

NTAR Leadership Center
Cooperative Inquiry System
State Peer Leaders Network
March 2010

**DISABILITY PROGRAM NAVIGATOR INITIATIVE
RESPONSES**

The Disability Program Navigator initiative began as a jointly-sponsored initiative by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the Social Security Administration. This initiative was designed to achieve more integrated and comprehensive service delivery and supports for people with disabilities in the workforce investment system. DPN grants helped establish the position of Disability Program Navigator in workforce systems across the country. DPNs have helped to improve access to one-stop career center programs and services, build cross-agency partnerships, enhance connections to employers, and other activities. With most of the DPN grant funding expiring at the end of June 2010, we are interested to learn about efforts or plans in your state to continue DPN activities.

Alaska

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

Three

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

No; Funding is being sought through the State Budget.

If no, is your state considering using any of the funding sources listed above to continue DPN activities?

Yes

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Agency staff works with the State Tech Act Project, Assistive Technology of Alaska, to ensure that assistive technologies originally placed in the One Stop system in 2003 through a Work Incentives Grant are kept up to date and One Stop staff are trained in their use in ensuring accessible services and materials at the One Stops by individuals with disabilities.

Your agency or organization and state:

Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

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

Rich Sanders - Program Coordinator, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
P.O. Box 240249, Anchorage, AK 99524-0249
(907) 269-5703; richard.sanders@alaska.gov

California

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

16 LWIAs with appx 25 DPNs (some full time; some part time). DPNs vary based on turnover.

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

The California Employment Development Department is actively involved with the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and The California Health Incentives Improvement Project and other agencies on various activities that improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Your agency or organization and state:

California Employment Development Department

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

Desi Malone, 916-654-6533

Kansas – Department of Commerce

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

5 - DPN's + 1 State Lead Coordinator

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Not sure

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

No

If no, is your state considering using any of the funding sources listed above to continue DPN activities?

Yes

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns - KCDC provides policy recommendations to the State of Kansas on changes to laws, regulations and programs that affect people with disabilities. They also provide information and training to the public on legislative activities, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and rights, and emergency preparedness for communities and people with disabilities. The Commission focuses its work on reducing barriers to employment and improving emergency preparedness planning for people with disabilities. They do this by developing awareness, understanding and collaboration with government, community, social service and private sector organizations. KCDC is a catalyst, one who provokes or speeds a significant change or action, for change in government for all people with disabilities.

Your agency or organization and state:

Kansas Department of Commerce

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

Jeff A. Schroeder, Disability Program Navigator Coordinator, Kansas Department of Commerce
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 100, Topeka, KS, 66612-1354; 785-296-0658

Kansas – Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

5

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Not sure

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

No; Governor's Set Aside possibly

If no, is your state considering using any of the funding sources listed above to continue DPN activities?

Yes

Your agency or organization and state:

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

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

Martha Gabehart, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612; 785-296-6525

Louisiana

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

3

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
Workforce Investment Act funding

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

No

Your agency or organization and state:

Louisiana Workforce Commission, Disability Program Navigator Initiative

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

Kisha C. Thomas, DPN State Lead/Project Coordinator, kthomas1@lwc.la.gov

Massachusetts

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

8 full time position equivalents (FTEs) in 16 regions; .5 FTE per region

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Not sure

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Workforce Investment Act Title I funding
Other (please specify): Wagner Peyser

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Yes, One Stops are involved with the new Regional Employment Collaboratives. One Stops also have strong relationships with their local MRC [Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission] partners as well as other entities to serve customers with disabilities. We anticipate that some of the current strategies and relationships which were developed through the DPN Grant will continue but others will not without the funds to support them.

Your agency or organization and state:

Department of Workforce Development, Division of Career Services, Massachusetts

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

Louise Meyer, Director Central Programs, DCS, lmeyer@detma.org

Minnesota

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

Five (5).

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Committee work within the Governors Workforce Development Council (State WIB) to provide policy recommendations to the Governor on improving WFC accessibility. Work is being done through technical assistance being provided through the Heldrich Center, NTAR program, to improve WFC accessibility through the application of Universal Design principles.

Your agency or organization and state:

Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) / Pathways to Employment (MIG) - Minnesota

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

Rod Haworth - DEED Project Manager for Pathways to Employment Office - (651) 259 - 7359
rod.haworth@state.mn.us

New Jersey

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes



If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

There are 8 identified throughout the One-Stop System

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Vocational Rehabilitation funding

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

As a core participant of the One-Stop System, NJDVRS is an active participant in all of the WIB activities, especially in the local disability issues committees.

Your agency or organization and state:

New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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

Brian Fitzgibbons, MPA, CRC Director, brian.fitzgibbons@dol.state.nj.us

Ohio

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

Eight (8)



If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Not sure

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

Wagner-Peyser 10%

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

One-Stop Enhancement Program - funds are available to local workforce areas to enhance physical and technological access to services for individuals and employers, and to provide continuous improvement in service delivery.

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

Oregon

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

16

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes



Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

State general funds

Other (please specify): MIG has obligated 100,000 to DPN for 2011 dependent on award amount. VR is working on providing funding for the 6 month gap July 1-Dec 31 the DPN program will experience prior to and in anticipation of new possible grant opportunities.

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Partner with One-Stops on provision of benefits and work incentives services; our benefits planners routinely refer clients to One-Stops; partner with DPN and One-Stops at regional and statewide presentations for both clients and professional staff; DPN serves on MIG leadership group and coordinates with a variety of partners from community and governmental organizations who also participate in this group.

Your agency or organization and state:

Oregon Department of Human Services/Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services/Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

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

Sara Kendall, sara.kendall@state.or.us, 503-945-5857

Texas

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

28

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

Workforce Investment Act Title I funding
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
State general funds

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Efforts are not limited to having a Navigator in the WF system. Workforce Boards are engaged with community partners in a host of collaborative activities and seek their input. Board staff research and implement strategies to make services more customer friendly and accessible; Boards contract & oversee center operators for quality services and monitor and train for accessibility and compliance. Having Navigators expands collaborations in service delivery operations. Navigators are resources to all staff in the centers, and to community partners not located in the center. They develop tools/aids/resources; train staff, and serve as connectors/coordinators to bring staff of various programs/resources together to serve job seekers with multiple challenges; increase community partner knowledge of WF services and processes, make recommendations to center mgt. and WF Boards to improve processes or collaboration; outreach to business or work with/through business services staff - to educate regarding ADA, available services and resources, hiring and retaining employees with disabilities.

Your agency or organization and state:

Texas Workforce Commission

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

Janice Ferguson, janice.ferguson@twc.state.tx.us, 512-305-9637
Texas Workforce Commission, 101 East 15th St., Rm 252T, Austin TX 78778-0001

Virginia – Commonwealth of Virginia

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

Currently we have 7 Navigators plus a Lead Navigator who serves as a resource person.

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Vocational Rehabilitation funding

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Working with the Virginia Community College System and the LT. Governor's Office to increase awareness of services available to persons with mild to moderate disabilities to understand the availability of employment services through our state's One-Stop Workforce Career Centers.

Your agency or organization and state:

Special Advisor on Disability Issues in the Workforce and Lead Navigator for Virginia's DPN Project in the state of Virginia

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

Ed Turner, 1111 East Broad Street, 4th floor, Richmond, VA 23219
ed.turner@governor.virginia.gov; 804-371-2666

Virginia – Department of Rehabilitative Services

Is your state participating in the DPN initiative through a DPN grant?

Yes

If yes, how many Disability Program Navigators are there within your state?

9, 7 full time, 2 part time, 1 Lead

If yes, does your state anticipate continuing the DPN initiative beyond the availability of current DPN grant funding?

Yes

Is your state currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities?

Yes

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Workforce Investment Act Title I funding
Vocational Rehabilitation funding
Other (please specify): ARRA funds are Wagner Peyser

Outside of the DPN initiative, is your agency or organization engaged in other activities to improve access to one-stop career center facilities, programs, and/or services?

Yes

If yes, please provide a brief description of these activities.

Have co-located VR offices in comprehensive one stops. Business development managers and job placement staff lead collaborative business outreach efforts in one stop.

Your agency or organization and state:

Department of Rehabilitative Services (Virginia)

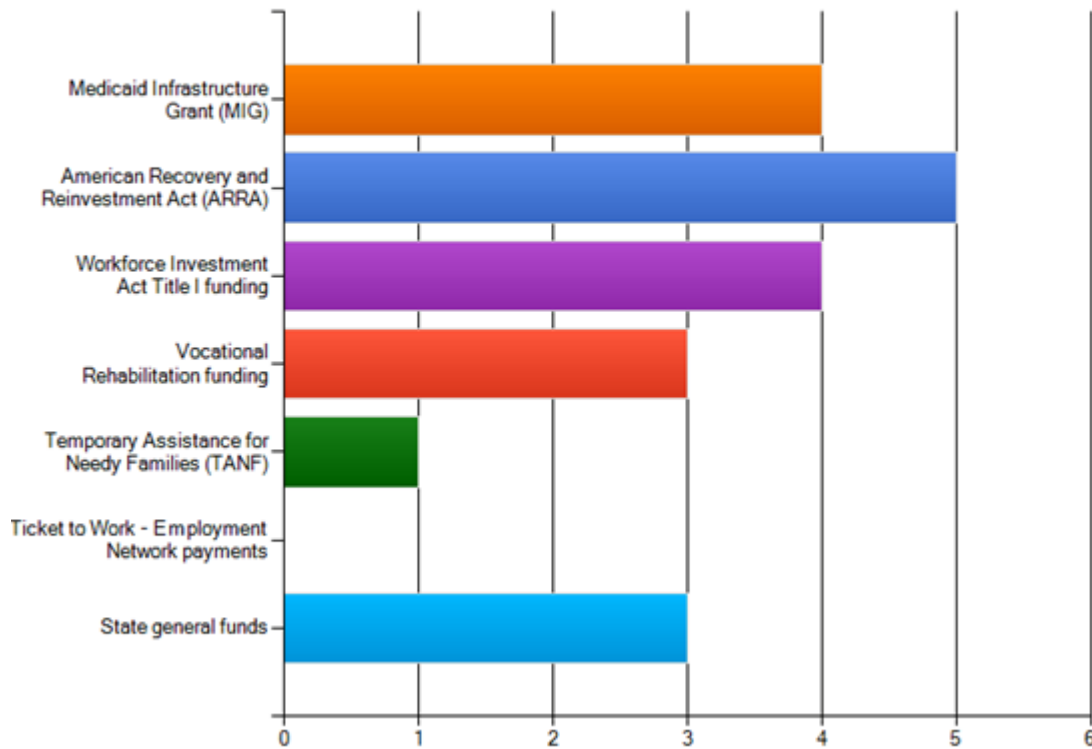
Please provide contact information for further information on the responses above.

Dr. Joe Ashley, Assistant Commissioner, Joe.Ashley@drs.virginia.gov; (804) 662-7624

Summary Chart and Description for Question 5:

If your state is currently using any funding sources in addition to or other than DPN grant funding to support DPN activities, please indicate which funding sources are being used.*

If yes, please indicate which funding sources are being used (please indicate all that apply):



*Several states also indicated using Wagner-Peyser funding.

Narrative description:

There were four responses indicating the use for Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funds.
 There were five responses indicating the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.
 There were four responses indicating the use of Workforce Investment Act Title I funding.
 There were three responses indicating the use of Vocational Rehabilitation funding.
 There was one response indicating the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding.
 There were no responses indicating the use of Ticket to Work/Employment Network payments.
 There were three responses indicating the use of state general funds.
 Additionally, several states indicated using Wagner-Peyser funding.