



# EMPLOYMENT 4 LIFE SITES

**Purpose:** The Employment 4 Life Initiative is a project that's goal is to create a collaborative approach to employment for young adults that gives intensive, targeted skills training and work experience to participants. One objective is to show that with a person-centered approach to employment early-on in an individual's life, long term

individual, integrated employment making the prevailing wage can be achieved. The second objective is to show how multiple agencies working together in a local area can achieve high rates of employment for young adults in their area. The third objective is to show that when agencies work together in a person-centered way, participants are left more ready for their future with clear goals and resources lined up to achieve their employment goals.

**Funding:** The funding for the pilot sites is slated to be solely through the DD Council's Expanding Employment for Youth Objective. Sponsors are seeking collaboration with local organizations and employers in the designated site areas to contribute to this ongoing youth employment initiative.

**2018 & 2019 Pilots:** The first two project sites of Dundee and Muskegon, Michigan were chosen to show how this can be achieved even in rural and urban areas. The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council contracted with Camp Zip and then, Disability Network West Michigan to staff to implement the weeklong initiatives. Both agencies asked for the support of the local vocational agencies, specifically BSBP and MRS, the Intermediate School District and the local Community Mental Health.

- ✓ 18 Participants
- ✓ For many Participants it was their first time staying away from home
- ✓ 11 employers with options for 12 types of jobs to tryout
- ✓ 320 hours of work in 8 days completed
- ✓ 48 applications turned in
- ✓ 8 first time job applications
- ✓ 100% of eligible bridge card candidates completed applications
- ✓ 100% of the participants began access with the local CMH
- ✓ 10 Email accounts set up
- ✓ 10 LinkedIn Profiles
- ✓ 200+ miles driven by LYFT and MATS (many first-time riders)
- ✓ Presentations on Soft Skills, Sexual Harassment, and Advocacy in Work Settings
- ✓ 9 job offers

**2023 Pilot:** The Council's goal is to fund two added pilot sites during the summer of 2023. The goal is to provide one in MTSA Regions 1 and, the second one in MTSA Region 5. The Clare and Marquette County sites were chosen to show this can be done anywhere in the state. The sponsors are seeking collaboration with MRS, BSBP, CMH, ISD, and the Disability Network in each location.

## For more information contact:

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