



# Working for Marylanders with Disabilities

# Fact Sheet

## What is the Disability Employment Initiative?

The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) was established to expand the capacity of assisting individuals with significant disabilities by improving education, training, and employment outcomes for individuals with significant disabilities. DEI will be implemented in both Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties to leverage partnerships promoting the participation of individuals with disabilities in the currently-offered American Job Center programs. American Job Center staff will provide flexible approaches to designing and providing training, supportive services, and innovative workplace strategies to job seekers with significant disabilities. The goals are (1) to expand the workforce system's capacity to become an Employment Network for beneficiaries under the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program, and (2) to create systemic change.

## Who Qualifies?

DEI supports jobseekers with significant disabilities who reside in Anne Arundel County or Montgomery County and who receive/have:

- Supplemental Security Income,
- Social Security Disability Insurance, and/or
- A physical, sensory, mental, cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disability requiring at least one of the following to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment at or above minimum wage:
  - Significant accommodations,
  - Significant supports, and/or
  - Customization of job responsibilities.

## How do Jobseekers Benefit?

Both the Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties' American Job Centers (AJCs) will have Disabilities Resource Coordinators (DRCs) to assist qualified jobseekers as they integrate into the full range of services and incentives offered through the AJCs. Such services include but are not limited to:

- Enhanced case management,
- Job Search workshops,
- Linkage to Ticket to Work Assistance/Benefits Counseling, and/or
- Job Placement Assistance.

DRCs will provide individualized services to qualified DEI participants in need of more significant support for job placement. They will help to determine necessary services needed for jobseekers to achieve their employment goals. In other words, the DRC's role is to:

- Act as an advocate for the individual job seeker,
- Increase access to all of the services offered at the AJC,
- Assist with coordinating services with AJC staff,
- Coordinate an Integrated Resource Team, if needed,
- Provide referral assistance as needed, and
- Collaborate with local partners to coordinate services for job seekers.