

2014 Goals and Objectives from the GCDSE 5 Year Plan

EMPLOYMENT

Goal 5.1 Advocate for a minimum of 5 new or amended state or public programs, policies or practices per year that improve employment opportunities

5.1.1 Advocate for the State of Alaska to become a model employer and increase the use of the provisional hire program

- a) Survey state employees on disability information and accommodations by 2011-2012
- b) Publish results of the survey by 2012-2013
- c) Convene a Provisional Hire workgroup with representatives from the Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and Personnel to meet monthly to improve policies and procedures by 2011-2012
- d) Advocate for an Executive Order from the Governor declaring the State of Alaska a “Model Employer of People with Disabilities” to include formation of a State as a Model Employer to include a permanent task force with members from the Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education, the Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and Personnel and the State ADA Coordinator by 2012-2013
- e) Ensure the State as a Model Employer Task Force meets regularly to improve policies and procedures and report to the Governor and Legislature annually by 2013-2016

5.1.2 Increase opportunities for people to become self-employed

- a) Secure increase for the micro-enterprise grant fund from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for the microenterprise grant program by 2012
- b) Advocate for a legislative increment for the microenterprise grant program by 2013-2014
- c) Continue to implement recommendations developed during the Self-Employment Policy Summit by 2013-2015

5.1.3 Increase the employment of youth transitioning from high school to adult life through Project SEARCH

- a) Advocate for additional funding to increase the coaching capacity for project by 2011-2012
- b) Pass the Project SEARCH fidelity audit to allow for additional sites by 2011-2012
- c) Expand the number of Project SEARCH sites by 2012-2016
- d) Provide technical assistance to Project SEARCH sites in developing business advisory boards by 2011-2016
- e) Provide training to businesses regarding the benefits of hiring Project SEARCH graduates and facilitate interviews by 2011-2016

5.1.4 Change the DD home and community-based waiver and Medicaid State Plan services to increase employment supports

- a) Provide input on draft home and community-based regulation about adding work incentives counseling as an allowable service by 2011-2012
- b) Work with Senior & Disabilities Services to add additional allowable services outlined in the CMS supported employment letter to states (e.g., peer support) by 2013-2016

5.1.5 Advocate for “Employment First Legislation”

- a) Convene working group of Alaska Employment Initiative to research and develop strategy by 2012-2013
- b) Establish Ad Hoc Employment and Transportation Committee of the Council to oversee strategies of the Council around “Employment First” by 2013
- c) Develop legislative champions to sponsor Employment First Legislation by 2013-2014
- d) Develop measurable objectives and outcome for Employment First once legislation and/or policies have been adopted by 2013-2015

5.1.6 Provide support to the Peer Power employment initiative

- a) Assist Peer Power members to co-sponsor at least 1 job fair in 3 communities by 2013-2014
- b) Assist peer members to start at least 1 job club for working people with disabilities to mentor and educate non-working adults and youth in getting and keeping a job by 2014-2016
- c) Support at least 2 Peer Power members to be certified as Peer Support mentors by 2015-2016

5.1.7 Work with the Center for Human Development and other stakeholder to operate the microenterprise grant program

- a) Advertise the program statewide by 2011-2016 (annually)
- b) Convene the evaluation committee to review applications by 2011-2016 (annually)
- c) Award grants to entrepreneurs by 2011-2016 (annually)
- d) Provide ongoing business coaching services to help entrepreneurs maintain and grow their business by 2011-2016 (annually)
- e) Evaluate program and make changes as needed by 2011-2016 (annually)