

Montana/Wyoming Careers through Partnerships

July 1, 1998, through December 31, 2001

The Montana/Wyoming Careers through Partnerships Project is funded with Job Training Partnership Act and Workforce Investment Act funds by the US Department of Labor and administered by the Montana Job Training Partnership, Inc. The project's philosophy embraces customer choice and self-determination, and promotes community-based partnerships and supported employment methods.

Services and Activities Available to Participants

Person-Centered Career Planning
Situational Assessment
Job Search Assistance/Job Carving
Basic Education or Occupational Skills Training
Entrepreneurial/Microbusiness Development
Job Readiness/Career Preparation
Life Skills Training
On-the-Job Training
Job Coaching
Supportive Services

Project Objectives

- ① Capacity Building: Eight Supported Employment Simulation Workshops annually; and Seven Regional Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) and Social Security Work Incentive Workshops each year.
- ② Technical Assistance: On-site technical assistance to service providers serving individuals with severe disabilities including marketing, job development, job carving, microenterprise development, job retention and assistance in development of PASS plans.
- ③ Direct Client Services: Employment and training services for a minimum of 165 individuals with disabilities through September 30, 2001.

Workshops and technical assistance are provided by the Montana Rural Institute on Disabilities and Wyoming Institute for Disabilities. Workforce Investment Act and Welfare to Work providers, Vocational Rehabilitation personnel, community-based rehabilitation counselors and consumers are invited to attend the training.

Lessons Learned

- Most individuals know what they want to do, and customer choice and self-determination are the keys to success.
- Collaborative community-based supported employment practices provide formal and informal supports for working participants.
- Post-employment services are vital to job retention or career advancement.
- Self-Employment is a viable option of employment, particularly in rural areas. Not only does self-employment allow individuals to work out of their home, but often it provides accommodations such as flexible work schedules and accessible work areas. Self-employment also empowers individuals to establish partnerships which benefit their interests.
- Costs to individual programs are decreased when funds are leveraged from several sources resulting in services to more participants. No-cost services are available in every community.
- Very few participants have used funds for training, but many have accessed funds for post-employment services such as job coaching and financial support services.

Client Characteristics