THE RURAL YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Rural Youth Apprenticeship Development (RYAD) Project promotes the development and advancement of vocational rehabilitation (VR) apprenticeships programs for youth with disabilities (16-24) in underserved rural communities.

Over the course of five years, the RYAD Project will:

» Build and disseminate a toolkit with rural-specific resources

» Promote VR partnerships with businesses, workforce system entities, and schools

» Increase the number of youth apprenticeship programs in rural areas where there are higher rates of people with disabilities who face lower rates of employment

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

» Learning Collaborative with VR agencies, workforce partners, schools, and businesses

» Advisory Groups with various rural and apprenticeship subject matter experts, knowledge translation professionals, youth with disabilities, and other stakeholders

PROJECT GOALS

The RYAD Project will help VR programs:

» Develop policies that support apprenticeship programs in rural areas

» Remove rural-specific barriers to apprenticeship program implementation

» Implement rural strategies and best practices to improve apprenticeship outcomes for youth with disabilities

» Enhance statewide collaborations to facilitate the apprenticeship process to benefit both businesses and jobseekers in rural communities

» Evaluate the success of apprenticeship programs with Mathematica's VR Program Evaluation Coach

Project Partners

The RYAD Project is a project of ExploreVR at the Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston, in partnership with:

• Mathematica Policy Research
• Montana Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities
• Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
• Arkansas Career Development Center

ExploreVR offers VR agencies easy and convenient access to a range of VR research, related data, training and tools for planning, evaluation, and decision-making.

Funding

The RYAD Project is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant # 90DPKT0006-01-00).

For more information

DeBrittany Mitchell
Institute for Community Inclusion
University of Massachusetts Boston
debrittany.mitchell@umb.edu

www.exploreVR.org

ICI ExploreVR
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON