

ARKANSAS Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant Abstract	
Grant Number	DI-21059-10-75-A-5
Grant Award	\$1,500,000
DEI Applicant	Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Address	P.O. Box 2981 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2981
Project Director Phone/E-mail	Glenn Sergeant 501-371-1016 / Glenn.sergeant@arkansas.gov
Project Period	Three Years
Abstract Narrative	
Scope of Grant/ Individuals to be Served	Four Workforce Investment Areas (Little Rock, Eastern, West Central, and Northwest) serving Youth with Disabilities (including subgroups such as out of school youth)
Project Description	The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services DEI project will build upon the success of their Disability Program Navigator grant utilizing multiple models and strategies. The DEI project will be used to continue and enhance promising practices geared toward integrating youth with disabilities into employment. A blend of multiple models and strategies will be combined to achieve this goal. The DEI project will incorporate individual assessment tools, such as Individual Educational/Employment Plans, as part of career exploration and identification of educational and employment pathways. Reflective of strong commitments from partner agencies, services and resources will be leveraged. Project design includes “real world” experience opportunities, such as summer youth employment under the Workforce Investment Act and job shadowing and mentoring from prospective employers and networking. Educational opportunities will also be explored and pursued according to the interests and skills of the youth.
Strategic Service Delivery Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Resource Team Approach • Customized Employment • Guideposts for Success
Key Partnerships	Youth Development Collaborative, Department of Career Education, Economic Development Commission, Department of Higher Education, Association of Two-Year Colleges, and Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, Disability Rights Center, Increasing Capabilities Access Network, Community Work Incentive Coordinators, Independent Living Centers
Proposed Outcomes	Projected outcomes are to increase the workforce by providing qualified job seekers to fill the potential labor market shortages, expand the services of the One-Stop Career Centers and include universal designs that support persons with disabilities to a greater extent than seen now, and facilitate systems change that will improve the overall effective and meaningful education, training, and employment opportunities of individuals with disabilities.