

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Jewish Child & Family Services, JVS Chicago Awarded Employment First Grant

Chicago, Illinois – November 10, 2016 The State of Illinois' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) recently awarded Jewish Child & Family Services, in partnership with JVS Chicago, the Employment First grant— one of 11 agencies across the state to receive funding. This new grant will assist individuals with intellectual/development disabilities obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment within their community.

Jewish Child & Family Services, in partnership with JVS Chicago, offers employment assistance to individuals with disabilities and their families through the Customized Employment Program. JVS Chicago employment specialists work with individuals with I/DD to discover his or her abilities, interests and skills and match those with the specific needs of an employer through individualized plans— to help maximize job satisfaction and retention. Other services of the Customized Employment Program include free job-coaching, documentation assistance, and connections to residential options, social and recreational programming and other supportive services.

JVS Chicago is enrolling qualified candidates until November 30, 2016. The following are guidelines for eligible grant participants (must be 18 years or older):

- Interested in working a minimum of 12 hours a week in an integrated community employer setting
- Existing DD Waiver participants receiving Developmental Training or Group Supported Employment services
- New DD Waiver referrals including Ligas Class members
- Individuals on the PUNS list who have been selected to receive services
- Must not be currently working in individualized competitive integrated employment, not eligible even if they meet the above criteria

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To enroll in the Customized Employment Program, contact Nanette Cohen, Director, Individualized Employment Development for JVS Chicago at 312.673.3404 or NanetteCohen@jvschicago.org.

Jewish Child & Family Services offers people of all backgrounds assistance as they face challenges with life transitions, mental health, developmental/intellectual disability and basic human need. For access to help call 855.275.5237 (855.ASK.JCFS), email ask@jcfs.org or visit jcfs.org.

JVS Chicago serves more than 8,000 employees, employers and entrepreneurs annually with programs for adults, youth, seniors and people with disabilities, serving entry-level to advanced career job seekers, at locations across Metropolitan Chicago. For more information, call 855.463.6587 (855.INFO.JVS) or visit jvschicago.org

JVS Chicago is administered through an alliance agreement by Jewish Child & Family Services, a partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

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