. These modules should be

live on the web by October 2009. In addition, the CalMIG helps fund the Disabled Businesspersons Association in San Diego to host state-wide monthly telephone support group meetings. CalMIG is also working with the CA Dept. of Rehabilitation to develop marketing materials on self-employment options as well as promote self-employment on our Talent Knows No Limits web site.

Your agency or organization and state:

California Health Incentives Improvement Project, Interwork Institute/San Diego State University

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Eric Glunt, eglunt@interwork.sdsu.edu, 707-732-3384

Connecticut

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Training and technical assistance
- Benefits planning related to self-employment

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Youth

Your agency or organization and state:

Chris Tymniak, Governor Rells Office, Connecticut

District of Columbia

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Business planning services
- Training and technical assistance
- Other: the Rehabilitation Services Administration is contracting with an organization that specializes in self-employment so that they can refer people to them for support and TA.

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients
- Youth
- Dislocated workers
- Older adults/workers

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

Most recently, the Department on Disability Services has contracted with a private organization to assist in creating self-employment options for people with disabilities. We also have had discussions with a person at the Department on Employment Services (DOES) who has supported people who were incarcerated or who faced other barriers in starting their own enterprises, to learn what DOES has to offer. They link to DC's Small and Local Business Development, which links to micro-loans, youth entrepreneurship, and more.

Your agency or organization and state:

District of Columbia Department on Disability Services

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Rebecca Salon, Rebecca.Salon@dc.gov

Illinois

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Business planning services
- Mentoring
- Benefits planning related to self-employment

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Youth

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

The Illinois Strategic Plan, developed with funding from the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, contains several initiatives for individuals with disabilities who wish to become self-employed. We are developing a self-employment mentoring program to be implemented in 2010 and will be developing marketing materials targeting people with disabilities for the Illinois' Small Business Development Centers (who provide a significant amount of assistance to small business development and training) to include webinars. We are also reviewing Illinois' Business Enterprise Program which certifies people with disability-owned businesses to provide goods/services to the State as independent contractors. Benefits planning marketing materials are also being developed so individuals can determine the impact of self-employment on benefits.

Your agency or organization and state:

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Sandra Mott, Project Director, MIG, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, 607 E. Adams, 6th Floor Springfield, Illinois 62701

Sandra.Mott@illinois.gov or (217) 524-7170

Minnesota

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Assessment (e.g., readiness for self-employment)
- Business planning services
- Access to capital
- Mentoring
- Training and technical assistance
- Benefits planning related to self-employment

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Other: Transition youth with disabilities

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

The Minnesota Rehabilitation Services/Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides assistance and support to help individuals achieve success in a small business career that provides employment consistent with an individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.

Your agency or organization and state:

Minnesota Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Steven Johnson, Small Business Development Specialist, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, 7115 Northland Terrace, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

steven.johnson@state.mn.us or 763-536-6098

New Jersey - State Employment and Training Commission

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Assessment (e.g., readiness for self-employment)
- Business planning services
- Training and technical assistance
- Other: SEA- Self-employment Assistance Program which provides training for participants on all aspects of self-employment plus gives financial assistance in place of Unemployment Insurance payments and the work-search waiver of UI is not required.

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Dislocated workers

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

In most cases, it would be promoted at the Re-employment Orientations for people who signed up for UI and One-Stop Services (these are mostly dislocated workers who may or may not be vets or have disabilities). Flyers may also be available at some community colleges but all the county Small Business Development Centers promote it as the program works in partnership with them.

Your agency or organization and state:

My agency is a public policy planning agency (the state workforce investment board) and does not operate programs. The SEA program cited above is operated through the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Judith Formalarie, State Employment and Training Commission, PO Box 940, Trenton, NJ 08625-0940

New Jersey – Council on Developmental Disabilities

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Assessment (e.g., readiness for self-employment)
- Access to capital
- Mentoring
- Training and technical assistance
- Other: Research, publications, development of lending resources, etc. since 1996. Individual Development Accounts for persons wishing to raise capital since 2002.

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

First disability-specific loan fund- 1995; individual and group training; development of national network of disability-specific self-employment resources, including development of relationship with the Association for Enterprise Opportunity and The Ability Fund (Iowa).

Contact me for papers and research conducted in this area - see Training Resource Network (FL) listings for our booklet... (<http://www.trninc.com/>)

Your agency or organization and state:

NJ Council on DD, Trenton, NJ

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

dennis.rizzo@njcdd.org

New Mexico

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Training and technical assistance

- Benefits planning related to self-employment

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Older adults/workers

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

Working with NM Business Leadership Network to develop and implement a self-employment project aimed at facilitating the development and incubation of entrepreneurial initiatives for people with disabilities.

Your agency or organization and state:

New Mexico Human Services Department, Medical Assistance Division, Working Disabled Individuals Program

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Ernesto Rodriguez, 505-827-6292, ernesto.rodriguez@state.nm.us

Ohio - Department of Job and Family Services

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Assessment (e.g., readiness for self-employment)
- Access to capital
- Mentoring
- Training and technical assistance

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Dislocated workers
- Older adults/workers

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

Ohio has conducted statewide meetings and information sessions to promote the training, support, and expertise offered to prospective entrepreneurs by the Ohio Department of Development. One-Stops are providing referrals and linkages to entrepreneurial training programs, hosting classes and even engaging these resources to become partners in the One-Stops. Ohio has implemented the Capitalization of Small Business Waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Labor. This waiver enables the State and Ohio's WIA Areas to utilize Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funds to capitalize small businesses. These capitalization grants of up to \$5,000 can be awarded to cover the costs associated with small business start-up or growth. WIA enrolled Adults and Dislocated Workers who have identified entrepreneurship as their chosen career pathway are placed into entrepreneurial training programs. Upon completion of the training and approval of their business plan, the workforce investment areas may provide these capitalization grants to help launch the enterprise. This program is also designed to provide follow-up services with a linkage to mentorship and addition business consultation services provided by the Ohio Department of Development.

Your agency or organization and state:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Workforce Development

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Gwen Ivory, State DPN Program Manager, gwen.ivory@jfs.ohio.gov

Ohio – Scioto County One-Stop

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Business planning services
- Training and technical assistance

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans and/or veterans with disabilities
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients

- Youth
- Dislocated workers
- Older adults/workers

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

When a person states they are interested in starting a new business, they are referred to a professional group for further information. They provide the activities listed above for our one-stop center. We utilize the services of the business development department of Pike County Ohio (941 Market Street, Piketon, Ohio, 45661, phone number: 740-289-2371). This group comes to our one stop for appointments the third Thursday of every month to meet with referrals.

Your agency or organization and state:

Scioto One-Stop Center, Ohio

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

ttaylor@workforceconnections.biz

Rhode Island

Has your agency or organization been, or is it currently involved in, delivering, managing and/or funding a self-employment initiative or activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which types of activities are provided (please indicate all that apply):

- Outreach activities on self-employment options
- Assessment (e.g., readiness for self-employment)
- Business planning services
- Access to capital
- Mentoring
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- Benefits planning related to self-employment

If yes, please indicate which population(s) are targeted (please indicate all that apply):

- Individuals with disabilities

If yes, please provide a brief description of your agency or organization's self-employment initiative.

We have retained Griffin-Hammis to work extensively with three vendors this year and another three next year (plus training for all vendors who applied for the grant) to learn the model they have developed - the basis is discovery - in order to create system change in RI. Vocational Rehabilitation is a partner. Full partner engagement is something we need to work on next year---to promote real sustainability.

Your agency or organization and state:

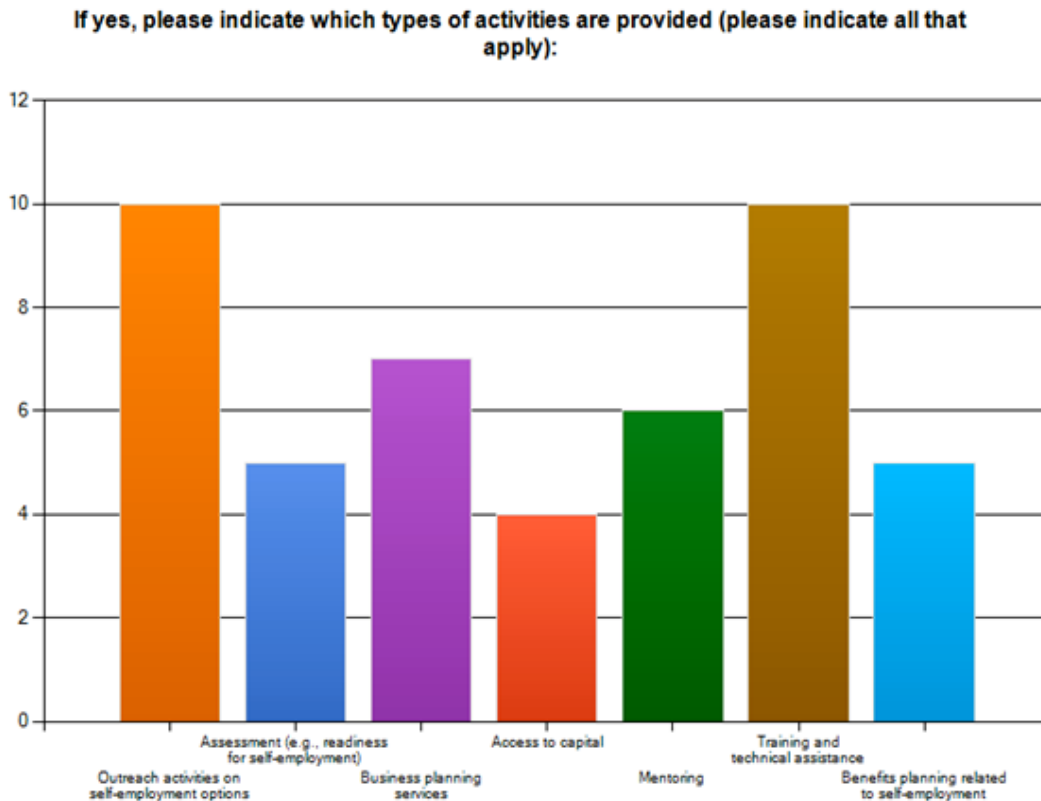
University of Rhode Island

Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Elaina Goldstein, Director, Rhodes to Independence, 401-462-6264

Summary Information

Question 2: Types of self-employment activities provided.



Question 5: Of agencies not currently involved in self-employment initiatives, nearly all indicated being interested in, or thinking about, using this approach.