The TennesseeWorks Partnership

Elevating Employment Outcomes for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

tennesseeworks

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

OUR VISION

The *TennesseeWorks Partnership* is an innovative and coordinated effort to ensure youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across the state have the aspirations, preparation, opportunities, and supports to access competitive and integrated work that contributes to their flourishing. We are striving to equip:

- Young people with IDD to aspire toward work from an early age
- Families to pursue work for their members with disabilities
- Educators to prepare students for work throughout their schooling
- Service systems to support work in every corner of the state
- Communities to receive the gifts and contributions of people with disabilities

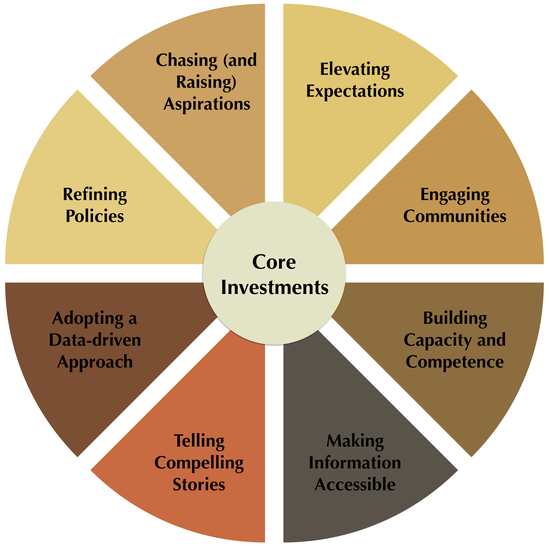
This poster highlights and investments from our first 5 years.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

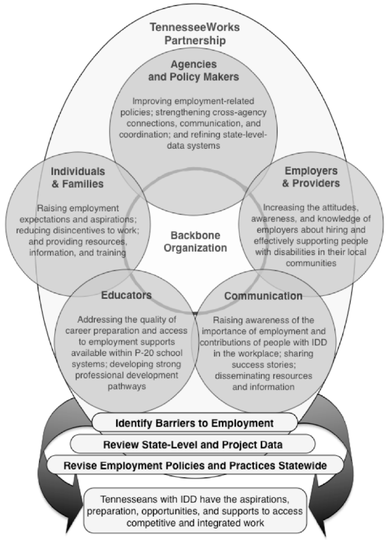
Our *Employment First Task Force* is focusing on:

- Aligning service delivery systems and strengthening coordination to increase employment opportunities for Tennesseans with disabilities
- Building shared community commitment to "Employment First" for individuals with disabilities
- Increasing the number of businesses and employers throughout the state who actively seek out and hire individuals with disabilities
- Making Tennessee a model public sector employer though actions to employ more people with disabilities and through policy and regulatory change
- Preparing Tennessee students for employment throughout their education and connecting them to essential services and supports

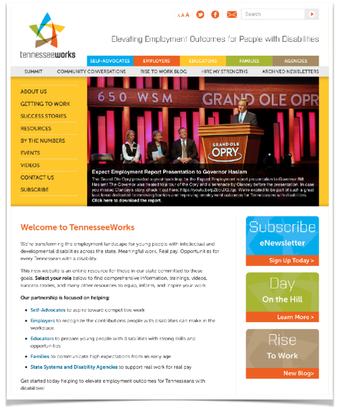
OUR APPROACH



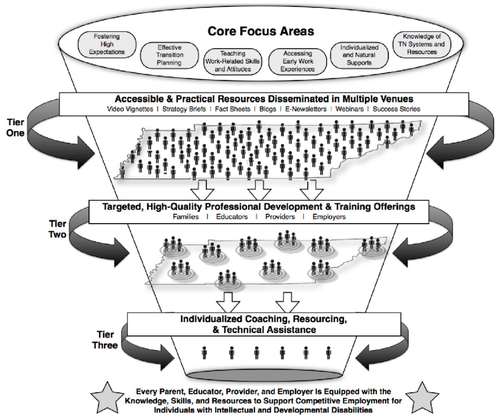
WORKGROUPS



DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION



www.tennesseeworks.org

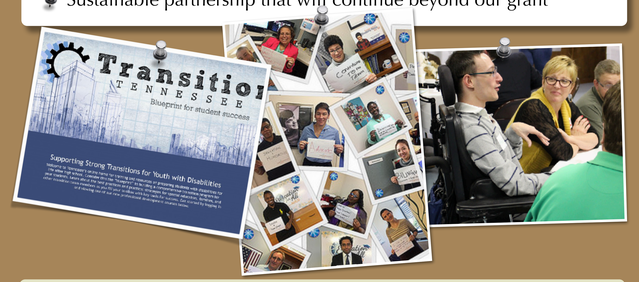


- Monthly e-newsletter
- Coordinated social media efforts
- Rise to Work family blog
- "Hire my Strengths" campaign
- Downloadable practice guides
- Searchable resource databases
- Video features
- Success stories
- Online portal for professional development (www.transitiontn.org)

A FEW SUCCESSES

Below is a sampling of our successes:

- Employment First Executive Order signed by the Governor
- Strong and sustained *Employment Roundtable*
- Growing ThinkEmployment! Summit held annually
- Education and advocacy at Disability Day on the Hill
- Multiple research studies to ensure our work is data-driven
- Development of a state-level data dashboard
- Vibrant "Hire My Strengths" awareness campaign
- Extensive employer outreach efforts and training
- Family coalitions across multiple cities
- New Employment and Community First Medicaid programs
- Strong comprehensive state plan related to WIOA
- More than 30 "community conversation" events
- Sustainable partnership that will continue beyond our grant



CORE PARTNERS

The *TennesseeWorks Partnership* has grown to more than 50 private and public partners, with Vanderbilt University serving as the backbone organization. Prominent state partners include:

- Tennessee Department of Education
- Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Tennessee Department of Human Services
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services
- Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Network
- Tennessee State Treasurer's Office

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ADMINISTRATION ON INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES