



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

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Grants Awarded to Help People with Disabilities Find Employment

Regional Grants Awarded to Increase Employment Opportunities

The Department of Health Services (DHS) announces eight Wisconsin agencies are receiving one-time *Pathways to Independence* grants in an effort to help increase the number of integrated employment opportunities available to people with disabilities. More than \$438,000 is being awarded to disability programs around Wisconsin, including a number of organizations that assist young people with disabilities in transitioning successfully from high school to the workforce.

“It’s important that we provide job opportunities for our citizens and these grants will help people with disabilities join the workforce in their communities,” said DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake. “They have skills, talents and experience to offer employers, but often face barriers to employment that prevent them from reaching their full potential. These grants will go towards efforts to better integrate this group of willing workers with disabilities into our workforce.”

The *Pathways to Independence Project* develops innovative ways of helping individuals with disabilities secure and maintain competitive employment. Funding for the *Pathways* grants was provided by the federal Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. The following agencies were awarded *Pathways* grants for 2009:

Organization	Grant Amount	Purpose	Counties Served
ARC of the Northwoods	\$27,894	Create community “Time bank” focusing on students in transition and their families, increase the use of assistance from family and community members	Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for Eau Claire County & the ADRC for Chippewa County	\$65,000	Implement grassroots, consumer-driven strategies that will support transition-age youth who have disabilities in achieving their desired employment outcome	Chippewa, Eau Claire
Cooperative Educational Services Agency (CESA 10)	\$64,996	Develop systematic methods for integrating transition planning and assistive technology into curriculum, instruction and individualized education plans for high school students with disabilities that prepare students for post-secondary employment	Chippewa
Dane County Department of Human Services	\$39,250	Demonstrate cost-effective models of employer support and non-work activities for people with disabilities employed part-time	Dane

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Cooperative Educational Services Agency (CESA 2)	\$64,903	Pilot new curriculum designed to inspire youth to increase their academic scores while learning a new approach to developing leadership, empowerment, citizenship and employment skill	Green, Rock
Community Industries Corporation	\$58,798	Expand integrated supported employment services to facilitate the participation in integrated employment of Hmong and Southeast Asian individuals with disabilities	Marathon
Grand Avenue Club	\$63,987	Expand capacity to place and help members with mental health disabilities increase their earned income	Milwaukee
Ellsworth Community School District	\$54,602	Create employment opportunities through school-based and community-based businesses that provide various opportunities for students with disabilities to acquire meaningful work experience and acquire skills for employment	Pierce

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