



## DETAC Announces New Results in Systems Excellence (RISE) Peer e-Learning Community: *Customized Job Development*

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AoD grantees **that** support individuals with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive, integrated employment (CIE) **face** challenges **in** ensuring that people with disabilities obtain **jobs that match their interests and skills and that pay living wages**. If your organization is experiencing challenges related to securing CIE for people with disabilities or has limited knowledge and/or resources in employment or partnerships to support the advancement of CIE for individuals with complex disabilities in your state, then this Peer e-Learning Community on key strategies of Customized Job Development is for you!

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The Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act of 2014 clearly reinforced that every person, regardless of the significance of disability, should be provided the opportunity to obtain CIE. **Join us as we gain a broader perspective of innovative strategies to assist persons in obtaining CIE. We will learn from each other and brainstorm strategies to leverage collaborative partnerships and how to integrate this information into the work of your organization and the community to advance competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities.**

**SPACE IS LIMITED, SO APPLY NOW at**

<https://forms.gle/P9payUx9F5MN47kH8>

**APPLICATIONS DUE: February 20, 2023**

**LAUNCH MEETING: March 1, 2023**

**1:00PM-2:30PM/EST**



## **Session Structure**

**Virtual Classes:** 6 sessions at 90 minutes per session

### **Session Dates:**

- Launch meeting/session one: March 1 from 1:00-2:30PM/EST
- Session Two: March 15 from 1:00-2:30PM/EST
- Session Three: March 29 from 1:00-2:30PM/EST
- Session Four: April 12 from 1:00-2:30PM/EST
- Session Five: April 26 from 1:00-2:30PM/EST
- Session Six: May 10 from 1:00-2:30PM/EST

**Facilitator:** Abby Cooper, Kennedy Douglas Consulting, Marc Gold and Associates, SME for NEON

**Session Links:** Zoom Meeting links will be provided once grantees have been accepted into the e-Learning Community. The contact person(s) listed in the application will be notified via email. If you need an accommodation to participate in the cohort, please note in the application or send an email to us at the Gmail provided below. Accommodations for the eLearning Community will be provided based upon request. The links will be sent from the DETACs Gmail Account, [AoDEmploymentTA@Gmail.com](mailto:AoDEmploymentTA@Gmail.com).

### **Topics include:**

- What is Customized Employment and Discovery
- The importance of partnerships in Customized Job Development
  - **Field assignment:** Interview two employers to learn their challenges.
- What you and the job seeker need to know to create a solid job match
  - **Field assignment:** Learn from one jobseeker when they are at their best.
- Pulling the Customized Planning Meeting together
  - **Field assignment:** Conduct a planning meeting.
- Storytelling as a tool in Customized Job Development
  - **Field assignment:** Develop a visual resume with a job seeker.
- Knowing how to Negotiate
  - **Field assignment:** Negotiate a condition your job seeker needs from an employer.

### **About the Facilitator:**

Abby Cooper has consulted on Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) and Customized Employment nationally and internationally. She has provided Technical Assistance (TA) and training on CIE in 40 states and provided Technical Assistance to the South Korean government on the structures and policies needed to be in place to provide CIE. Her leadership transformed a Day Activity Center into the first Supported Employment (SE) agency and Center for Independent Living in Washington State. Abby has provided technical assistance on an array of policy issues such as Waiver funding, Memorandum of Understandings, the transformation from 14(c), Self-Employment, Customized Employment, State as a Model Employer, and capacity building. As a Statewide Administrator for the Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR),



Abby secured federal funding for a five-year Informed Choice grant she designed and administered. Abby started the first program in the nation that provided benefits planning and financial literacy to VR clients and created Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) with Ticket-to-Work dollars for DVR customers.

Since 2014 she has worked as a subject matter expert for Economic Systems under a contract with the Office of Disability Employment Policy. In 2021 Abby worked with organizations in Ohio to expand community inclusion and to rethink community residential support. She currently works on the National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON), focusing on Community Inclusion, employer outreach, and establishing networks between community providers through an online Community of Practice.

