



# Disability Employment Initiative Fact Sheet

## What?

The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) was established to the capacity to assist individuals with significant disabilities, by improving education, training, and employment outcomes for individuals with significant disabilities. The DEI will be implemented in Anne Arundel and Montgomery County to blend and braid funds and leverage partnerships to promote the participation of individuals with disabilities in the programs currently offered at the AJCs. The goal is to expand the public workforce development system's capacity to become an Employment Network for beneficiaries under the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program; and create systemic change. AJC staff will provide flexible approaches to designing and providing training, supportive services, and innovative workplace strategies to jobseekers with significant disabilities.

## Who Qualifies?

DEI supports individuals with significant disabilities, residing in Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County, that meet one of the three criteria below:

- Jobseekers that are SSI or
- SSDI recipients and or
- Jobseekers with a physical, sensory, mental, cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disability that requires at least one of the following to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment at or above minimum wage:
  - Significant accommodations
  - Significant supports
  - Customization of job responsibilities.

## Benefit to Jobseekers?

Both the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Center (AAWCD) and WorkSource Montgomery AJC will have a Disabilities Resource Coordinator (DRC) to assist job seekers, that qualify for DEI, fully integrate into the full range of services and incentives offered through the AJC. Including, but not limited to:

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

The DRC will provide individualized services to qualified DEI participants in need of more significant support for job placement. The DRC serves will assist with determining the services needed for the jobseeker to achieve his/her employment goals.

The DRCs 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
- Assist with coordinating an Integrated Resource Team, if needed
- Provide referral assistance as needed
- Collaborate with local partners to coordinate services for jobseekers.