

*New York State*



*transition  
partners*

Learning Community  
June 12, 2019

[www.nystransitionpartners.org](http://www.nystransitionpartners.org)

# *New York State*



# *transition partners*

**NYS Transition Partners** is a collaboration of Starbridge Inc., Parent Network of Western New York, and includeNYC.

Together, we won a 5-year federal grant from the RSA to provide New York state-specific information and strategies to help young adults with disabilities and their families to **access and navigate** vocational rehabilitation and other public systems that can help with financial stability, meaningful employment, and post-secondary education.



New York Employment  
Services System

# *What is Employment First and what does it mean for me and my family?*

Andy Sink  
Director of NYESS Employment Policy



## ***What will we discuss today?***

- New York Employment Services System (NYESS)
- Employment First
- Transportation Network Company Accessibility Taskforce
- Work Incentives Navigator
- NYS Employment Services



# NYESS Partnership



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Department  
of Labor**



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Office of  
Mental Health**



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Office for  
the Aging**



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Department  
of Health**



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Office for People with  
Developmental Disabilities**



**NEW  
YORK  
STATE**

**Commission  
for the Blind**



**NEW  
YORK  
STATE**

**Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services**



New York State  
**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



# *What is Employment First?*

- The principle that Employment should be the first support service option
- Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 136 established the Employment First Commission
- Goals
  - Increase the employment rate of individuals with disabilities by 5%
  - Decrease the poverty rate of individuals by 5%
  - Engage businesses to adopt policies and practices that support the integrated employment of individuals with disabilities



# *E1st Commission Recommendations*

- Cultural Modeling
  - A workforce should reflect the diversity of it's environment
  
- Energizing the “Demand Side” of the Equation
  - Engage Businesses
  
- NYESS (New York Employment Services System)
  - Collaborative Case Management System



# *E1st Commission Recommendations*

- Benefits Advisement
  - Ensure information about key benefits are available
  
- Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities
  - Improve awareness of how to keep Medicaid and earn over \$60K!
  
- Transportation
  - Establish a cross-agency taskforce



# *E1st Commission Recommendations*

- Education
  - Improve pathways for youth transitioning to adulthood
  
- Create an Employment First Service Culture
  - Ensure support professionals are trained on essential skills and principles
  
- Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship
  - Expand upon existing resources to improve supports for small businesses operated by individuals with disabilities



# *E1st Commission Recommendations*

- Expanded Access to Assistive Technology
- Outcome Measures
  - Use existing data sources to measure progress
- Key Links
  - <https://nyess.ny.gov/employment-first.html>
  - [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/archive/governor\\_files/documents/EmploymentFirstCommissionExecutiveOrder.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/archive/governor_files/documents/EmploymentFirstCommissionExecutiveOrder.pdf)
  - [https://nyess.ny.gov/docs/employment\\_first\\_march2015\\_final.pdf](https://nyess.ny.gov/docs/employment_first_march2015_final.pdf)



# *E1st Activities*

- EmployAbility: A Toolkit for Employers
  - <https://nyess.ny.gov/docs/employ-ability.pdf>
  
- Guide for Employment Specialists
  - <https://nyess.ny.gov/docs/2018-omh-guide-for-employment-specialists.pdf>
  
- NYESS Resource Page
  - <https://nyess.ny.gov/customer-information.html>



Department of  
Motor Vehicles

Office of  
Mental Health

Department of  
Transportation



New York Employment  
Services System

# New York State Transportation Network Company Accessibility Task Force



Final Report  
&  
Recommendations

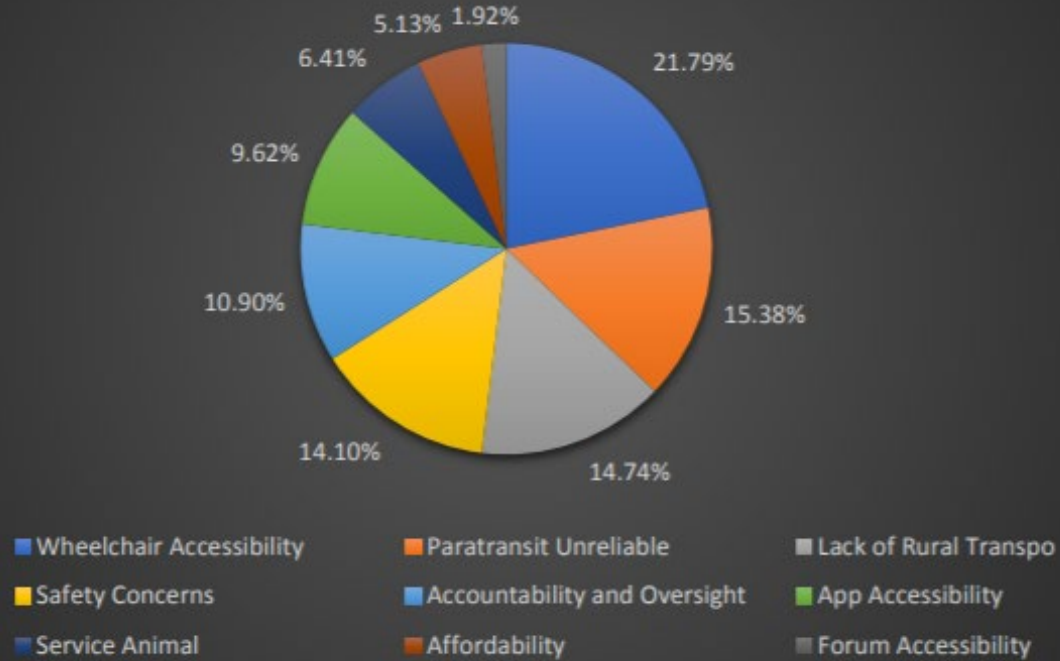


# *E1st Activities*

- TNC Taskforce Established in 2017
  - Charged with exploring the transportation challenges experienced by individuals with disabilities in NYS and making recommendations for improvement, with a focus on Transportation Network Companies
  - Five forums were held across the state: 156 Attendees
  - TNC Mailbox: 60 Respondents

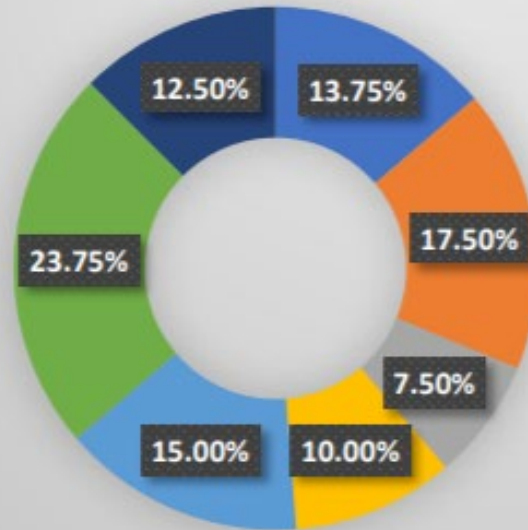


## Consolidated Concern Categories





## Consolidated Proposed Solution Categories



■ Improve Oversight

■ Expand TNC Model

■ App Accessibility

■ Driver Training

■ Incentivize Accessible Vehicles

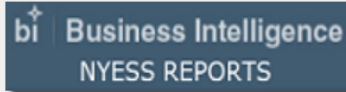
■ Improve Availability of Accessible Vehicles

■ Ride Surcharges

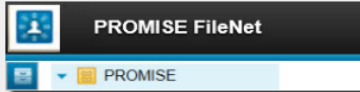
# Work Incentives Navigator



Record activities and services provided to individuals.



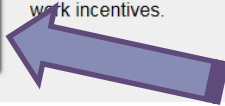
To obtain summary and detail reports on Outcomes; Quality Control, TTW, PROMISE and other programs.



To save and retrieve documents related to an individual's case management record.



To assist individuals in obtaining specific work incentives.



### About NYESS

New York Employment Services System (NYESS) is a comprehensive data system collaboratively designed by the New York State Office of Mental Health, and the New York State Department of Labor. The system is designed to integrate employment data across New York State systems to ensure that innovation and collaboration drive the employment services system to generate better employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. NYESS currently incorporates data from the NYS Office of Mental Health, NYS Department of Labor, NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation, The Commission for the Blind, and the NYS Office for the Aging.



# WIN Homepage

New York Employment  
Services System

## WORK INCENTIVES NAVIGATOR

Welcome, Andrew Karhan (ADMIN)

-- All Service Orgs --

Home

Customers

Benefits

Notifications

E-mail Issues

Demo mode: ☐ OFF

Logout



Welcome to the Work Incentives Navigator (WIN). The WIN has been designed to send automatic notifications to individuals with disabilities who are receiving employment supports, and the organizations who serve them. This portal has been created so that your organization can assist individuals to take advantage of these programs. NYESS has developed notifications for several critical benefits, including the Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities, Section 1619(b), and Section 301 of the Social Security Act, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This page will be updated when new notifications are developed for additional benefit types. For assistance pertaining to these notifications or related programs please e-mail [nyess@omh.ny.gov](mailto:nyess@omh.ny.gov) or call 518-473-6579.

Move the mouse pointer over the Benefit Type to display the description for that benefit type.

EITC

MBI-WPD

Section 1619(b)

Section 301

### Section 301

Section 301 of the Social Security Act allows Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits to continue if a recipient is found to be no longer disabled according to the Social Security Administration (SSA) criteria. To be eligible for continued SSI or SSDI, you must be actively involved in a vocational rehabilitation program, the Ticket-to-Work program, have a PASS Plan, have an Individualized Education Plan, or be engaged in another qualifying rehabilitation program. Involvement with one of these programs may qualify an individual for Section 301.



## *What is 1619(b)?*

- Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act allows SSI beneficiaries who lose SSI cash payments due to wage earnings to keep Medicaid

## *How is 1619(b) activated?*

- 1619(b) *should* be activated automatically once the SSI cash payment is reduced to zero
- Work with an advocate or certified benefits practitioner to make sure 1619(b) is activated



## *What is the MBI-WPD?*

- Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities
- Allows individuals with a qualifying disability who are working to obtain free Medicaid
- Earn an annual income of up to \$63,492



## *How does someone obtain MBI-WPD?*

- Use the toolkit!
  - [Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities Toolkit](#)
- Following the steps in the toolkit will help you answer whether the MBI-WPD is right for you and what type of specific information to you need to complete the application



## *What is Section 301 of the Social Security Act??*

- Allows for SSI and/or SSDI benefits to continue if a person is found to be no longer disabled according to SSA criteria but is engaged in:
  - Ticket-to-Work
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Other Rehabilitation with an Employment Plan
  - In school with an Individualized Education Plan



# Earned Income Tax Credit

- *What is it?*
  - Refundable tax credit for eligible low-income workers with and without disabilities
    - If you meet eligibility requirements and do your taxes, the government might owe you money!



# Earned Income Tax Credit

- *Who is eligible?*
  - Earned and Adjusted Gross Income must be less than:
    - \$15,010 for an individual with no children
    - \$20,600 for a couple filing jointly
    - \$39, 617 for an individual with one child
    - \$45,207 for a couple filing jointly with one child



# Earned Income Tax Credit

- *Who is eligible?*
  - Earned and Adjusted Gross Income must be less than:
    - \$45,007 for an individual with two children
    - \$50,597 for a couple filing jointly with two children
    - \$48,340 for an individual with three or more children
    - \$53,930 for a couple filing jointly with three or more children



# Earned Income Tax Credit

- *What is the potential credit?*
  - \$510 with no children
  - \$3,400 with one qualifying child
  - \$5,616 with two qualifying children
  - \$6,318 with three or more qualifying children



## *What types of employment services are available in NYS?*

- OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities)
  - [https://opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/employment\\_for\\_people\\_with\\_disabilities/resources\\_for\\_employment\\_services\\_providers/opwdd\\_supported\\_employment\\_services](https://opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/employment_for_people_with_disabilities/resources_for_employment_services_providers/opwdd_supported_employment_services)
  - [http://parenttoparentnys.org/images/uploads/pdfs/PtoPNYS\\_Guide\\_to\\_Services\\_March\\_2014.pdf](http://parenttoparentnys.org/images/uploads/pdfs/PtoPNYS_Guide_to_Services_March_2014.pdf)
  - [https://www.msnavigator.org/resourceDocuments/64/Transition\\_Planning\\_Housing\\_and\\_Employment-1.pdf](https://www.msnavigator.org/resourceDocuments/64/Transition_Planning_Housing_and_Employment-1.pdf)



## *What types of employment services are available in NYS?*

### ➤ OMH (Office of Mental Health)

- <https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/pros/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uRf0FnW5mQ&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/hcbs/>



## *What types of employment services are available in NYS?*

- ACCES-VR (Adult Continuing Career and Educational Services)
  - <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>
  - <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/vocational-rehabilitation-services>
  - <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/student-and-youth-transition-services>
  - <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/new-services-meet-wioa-requirements-vocational-rehabilitation>



## *What types of employment services are available in NYS?*

### ➤ NYS DOL (Department of Labor)

➤ <https://labor.ny.gov/career-center-locator/>

➤ <https://www.careerzone.ny.gov/views/careerzone/index.jsf>

➤ <https://www.jobzone.ny.gov/views/jobzone/guest.jsf>



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