

PARTNERSHIPS IN EMPLOYMENT



Partnerships In Employment *Semiannual Bulletin*

Partnership Goals

1. To improve and enhance school-to-career transitions for young people with disabilities to better prepare them for employment;
2. To increase the collaboration of all stakeholders to expand and improve employment;
3. To increase awareness and knowledge about the benefits of employing young people with disabilities;
4. To enhance program evaluation and data collection for local state agencies, employment service providers and schools.

Progress to Date

During the last six months the Partnership made great strides expanding community collaboration with the common goal of enhancing employment strategies and opportunities for young people with disabilities living in Berkshire County.

Convened five work groups to actualize the strategic plan: Employer Engagement, Marketing, Collaboration and Policy Development, School-to-Career Transition and Program Evaluation.

- › School-to-Career Transitions - Developing a Best Practices Model
- › Employer Engagement - Conducted and analyzed employer survey on hiring people with abilities.
- › Marketing - Developed a comprehensive marketing campaign to commence in early summer 2010.
- › Collaboration and Policy Development - Created Disability Resource Guide for Berkshire County; developing statewide policy recommendations.
- › Program Evaluation - Developed employment outcomes tracking system.

Partnership Members

Adlib, Center for Independent Living
 Advantage Employee Network
 Berkshire Chamber of Commerce
 Berkshire Community College
 Berkshire County Arc (Lead Agency)
 Berkshire County Regional Employment Board
 Berkshire Family and Individual Resources
 Berkshire Vocational Services
 Berkshire Works Career Center
 Big Y Supermarket
 Blue Q
 Central Berkshire Regional Schools

Department of Developmental Services
 Department of Mental Health
 Department of Transitional Services
 Greylock Federal Credit Union
 Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort
 Lenox Public Schools
 MA Commission for the Blind
 MA Rehabilitation Commission
 Old Country Buffet
 Pittsfield Public Schools
 The Brien Center
 United Cerebral Palsy of Berkshire County

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Progress to Date *(continued)*

We are planning to conduct the following regional events:

- › September 29, 2010 *Employer Recognition Breakfast*, Berkshire Hills Country Club. Employers honored and recognized for their involvement and support of hiring people with abilities;
- › October 2010 An exchange of *Best Practices in School-to-Career Transition* for Berkshire County educators and employment services providers at Berkshire Community College.
- › November 2010 An *Educational Forum for Parents and Students* with disabilities to learn about what to expect and how to plan for school-to-career and adult life transitions. A combined effort with the Berkshire Collaborative and Institutes for Community Inclusion.

We want to thank all of our community members for their unwavering support, commitment, and valued contributions making this collaboration work.



BERKSHIRES
ABILITIES

Helping Berkshire Businesses hire young people with abilities.

www.partnershipsinemployment.org

Work Without Limits proudly supports Partnerships in Employment.



For more information email info@PartnershipsInEmployment.org

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WorkWithoutLimits
Putting abilities to work in Massachusetts.