



## **Family Centered Employment Community of Practice Request for Applications**

**DEADLINE: 11:59 p.m. EST Thursday, December 20, 2018**

### **Background**

Through a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and Innovate+Educate launched a joint initiative, **Family Centered Employment**, to support workforce development boards and workforce practitioners to advance new pathways to employment for parents and families with children utilizing Two-generation (2GEN) or family-centered employment approaches.

2GEN or family-centered employment approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both children and their parents together to improve family outcomes. It builds education and a network of support to assist families with health and wellbeing, financial, housing, and workforce services to create economic security and stability to advance the whole family.

Using the 2GEN approach as the foundational strategy, the Family Centered Employment initiative is designed to:

- Identify promising practices in implementing family-centered employment approaches in workforce development;
- Create awareness about family-centered employment approaches amongst workforce boards;
- Promote stronger relationships and collaboration with community organizations, child care providers, and other agencies;
- Assess system-level changes to promote a family-centered employment approach to advance families and meet workforce demands.

The Family Centered Employment initiative is currently piloted to serve a total of 150 families at workforce development boards (WDBs) in three local areas: Maricopa County, AZ; Montgomery County, MD; and El Paso, TX. For more information about Family Centered Employment Initiative visit the NAWB website at [https://www.nawb.org/two\\_generation\\_workforce.asp](https://www.nawb.org/two_generation_workforce.asp).

To further the goal of the initiative, NAWB and Innovate+Educate are creating an online community to support WDBs interested in integrating family centered approaches in their workforce development services and local communities.



### **Purpose**

Building on the learnings from the piloted initiative, NAWB is releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) for WDBs to participate in an online community of practice.

The Community of Practice (CoP) will allow WDBs to:

- Learn about family-centered employment strategies;
- Assess where WDBs are on the 2GEN continuum;
- Adapt and integrate strategies to their workforce development efforts;
- Understand how policy impacts serving the whole family;
- Identify ways to collect and utilize data to support efforts;
- Share information and tools between WDBs;
- Identify ways to leverage resources to support a whole family approach in workforce development.

WDBs in the CoP will receive family-centered employment resources and participate in a variety of activities to foster engagement and collaboration, including an in-person meeting at The Forum 2019, March 23-26, 2019.

NAWB invites WDBs that are interested in learning more about family-centered employment approaches or have begun integrating family-centered employment approaches in their services to apply.

While NAWB welcomes all WDBs to submit an application, we encourage NAWB members and WDBs located near the pilot sites to apply.

### **Selection and Funding**

NAWB will select nine WDBs to join the CoP with the three pilot sites. Selected WDBs will receive a stipend of \$2000 to cover costs associated with attending the in-person meeting at The Forum 2019, March 23-26, 2019.

**Applications should be submitted to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QNTJVT>, by 11:59 p.m. EST Thursday, December 20, 2018.** Applicants will be notified of the status of their applications by January 18, 2019.

### **Application**

In response to this RFA, NAWB will only accept applications from WDBs. WDBs can complete the online application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QNTJVT>.

Each application should address the following items:



- Why your WDB is interested in engaging in family centered employment strategies;
- What efforts the WDB plans to institute or is currently undertaking to integrate family centered employment strategies;
- What agencies, organizations, or community partnerships will the WDB engage to develop family centered employment efforts.
- What your WDB wants to gain from participating in the CoP; and,
- Expressed support from WDB leadership to engage in family-centered employment strategies.

**Contact**

For more information about the CoP RFA or the Family Centered Employment Initiative, contact Kelly Middleton Banks at [middletonk@nawb.org](mailto:middletonk@nawb.org) or 202-857-7900, ext. 103.