

ROADS TO COMMUNITY LIVING

(DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration)



EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

What is the Roads to Community Living EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE?

Roads to Community Living (RCL) is a federal grant for individuals who are considering moving back into the community from institutions. The RCL EMPLOYMENT PROJECT focuses on providing additional supports and services for people who will be moving or who have recently left a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) and are interested in obtaining paid jobs in the community. Individuals moving into any Washington county will be supported by this project.

Why Employment?

People with even the most significant barriers to employment can and do work in part and full time paid jobs in the community. Washington State consistently ranks as one of the best states nationwide in achieving quality jobs for people with developmental disabilities which match their interests, strengths, preferences, and skills. And the benefits of a job not only include a paycheck, but friends and new relationships, an ability to develop personal skills and abilities, and a valued role as a contributing member in the community. To read the stories of people throughout Washington who are successful employees, please visit www.peopleworking.wikispaces.com.

How Does the RCL Employment Initiative Work?

In planning meetings about leaving the RHC and making goals for living in the community, Habilitation Plan Administrators and/or Developmental Disabilities Administration Case Resource Managers will ask individuals and their families if they are interested in exploring the world of work. If so, RCL Employment Project staff will join the conversation to gather information, begin forming an Employment Planning team, and schedule a person centered employment planning meeting to fit in with the person's overall goals. Teams will include people from county employment programs, residential agencies, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and schools (if appropriate), friends, family members, community members, and others. The goal of the team will be to strengthen and build relationships, explore the community, and get the person a paid job after the person moves to the community.

Who Can Participate?

Individuals who are eligible to enroll in the RCL Employment Project currently live in an RHC and are planning to leave, or have recently left an RHC and are now living in the community. They must also be currently enrolled in the RCL grant and express an interest in getting a job.

How to Find Out More

Please contact the RCL Employment Project staff: Carolyn Carlson, RCL Quality Improvement Specialist, 360/725-3436, Carolyn.carlson@dshs.wa.gov, or Jim Corey, RCL Employment Project Coordinator, Washington Initiative for Supported Employment, 206/343-0881 x109, jim@theinitiative.ws