

# GRANITE STATE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (GSEP)

Medicaid  
Infrastructure Grant  
(MIG)

NH's Journey



# DHHS Commitment to Employment

Believes that all people who want to work should have access to employment.

NH has taken full advantage of federal funding to remove systemic barriers to employment for people with disabilities by applying for Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funds as early as 2001

# MIG

## Key Accomplishments 2001-2007

- Establishment of the Medicaid Buy-in Program, MEAD (Medicaid for Employed Adults with Disabilities)

RSA: 167:3:i

“The purpose of the program shall be to ensure the availability of long-term supports to workers with disabilities who are medically eligible for Medicaid, enabling them to maximize their employment potential and financial independence and prevent impoverishment and dependence upon cash assistance programs.”

# MIG

## Key Accomplishments 2001-2007

### MEAD...Bridge to Opportunity:

- Created the opportunity for people to maintain their health care services through Medicaid while working and earning meaningful wages.
- MEAD allows people to earn up to 450% of the federal poverty level without losing Medicaid coverage.
- Allows assets to be accumulated
  - For 2009/2010:
    - up to \$24,991 for an Individual
    - up to \$37,487 for a married couple
- As of December 2009, 1772 people are on MEAD

# MIG

## Key Accomplishments 2001-2007

- Introduced Benefit Specialists Counseling as an important part of the decision-making process for employment.
- NH's Medicaid State Plan was amended to make personal care services available to people who qualify for MEAD to ensure that people who need personal care services can work.

# MIG

## Key Accomplishments

- The groundwork was laid
- NH now eligible to apply for a comprehensive Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

# Granite State Employment Project (GSEP)

In 2007

The Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) approved NH's five year strategic plan

The intent of the grant is to eliminate systemic barriers to employment for people with disabilities across systems and across disabilities

# GSEP

## 5 Strategic Priority Areas

- 1) Collaboration with the Business Community
- 2) Vocational Education & Transition Planning within the Secondary Education System
- 3) Training for Employment Services Staff
- 4) Coherence between policies, rules, reimbursement & practices
- 5) Collection of meaningful, reliable and standardized data for decision-making and management

# NH's Approach

Bottom-up vs. Top down

Long standing belief that individuals with disabilities, their families and local providers of services are key to understanding the needs and barriers to employment

# RFP – Select Two Lead Agencies

Nashua ~ Gateways Community Services

Emily Manire, Director, Linkabilities

[emanire@linkabilities.org](mailto:emanire@linkabilities.org)

Keene ~ Monadnock Developmental Services

Sheila Mahon, Director, Monadnock Center for Successful Transition

[Sheila@mds-nh.org](mailto:Sheila@mds-nh.org)

# LEAD Agencies Role

Literally, take the lead in their geographic regions to help identify the barriers to employment across disabilities and systems following the structure of the CMS approved strategic plan.

# Lead Agency ~ Role

Convene regional partners and stakeholders to develop various work groups to provide feedback on each area of the strategic plan.

The regional lessons learned would provide information from the ground up as a means of investing in projects that are effective, responsive and meaningful to people with disabilities who want to work.

Policy Issues would be identified that help to address the systemic barriers

# Key Strategies & Best Practices

- Strong Need to Build the Work Incentives Infrastructure
  - ~ RFP Released to create a Virtual Work Incentives Resource Center
  - ~ Professional Competencies are being developed for staff
  - ~ Two Pilots are being funded to offer intensive coaching & mentoring for staff
- Sector Based Workforce Development Models are being expanded & replicated in the Healthcare, Culinary & Hospitality Industries

# Key Strategies & Best Practices

- Statewide Marketing Campaign  
~ I AM SUCCESS / WE ARE SUCCESS
- Employment Professional Competencies
- Community of Practice on Transition
- Evidenced based Practice Supported Employment
- Financial Literacy & Asset Development
- Statewide Employment Data System

# GSEP Strategic Plan

To view the CMS approved strategic plan, 2009 work plan & accomplishments, and the 2010 work plan, please visit:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/BDS/mig-ceo.htm>