



Employment First Florida: Local Interagency Collaborative Teams

Notice of Opportunity to Apply to Participate as a Local Interagency Collaborative Team: 12 month project

This announcement and application is being sent to encourage you to participate in the Employment First Florida Local Interagency Collaborative Teams project. This project is operated by the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston (ICI) and funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC).

Background on Local Interagency Collaborative Teams

On October 8, 2013 Governor Rick Scott signed the Employment First Executive Order for Florida and on January 21, 2016 Governor Scott codified his Executive Order when he signed the Individuals with Disabilities Act. The Executive Order and Act require specified state agencies and organizations to develop and implement a state level interagency coalition and an Employment First interagency cooperative agreement to ensure the long-term commitment to employment across key state agencies and organizations that support individuals with disabilities.

Since 2013, a monthly statewide interagency team comprised of representatives from the: FDDC; Governor's Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities; Florida Department of Education, Division of Blind Services; Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services; CareerSource Florida and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; Agency for Persons with Disabilities; Florida Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health; Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities has met. This group has developed a statewide interagency agreement and strategic implementation action plan and has been working collaboratively to implement these efforts.

In 2015 to support the ongoing work at the state level and to ensure that interagency collaboration is brought to scale across Florida, local level interagency collaborative teams were initiated. To date we have supported sites in Miami-Dade, Nassau County, the Central Florida region, and the Treasure Coast region). For 2018, this opportunity will be expanded to an additional two sites.

Application for Participation

The application makes local entities eligible for selection as an Employment First Florida Local Interagency Collaborative Team Site. Sites will receive technical assistance and mentoring to support local level interagency partners. We encourage applications from collaborative groups in

The Employment First project is a joint project of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. Sponsored by United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

a common geographic area. The applicants should describe and define the geographic area (i.e. region, county, metropolitan areas, or other local geographic descriptor) that their Collaborative Team will serve.

Project sites will be asked to:

- Organize a Local Level Employment First Interagency Collaborative Team (can be combined with an existing local team),
- Commit to prioritizing between one and five local level issues that impact employment for individuals with disabilities,
- Commit to developing a local level strategic implementation action plan to address their local level issues. Examples include: developing a local level Employment First Florida marketing strategy; developing a plan to increase access to transportation for employment; ensuring that local level partners are aware of the state Department of Management Services plans for increasing state employment opportunities individuals with disabilities; and setting local level goals related to increasing the number of individuals in individual employment,
- Participate and help to organize a site visit to provide technical assistance,
- Participate and help to facilitate meetings of local level partner agencies, and
- Participate in monthly technical assistance calls with the ICI.

Eligible applicants must include local representation from all required partners. Required partners are:

- District or Satellite office representatives from the Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education;
- Representatives from school districts' offices of Exceptional Education and Student Services;
- Regional or County representatives of CareerSource Florida;
- Regional representatives from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
- Regional representatives from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Florida Department of Children and Families; and
- Area or Unit representatives of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Florida Department of Education.

Additional local partners are encouraged but not required. Selected project sites will receive technical assistance from the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston (ICI). Attached is an application with a series of questions that should be answered briefly.

Questions about completing/submitting applications should be directed to:

Jean Winsor PhD., Institute for Community Inclusion: jean.winsor@umb.edu
Safee Broxton, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council: SafeeB@fddc.org

Application Deadline: Friday April 20, 2018

Submit Completed applications to: Jean Winsor: Jean.winsor@umb.edu

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Employment First Florida: Interagency Collaborative Team Site Application

A. Please provide brief (4-5 pages total) narrative answers to the following questions.

1. Description of current collaborative actions between partners. Actions do not need to include all partners. Examples may include Memorandums of Understanding between local partners, local plans for interagency collaboration, joint trainings, participation in existing interagency teams, joint resource fairs or conferences, and other activities.
2. Description of the current local actions or initiatives to support youth with disabilities to exit school and enter post-secondary education or employment. Examples may include transition councils and conferences; and technical assistance to schools, case managers, employment providers, post-secondary education institutions, families and youth.
3. Description of current local efforts to engage individuals with disabilities to pursue community employment. Examples may include peer mentor groups, job clubs, and Social Security Benefits Analysis.

B. Please provide the following information for the proposed partner agencies.

Partners for Collaborative Team must include:

- District or Satellite office representatives from the Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education;
- Representatives from school districts' offices of Exceptional Education and Student Services;
- Regional or County representatives of CareerSource Florida;
- Regional representatives from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
- Regional representatives from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Florida Department of Children and Families; and
- Area or Unit representatives of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Florida Department of Education.

Additional local partners are encouraged but not required.

PARTNER AGENCY/ORGANIZATION 1	
ADDRESS	
WEBSITE	
NAME OF PROJECT LIAISON	
POSITION/TITLE	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	

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PARTNER AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION 3	
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PARTNER AGENCY/ORGANIZATION 4	
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PARTNER AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION 5	
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PARTNER AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION 9	
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PARTNER AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION 11	
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ADDITIONAL PARTNERS SHOULD BE ADDED AS NEEDED.

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