

(including but not limited to demonstrating the use of individual training accounts or contractual services, tickets, and self-directed individual budgeting initiatives; economic stimulus activities including low-interest loans for person-centered micro-boards focused on increasing economic prosperity for specific individuals with disabilities; entrepreneurial employment initiatives that are consumer-owned or operated; demonstrations of innovation and cutting-edge strategies providing personal control, choice and customized assistance resulting in employment, including business ownership, micro-enterprise development or development of cooperatives for persons with disabilities; accessing Individual Development Accounts and financial literacy training; and other supports needed by specific individuals with disabilities to increase choice and wages in employment);

(3) Collaboration with the education system, parents, families and faith-based and community organizations to ensure transition of young people with disabilities from school to customized employment or training, and documentation of the outcomes of such efforts;

(4) Training and education activities (including training regarding Medicaid buy-in provisions and other policies with implications for increasing employment through state activities) designed to further the goal of increasing customized employment for persons with disabilities. These training activities include the education of One-Stop and partner personnel; educating state systems personnel and policymakers; developing and disseminating educational information and materials; and otherwise promoting policy and practice to increase the wide spread community-based use of customized employment strategies and personalized supports;

(5) Researching and demonstrating alternative methods of measuring WIA performance outcomes that consider the various characteristics of people with disabilities and developing demonstrations of performance measures that document new methods for measuring program effectiveness; and coordinating the availability of and access to assistive technology;

(6) Educating the media and the general public about successful strategies for and the benefits of securing employment for people with disabilities. This will assist in obtaining long-term support for continuation of grantee activities following completion of funding;

(7) Increasing the availability of personal agents and job development personnel offering customized services through customer-controlled approaches that result in customized employment (including demonstrating effectiveness of paying family members or other individuals with disabilities to serve as personal agents when selected by the individual with a disability to assist in negotiating and implementing employment plans and services);

(8) Assisting community providers of segregated employment services to develop integrated, competitive options for individuals with disabilities, including implementation of conversion and other organizational change initiatives conducted with segregated provider programs that wish to change their services to integrated employment; and

(9) Other activities necessary to address needs and achieve goals identified through strategic planning and implementation, including collection of necessary data and evaluation.

In evaluating the quality of the proposed project design, ODEP's consideration will be guided by the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable;

(b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population and other identified needs and the quality of the applicant's plans for recruiting and retaining the target population;

(c) The extent to which the design of the proposed project provides procedures and approaches for collaboration and coordination with key agencies and organizations and identification of critical roles;

(d) The extent to which the design of the proposed project provides clear understanding of and experience with utilization of customized employment strategies for increasing employment, choice and earnings of individuals with significant disabilities;

(e) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated, including demonstrated support and commitment from key organizations, employers, and agencies, including faith-based and community organizations;

(f) The extent to which the applicant encourages involvement of people with disabilities and their families, experts and organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in project activities;

(g) The extent to which the design of the project will facilitate an increase in

the number of faith-based and community organizations that register as eligible training providers with their local One-Stop Center.

(h) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project.

(i) The extent to which the management plans for project implementation is likely to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget; and

(j) The extent to which the proposed project design features innovative strategies to implement customized employment and choice.

### 3. Sustainability (25 points)

The purpose of the sustainability criteria is to identify strategies for ensuring that activities funded under the grant will continue once Federal funding ceases. Resources and partnerships are an integral element of the project. Sustainability objectives must be built into the project design and ongoing project operation.

In addition, the applicant should detail how federal, state, and local public sector commitments contribute to the sustainability of this project following completion of the grant. Examples of such commitments could include: Commitment from state vocational rehabilitation, one-stop center, state developmental disability, state Medicaid, or state general revenue funding to support expanded customized employment services for individuals securing employment through the agency; status as Employment Network under TTW providing customized employment services to eligible ticket-holders; private sector funding through foundations, financial or lending agencies, or other relevant collaborative arrangements for continuing provision and/or expansion of customized employment services in the community.

To illustrate sustainability planning, the applicant must:

(1) Identify resources and partnerships that are an integral element of the project. Projects funded under this SGA will be judged on their ability to leverage a combination of federal, state, and local public sector resources, as well as local non-profit sector resources for purposes of sustainability. Accordingly, in this section the applicant should enumerate these resources, describe any specific existing contractual commitments, and provide concrete evidence of sustainability;

(2) Identify activities and in-kind elements of sustained support. ODEP considers detailed commitments for