



ExploreVR 

IT'S EMPLOYMENT

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

INVITATION TO APPLY STATE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

IT'S EMPLOYMENT is a Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) funded project designed to improve employment outcomes for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) through training of vocational rehabilitation (VR) personnel, including staff who work for state VR agencies, other public systems, and service providers. Led by the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, this project offers training opportunities including topical modules, a mini-course, and an academic rehabilitation counseling course. In addition this project offers a State Learning Collaborative.

STATE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

The State Learning Collaborative (SLC) offers a customized training for VR agencies and their partners that is designed to enhance the knowledge and strengthen partnerships that are key to the employment success for individuals with ID. The project supports two state learning collaboratives annually. ICI is now inviting applications to be one of the two SLC states for this year. The application asks VR agency and their partners to identify specific goals for participation in the SLC. Each SLC will include:

- » 2 days of in-person training, or the virtual or online equivalent (12-14 hours)
- » A 6-month, state specific, Community of Practice (CoP) focused on the state's specific goals

WHAT PAST SLC MEMBERS HAVE SAID

"Very relevant! (Trainers had a) Deep knowledge of VR and DD national services and were quick studies of the VT system. They made the training relevant to the IDD population" (Vermont)

"The SLC helped to deepen the relationship with service provider grantees and build stronger Support Employment best practices." (Colorado)

ELIGIBILITY

The state VR agency must be the applicant and each SLC team must include at a minimum the state's intellectual and developmental disability agency as a partner. Additional partners may be included based on the state's specific goals for improving employment services and outcomes for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The focus of this effort is intended to have impact on a statewide level. If a Tribal VR region covered by that agency is the applicant, the focus of the SLC will be on the region covered by that agency.

APPLICATION

States must complete the online application by September 9, 2022.

[Online application is available from now to September 9, 2022](#)

August 16, 2022 (3:30-4:30 ET)

An informational webinar will be hosted by ICI, providing an overview of the project and SLC. There will be time for questions & answers.

[Pre-register for the webinar](#)

September 9

Application deadline

September 23

Agencies notified on the status of their application

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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IT'S EMPLOYMENT is a project of **ExploreVR** at the Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston. 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 for this project is provided by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration, under CFDA 84.263C.