

# Notification

# Improving Transition Outcomes Local Demonstration Projects

Iowa Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) is pleased to announce that three local demonstration projects responding to a Request for Proposal to Improve Transition Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities have been approved for funding. These local projects, funded through a grant supported by the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the U.S. Department of Labor, E-9-4-3-0093, will demonstrate methods to improve services for youths with disabilities so they can make a successful transition from public school to higher education and employment.

**PROJECTS**

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| * **Henry County Extension with the project area of Henry County**.   Specific activities in Henry County will include:   1. Consolidation and expansion of existing resource maps/guides; 2. Developing case studies built from the perspective of the youth so that significant barriers as well as effective supports to the transition process can be identified; 3. Developing written protocol charts to help youth with special needs identify which services and opportunities best suit their needs; 4. Recruiting and training community “advocates” to connect with youth; 5. Developing an interagency Memorandum of Agreement to support an Advisory Team that will strengthen communication structures and facilitate collaborative efforts. |
| * **Hope Haven, Inc. with the project area of West Sioux Community School District.**   The *Careers and Self Exploration* (CASE) curriculum, based on the principles of intensive psychiatric rehabilitation (IPR), will be used along with five key strategies of:   1. Juniors in the Resource Room at West Sioux High School will complete the CASE curriculum by May 30, 2006; 2. Participants will complete two individual job shadows and four work site visits; 3. Participants will work with the Chamber members to develop a business plan and successfully implement a coffee shop in Hawarden by September 2005; 4. Participants will be engaged in community and civic activities; 5. The community resource map will be utilized and expanded to meet the needs of students transitioning out of West Sioux High School. |
| * **Iowa Western Community College-WIA with the project area of the City of Council Bluffs.**   The goal of providing more opportunities for students to learn about the world of work was  identified through environmental scanning activities. Strategies include:   1. Establishing partnerships between businesses and 5 Council Bluffs area high schools; 2. Recruiting businesses to collaborate with the schools and offer employment–focused activities for students with disabilities, including e-mentoring, job shadowing, career education/exploration activities and work experience; 3. Connecting youth with disabilities with the Region 13 Disability Navigator and Benefits Planners in the Council Bluffs area. |