



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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The Council Supports Great Ideas with Small Grants!

Seek Receives Funding for Training and Certification of Vocational Staff for Employment Discovery

The DD Council's small grants (up to \$2,500) support initiatives and activities in Maryland that improve the lives of Marylanders with developmental disabilities and their families and increase their inclusion in community life. One example of a recent small grant in action was to support SEEC in planning a training this past June titled, *Discovery, Profile Development, Customized Employment Plan and Visual Resume Three Day Learning Experience on Best Practices*. SEEC applied for the grant as a part of a Discovery Consortium that included the Spring Dell Center, Compass, The Arc of Howard County, and The Arc of Central Chesapeake. Attendees had the opportunity to obtain certification as Discovery Specialists by participating in the training and subsequently receiving ongoing mentoring from subject matter experts while paired with a job seeker.

Forty vocational staff attended representing nineteen providers across Maryland. Registration closed early due to its popularity. As a result, the Discovery Consortium is scheduling an identical training in November and a workshop on Employment Engagement in January.

Nick Grande, Manager of Vocational Services at Delmarva Works, A Division of Delmarva Community Services, Inc., reflected, "It was a privilege and honor to hear from and meet self-advocates who continue to strive for excellence in their careers, while spreading the word about the true potential of people with unique abilities."

The Council's small grants support efforts to improve employment outcomes and generally contribute to building increased capacity for quality services in Maryland for children and adults with IDD.

Find out how to apply for a small grant here: <http://www.md-council.org/funding/small-grants/>