



## The PA Employment Project “Employer Focused Employment”

*Employers Mentoring Employers to  
Increase Competitive Employment for  
People with Disabilities*

The Project is a statewide, multi-year initiative led by The Sierra Group Foundation to reduce the stigma and increase the hiring of Pennsylvanians with developmental and other disabilities!

The Project model objective is to enable employers to lead and mentor one another through sharing and learning, and through deliberate collaboration with VR and Community Service Provider job candidate representatives.

Facilitated by grantee, The Sierra Group Foundation. Funded by a grant from the PA Developmental Disabilities Council.

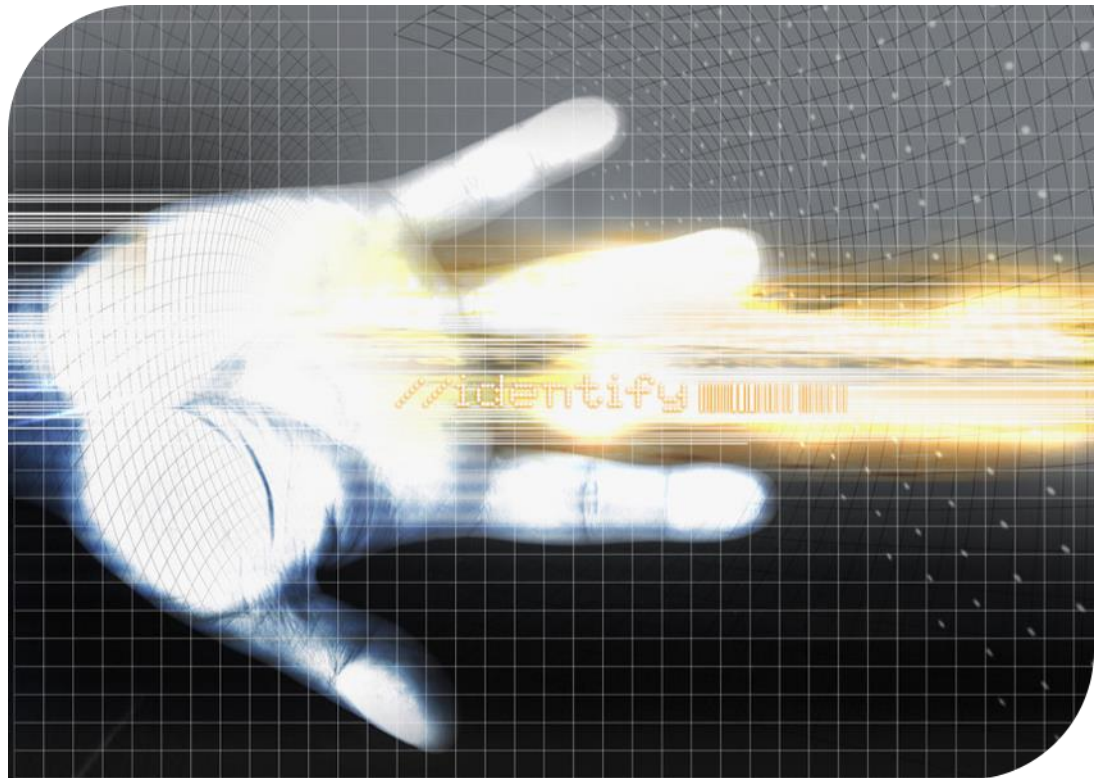


*Become a Business or Mentoring Project Partner today! Join our growing list of business partners, government agencies, Vocational Rehabilitation & community service providers.*

**COLLABORATE | See the issues from a different perspective | Get involved in PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING | Hear/Learn from ALL stakeholders | ASK QUESTIONS & GET ANSWERS**

Beneficial Bank  
Comcast  
CVS Caremark  
Empirical Consulting Solutions  
InspiriTec  
Jackson Lewis  
Liberty Resources, Inc.  
Lowe's Home Centers, Inc.  
Nobis Works  
Philadelphia Business Journal  
Studley, Savillis  
Temple University  
TEVA Pharmaceuticals  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals  
University of Pennsylvania  
Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan,  
Schaer, Toddy, P.C.

City of Philadelphia Mayor's Commission  
on Disabilities  
City of Philadelphia, Councilman Oh  
Job Accommodation Network (JAN)  
The Sierra Group Academy  
PA Business Leadership Network (BLN)  
PA OVR - Philadelphia District Office  
Philadelphia Employment Forum  
Typical Life Corporation (TLC)  
Governor's Advisory Committee for  
People with Disabilities  
Pennsylvania Department of Labor &  
Industry/Office of Vocational  
Rehabilitation (OVR)  
Montgomery County DD Office  
Rehabilitation & Community Providers  
Association (RCPA)



The mission of the PA Employment Project is to foster radical positive change in the employment of workers with developmental and other disabilities.

Using our longstanding and vast network of businesses who already value employees with disabilities as peer mentors we will work to eliminate the negative stigma, increase a business culture of welcoming diversity, and instill collaborative tools and relationships that will drive an increase in employment for Pennsylvanians with disabilities

Our Project Goals are to...

- Engage more than 20 exemplary employers to serve as peer mentors to others who recruit and hire
- Provide electronic access to project information to more than 15,000 PA employers
- Train 500 employer representatives, webinar attendance of 700, and 1200 viewers of the rebroadcasts of Employer Focused Employment sessions
- Drive up employment of people with disabilities in PA
- Train staff at Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Developmental Programs, and State Civil Service office

## Lucy's Story:

*"My name is Lucetta 'Lucy' Bradley. I was working at Wills Eye Hospital as a patient registrar when disability-related matters forced me out of the workforce. I felt like life was passing me by.*

*Then, I attended The Sierra Group Academy's 9-Month Accelerated Program where I learned skills to be a customer service representative. Today, I am thrilled to say I work for Comcast as a full-time Customer Service Traffic Coordinator.*

*Seeing businesses like Comcast recruit folks like me lets me know that people with disabilities are valued."*



**CONTACT US TODAY** to take part in our Employer Focused Trainings, be a peer mentor, benefit from mentoring, or participate in our web based training tools or special hiring events.

Contact Emily Coder, PA Employment Project lead at 888.492.2402 or [Emily.Coder@thesierragroupfoundation.org](mailto:Emily.Coder@thesierragroupfoundation.org)

*"I was educated about how and where to recruit people with disabilities from a peer at my company. I attended a 'hiring event' where I met 11 talented applicants*

*2 applicants got hired!*

## Susan's Story:

*"My Graduation from The Sierra Group Academy and success after being hired was the proudest day of my life!"*



*Susan shares that some of the classes were difficult, but she preserved and she also overcame her social shyness and learned how to speak up for herself in a professional setting. "Honestly I took on the challenge and was able to get out of my shell and be myself after years of insecurities and failures."*

*Being in the workforce has empowered the 'once shy' Susan to speak to others about how to achieve similar success!*

# The PA Employment Project will ... Be a catalyst for change at every available opportunity...



**BUILD** more workplace communities that ARE *inclusive* of employees with disabilities and provide a workplace culture that welcomes and embraces diversity.



**SHARE** knowledge and tools through expanded collaboration among Peer Mentor companies and Social Entrepreneurs from Vocational Agency job placement programs.



**CHANGE** societal attitudes & stigma by reaching significant numbers of business people who are not yet aware of the viability of people with disabilities as strong, diverse career participants.



**DISSEMINATE** training content, mentoring connections and our evolving Best Practices toolkit regarding employment and people with disabilities.



**ENSURE** increased access to job applicants and interns for hiring managers and recruiters in small, medium and large employer settings.

# PA Employment Project

This project is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PaDDC). The Sierra Group Foundation will be the facilitator and technical assistance expert for BUSINESSES to host trainings and provide peer-to-peer mentoring for their business partners across Pennsylvania.

For more information on the Pa Employment Project and how to be a partner of this statewide initiative, please contact Emily Coder or any of our Sierra Group Foundation representatives at:

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