

## **ABSTRACT: Address Policy and Practice Barriers to Employment**

### **ISSUE**

**Fragmentation, overlap and difficulties in accessing employment services and supports prevent many New Yorkers with disabilities from obtaining the job training and employment services they want and need.**

### **GOAL #1**

*Identify and address policy, regulation and practice barriers to improve coordination of employment services delivery across multiple public and private agencies and constituencies.*

### **RATIONALE**

In New York State there are seven primary state agencies providing employment services for job seekers with disabilities and tracking program participation, earnings and health-related data. There is currently no mechanism for these systems to track data collectively and all work toward a common goal of removing barriers to work for New Yorkers with disabilities and increasing labor market participation. This goal includes development of an integrated data management system to measure the progress of a comprehensive employment system. It will measure key outcomes and indicators across individual state systems and provide the information decision makers need to improve policies, legislation and practices that lead to a "No Wrong Door to Employment" for all New Yorkers with disabilities that want to work. A five year Strategic Plan will guide implementation of the state's infrastructure grant and senior agency leadership/MISCC will be involved in MIG planning.

### **STATUS**

The DOL OSOS data system will (i) create a "statistical data warehouse", (ii) generate informative new statistics from the joint data, (iii) link data to program policy, funding and regulation improvements, (iv) improve coordination and communication across agencies and (v) link job-seekers to available jobs posted to the DOL database. Issues regarding underserved and transportation barriers based on 2009 reports are being addressed. The 2009 Annual Employment and Disability status reports will be produced. Commissioners and MISCC are regularly involved in MIG planning. Policy barriers are identified in the Strategic Plan and updated based on new information.

## **2010 KEY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES**

- No wrong door service portal added to [www.NYMakesWorkPay.org](http://www.NYMakesWorkPay.org)
- Customize the OSOS system to provide the platform for a cross-agency integrated data warehouse
- Provide training to OSOS system users
- Provide a working report template using such a system and pilot test/evaluate
- Update the Strategic Plan as needed, complete required reports
- Implement plans to serve underserved
- Implement recommendations to reduce transportation barriers
- Continue to refine communications strategies
- Conduct semi-annual briefings with Commissioners
- Conduct policy analysis/actions
- Generate and disseminate annual disability and employment status reports

## **PARTNERS**

- MISCC EC** – Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council Employment Committee
- VESID** – Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
- OMRDD** – Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- OMH** – Office of Mental Health
- OASAS** – Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- VA** – Division of Veterans Affairs
- CBVH** – Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- DOL** – Department of Labor
- DOH** – Department of Health
- OTDA** – Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
- CQC** – Commission on Quality of Care

For more information call the toll free Technical Assistance number:  
1-888-224-3272 or visit <http://www.NYMakesWorkPay.org>.