

Thinking Outside the Box Store

Customized Employment Training

Finding the Jobs Behind the Jobs

Thinking Outside the Box Store will challenge participants to think differently about barriers and opportunities to employment. It will explore how to meld job seeker needs with those of employers and highlight career opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities.

This training on customized employment looks at the need for expansive relationships with non-traditional partners and the role inventiveness plays in our daily work life. Customized employment strategies offer an entrepreneurial approach that often goes beyond traditional market-driven supported employment. Customized employment is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy because it works; the focus is on one person at a time, one business at a time.

Thinking Outside the Box Store includes classroom, field based training and technical assistance:

- Introduction to Customized Employment and the Discovery Process
- Customized Job Development and Negotiation
- Onsite Support and Training Strategies, Natural Supports and Systematic Instruction
- Introduction to Self-Employment, Business Planning, Feasibility Testing, Marketing and Sales Strategies
- Social Security Benefits Work Incentives, PASS Plan training and finding additional flexible funding sources.

Via of the Lehigh Valley, in partnership with Griffin-Hammis Associates, offers customized employment training and technical assistance for up to three regional areas in Pennsylvania from October 2011 to September 2012. This training is offered as part of the Employment Reform Resource Project funded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.

Organizations participating in **Thinking Outside the Box Store** will have the opportunity to access up to \$10,000 to support entrepreneurial job development. Learn more about customized employment, real life stories from across the state and the Employment Reform Resource Project at <http://griffinhammis.typepad.com/employmentreformproject/>.



This training is approved by ACRE & those who successfully complete this training will be awarded a nationally recognized CE Specialist Certification.

To request training in your area, contact the grant manager, Corey Smith at C.Smith@ViaNet.org or 484-893-5393.