



Council on Developmental Disabilities

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CDD Announces Funding to Bring Family Employment Awareness Trainings to New York State

*\$1.5 Million Awarded to Improve Employment for People with Developmental
Disabilities*

The New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD) is pleased to announce \$1.5 Million in grant funding for a three-year project to provide training and employment resources for people with disabilities, including those in underserved communities in New York State.

Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT) is a training program for youth with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who support them. FEAT's goal is to create meaningful work for competitive wages for people with disabilities by helping individuals, family members and professionals understand and access federal, state and local employment supports. With the CDD grant, New York will be the sixth state in the nation to provide the FEAT model.

“People with developmental disabilities are employed at a much lower rate than people without disabilities, and more meaningful employment opportunities are needed to bridge that gap,” said CDD Acting Executive Director Vicky Hiffa. “The Council is excited to bring this proven model of enhancing competitive employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to New York State.”

The CDD will fund three organizations to do this work, including Indiana University where FEAT was originally developed. The team at Indiana University will work with New York provider agencies to adapt FEAT to the unique needs of New York State. Indiana University staff will provide ongoing support and technical assistance to the New York teams.

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The CDD will also award funds to two New York organizations representing underserved communities, [People Inc.](#) and the [Chinese-American Planning Council](#), to implement these trainings. People Inc., located in Buffalo New York, will work primarily with refugee and migrant populations new to the country. The Chinese-American Planning Council, located in New York City, will focus on Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities in Queens.

People Inc. provides a diverse array of support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, as well as health care services, services for the Deaf and hard of hearing, senior services and affordable housing. Long an advocate for vocational training and employment support for people with various needs and abilities, People Inc. also currently provides education and case management services for Deaf refugees and immigrants from around the world.

“People Inc. is committed to providing services to people with developmental disabilities, and this funding will enable us to assist underserved refugee and immigrant families in the context of their unique cultural perspectives,” said Anne McCaffrey, President and CEO of People Inc. “We appreciate this opportunity and look forward to using our vocational training expertise to produce life-changing results through the FEAT program.”

The Chinese American Planning Council is a social services organization empowering Asian American, immigrant, and low-income communities in New York City by ensuring they have equitable access to the resources and opportunities needed to thrive.

"We are grateful to receive this grant funding from the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities, which will allow us to continue our important work in providing support, empowerment, and equal opportunities to individuals with disabilities," said Wayne Ho, President & CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC). "Through the provision of comprehensive training and employment resources, we empower individuals, their families, and professionals to pursue meaningful work opportunities, unlocking the potential for each person to grow and flourish."

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