

New York Makes Work Pay “Learning Communities”

What is a “Learning Community”?

- A convening of stakeholders for learning, innovation and improved practice over time.
- A process to build awareness, enhance communication and identify existing practices including skills around how people approach learning together.
- A shared philosophy and process for learning and exchange of information and best practices.
- An ongoing dialogue to develop infrastructure and processes across systems; to work together, exchange best practices, and anticipate next steps

What is a NYMWP Learning Community?

- A convening of disability service providers, state agencies, employers and persons with disabilities in sites across NY state to learn about and apply best practices relating to improved employment and self-sufficiency outcomes for individuals with disabilities.
- A 2-year process launched by the NYMWP team, with an initial session of training and discussion related to practices and innovations of mutual interest to stakeholders, followed by ongoing learning and opportunities to pilot evidence-based practices.
- The launch session will build on existing local and regional initiatives, bringing together cross disability providers/groups to collaborate and share best practices and resources and provide feedback for changes in public policy and practice.

Why should I participate?

- Each Learning Community will be launched with a facilitated session on key issues and innovative strategies of high relevance to your community, your organization, and your professional/personal needs.
- You will be engaged in ongoing exchange of ideas, stimulating dialogue about joint strategies and real-time application of cutting-edge knowledge and practice that will enhance your community and organization, improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities and inform statewide policy and action.
- You will join with stakeholders who share your interests and priorities to maximize resources, speak with a common voice and bring about needed systems change at the local, regional and/or state levels.