

Ticket to Work

IHD Priority Area: Adult Community Living

Project Contact Person: Staci Stickney
Funding Source: Missouri Department of Social Services

Annual Funding Level: \$250,000
Project Period: 05/01 - 12/03

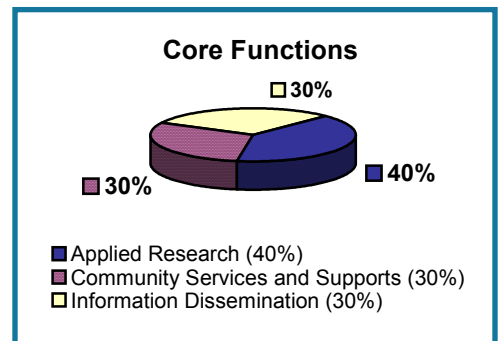
Description: This Medicaid Infrastructure Systems Change Grant focuses on the state funded assistance program that allows individuals with disabilities to earn a higher income and keep their Medicaid, much like people would do for other types of health care coverage. The Institute is assessing the needs of people with disabilities and employers from around the state as they pertain to hiring and maintaining employment. Institute staff will also provide support and education to a cadre of 'facilitators' around the state who disseminate information about the program.

Core Functions

Applied Research: The Institute conducted a needs assessment of people with disabilities through surveys of consumers, advocates, family members, providers, and employers. Data was also collected from focus groups of employers across the state.

Community Services and Supports: Train and supervise a statewide cadre of facilitators who work in their communities.

Information Dissemination: Facilitators disseminate information about the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) program.



Program Need and Historical Context

The federal mandate of the Ticket to Work program encourages people with disabilities to return to work or begin a career. MAWD is a program that aids people in their effort to return to work without the fear of losing their Medicaid supports, as was the standard practice in the past.

Consumer and Community Involvement

- Consumers serve as consultants and work within their communities as local facilitators to disseminate information about the MAWD program.

Significant Project Activities and Outcomes

- Written surveys were sent to consumers, advocates, family members, service providers, and employers to determine the issues and needs of people with disabilities entering the workforce.
- Over 4,000 surveys were returned and the data is being analyzed.
- Focus groups of employers were held in eight communities across the state.
- Community facilitators meet monthly to receive training and continuing support.

Institute's Role

- Develop survey tools
- Facilitate focus groups
- Collect and analyze data
- Liaison between community facilitators and the Missouri Division of Medical Services
- Maintain consulting agreements with and provide supervision of facilitators
- Production of MAWD informational brochure
- Write progress and final reports

Products

- Employer Focus Group report
- MAWD informational brochure

Impact

Systems Change: The results of the survey may facilitate change throughout the system.

Personnel: Facilitators and Division of Medical Services will gain knowledge about the MAWD program.

Leveraging: The Division of Medical Services contracts with the Institute to provide many of the functions required of the state's MAWD program.