



Enhancing the Ability of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Deliver Virtual Career Exploration Services, Including Healthcare Careers

Grantee: International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS)

Project Name: Virtual Career Exploration Gateway Project (Gateway Project)

City, State: Philadelphia, PA

Areas Served: IAJVS affiliates in 9 areas covering 8 states: Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; Louisville, KY; Minneapolis, MN; New Jersey; New York; Philadelphia, PA; and San Francisco, CA.

Populations Served: Ethnically diverse populations including immigrants and refugees; at-risk populations; low income persons; TANF recipients; persons with disabilities; youth aging out of the foster care system; ex-offenders; veterans; seniors; homeless individuals; and victims of domestic violence.

Amount: \$2,894,473

Key Partners: IAJVS affiliates including: JVS Boston, JVS Chicago, JVS Los Angeles, Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) Louisville KY, Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) Minneapolis, JEVS Human Services Philadelphia, JVS MetroWest New Jersey, F-E-G-S New York, and JVS San Francisco; WIBs from each community; more than 12 major healthcare employers and associations; other workforce system providers including community colleges, other training providers, Community- and Faith-Based Organizations; and iSeek Solutions.

Project Description: The *Gateway Project* will develop and implement strategies to expand the availability of computer "seat time" and Internet access for clients; improve customer's computer literacy and ability to navigate online resources; develop tools to help diverse job seekers better understand career exploration and planning and the virtual resources available to support these processes; and increase the capacity of workforce development staff to instruct clients in accessing online resources and become more effective career advisors. IAJVS will develop a protocol for teaching job seekers to access virtual resources and tools to investigate industries and occupations and to chart a course for their career preparation and/or advancement, including the development of a "Job Seeker's Guide to Conducting Online Career Exploration". IAJVS will also develop a training program to improve staff skills (IAJVS and partner staff) in assisting job seekers in using online career exploration and planning resources.

Projected Outcomes: Gateway Project outcomes will include: capacity building through increases in technology resources and staff development; train-the-trainer sessions for more than 200 local agencies; the adoption of the protocol/HVCP by these local agencies; training in the protocol/guide and HVCP and provision of other services to 50,000 clients served by affiliates; and use of the online guide by up to a million users.

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