



## Cultural Brokers in Maryland

Ethiopian and Eritrean Special Needs Community

**Location:** Central Maryland

**Funding:** \$60,000 | \$22,200 match

### GOAL

Build the capacity for Ethiopian and Eritrean cultural brokers to provide information and resources to people with developmental disabilities and their families. The cultural brokers will also support them to find different programs and resources.

### SUMMARY

The Ethiopian and Eritrean Special Needs Community (EESNC) will recruit cultural brokers to lead activities in Amharic. These cultural brokers will provide resources and information to people with developmental disabilities and their families. They will also train faith-based and other organizations in the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities about inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

*Cultural brokers are members of the community they work with. They understand and share the values, beliefs, and practices of the community. Cultural brokers help build trust and connections between community members and the services and supports that they need.*

### ACTIVITIES

- Recruit and train 8 cultural brokers within the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities.
- Provide resources to 20 people with developmental disabilities.
- Provide resources to 45 caregivers.
- Provide cultural arts resources to 7 people with developmental disabilities.
- Train 6 organizations about inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.



- Train 3 facilitators who will become Caregiver Skills Training (CST) trainers. CST is a training developed by the World Health Organization for caregivers and families of people with developmental disabilities. Conduct 3 phases of CST training sessions for parents of people with developmental disabilities.

## **OUTCOMES**

- People with developmental disabilities and their families in the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities are better able to access resources.
- Organizations in the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities have a facility and programs that include and welcome people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Parents of people with developmental disabilities increase their knowledge and skills.
- People with developmental disabilities receive support from their communities.