

A Brief Summary of New York State's New Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

New York Makes Work Pay is a statewide initiative intended to dramatically improve the rate of employment among people with disabilities. It is funded by the Center for Medicaid Services for calendar years 2009 and 2010.

The initiative's nine goals target sustainable, comprehensive policy and practice solutions to address the state's estimated 70% unemployment rate among working-age people with disabilities. It will positively impact individuals, employers, service providers, communities, funders and policy-makers by building skills, awareness, partnerships and resources to achieve improved and lasting workforce participation and self-sufficiency outcomes.

These are just a few examples of the work that will be done to help people with disabilities obtain jobs and careers at living wages!

- Skill and asset development resources coupled with program and business best practices, to improve consumer access to the job market via both traditional and innovative pathways.
- Assistance to employers to improve hiring and retention of workers with disabilities.
- Improved strategic planning, coordination and collaboration across state agencies and among workforce service providers, community partners and employers to remove barriers (policy, practice, infrastructure) to employment and job advancement.
- Statewide forums, regional networks and local trainings to help people with disabilities accumulate financial assets, access work incentives and advance their self-sufficiency.
- Improved employment and entrepreneurship policies and practices to engage people with disabilities in high growth, high demand occupations.
- Dissemination of state-of-the-art materials and resources through a website, workshops and issues briefs.

New York Makes Work Pay is a Comprehensive Employment System Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (#1QACMS030318) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the Office of Mental Health on behalf of New York State. It is a joint effort of the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University and the Employment and Disability Institute at Cornell University with the collaborative support of the Employment Committee of the New York State Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council to develop pathways and remove obstacles to employment for New Yorkers with disabilities.



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