

**KESSLER FOUNDATION PROGRAM CENTER
2008 Grants Awarded**

Signature Employment Grants

Allies Inc., (Hamilton, NJ) - To create the 'Career Gateway', a collaborative effort of Allies Inc. and four New Jersey Centers for Independent Living (CIL) based in northern, southern and central New Jersey, aimed at providing an employment program for at least 60 high school graduates with disabilities who have completed high school and are preparing for adult employment services: \$437,076

Bergen Community College, (Paramus, NJ) - To create the MOSAIC Center for Disability Employment for the tri-county Bergen-Hudson-Passaic region to (1) increase employment and career advancement opportunities for people dealing with disabilities and (2) increase private and public sector employer access to the economic and competitive advantages gained through employment of this special workforce: \$500,000

Hudson Community Enterprises, (Jersey City, NJ) - To develop a social enterprise business in digital mail services (Metro MMS) that will create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Hudson, Bergen, Essex and Passaic Counties: \$386,011

Meadowlink, (Rutherford, NJ) - To establish a single clearing house for transportation information in Paterson that incorporates the needs of the disabled population and provides integrated transportation services for 50 clients daily to access jobs primarily at Riverdale in Morris County and the Meadowlands in Bergen/Hudson County: \$385,000

National Organization on Disability, (Washington, DC) - To continue NEP's current programs, including Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Careers, Start on Success (SOS) and Building Bridges: \$420,000

The Washington Center for Internships & Academic Seminars, (Washington, DC) - To provide scholarships and program support for eleven students from New Jersey to attend the Public Service Internship Program for College Students with Disabilities, helping them gain work experience to transition into the workforce: \$107,445

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT GRANTS

Abilities Center of Southern New Jersey, Inc. (Westville, NJ) - To expand vocational evaluation services for community and school-to-career programs: \$20,000

Cheshire Home, Inc. (Florham Park, NJ) - To provide individually designed, vocationally based, computer instruction and transportation services to young adults with physical disabilities: \$33,000

Easter Seals New Jersey, Inc., East Brunswick, NJ - To extend follow-along services for individuals with disabilities in competitive employment beyond limits set by government funding: \$50,000

Employment Horizons, Inc. (Cedar Knolls, NJ) – To add a part-time Document Management Services (DMS) Training Technician for training in scanning for consumers and prepare the organization for DARM certification: \$50,000.

The Family Resource Network (Trenton, NJ) – To increase job retention to 85% for individuals with physical disabilities through consumer education, coordination of social insurance benefits, and job placement paired with follow-along employment services for one year: \$50,000

JESPY House, Inc. (South Orange, NJ) - To place individuals with learning and physical disabilities in job training and skill development enclaves at two senior citizen housing sites and two other community settings with the goal of transitioning to future competitive employment: \$46,506

Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County (Edison, NJ) - To expand supported employment services for individuals with traumatic brain injury and other disabilities, and add long-term follow along and business/employer education components: \$41,948

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Delaware Valley Chapter (Philadelphia, PA) - To support an employment position at the chapter to coordinate individual employment services, facilitate employment programs and expand 'Making MS Work', a networking group for professionals with multiple sclerosis: \$50,000

Northwest New Jersey Community Actions, Inc. (Phillipsburg, NJ) - To provide meaningful community employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities in an agri-business which will grow and sell hydroponic and organic produce to local wholesale, retail and online customers: \$48,162

Occupational Center of Union County, Inc. (Roselle, NJ) – To hire a full-time cashier training counselor to provide in-house training and job placement in community: \$44,000

Opportunity Project, Inc. (Millburn, NJ) - To assist adults with brain injury secure and retain gainful employment or volunteer positions based on their skills and abilities: \$50,000

Pathways for Exceptional Children (Montville, NJ) - To develop a pilot employment training program, including peer mentors, for teens and young adults with disabilities (ages 14-21 years): \$34,590

Vetnetwork, A Program of Vetgroup, Inc. (Forked River, NJ) - To expand employment services to veterans with disabilities by providing the necessary services to eliminate barriers and secure long-term employment: \$40,000

Windmill Alliance, Inc. (Bayonne, NJ) – To assess, train and place individuals with disabilities in employment to gain self-sufficiency: \$45,000

SPECIAL INITIATIVE GRANTS

Bergen Performing Arts Center (Englewood, NJ) - To improve the public spaces of the theater and add a 3-stop elevator and accessible restroom facilities so that the building is ADA compliant and available to all members of the community: \$20,000

County of Bergen (Hackensack, NJ) – To defray the costs of providing speakers and therapists presenting education programs to Post Stroke and Disabled Support Group Program in Bergen County: \$10,000.

Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey (Maplewood, NJ) – To help purchase of a van that will be used for the school's life training and job training program as well as school trips and any other transportation needs: \$20,000

First Occupational Center of New Jersey, (Orange, NJ) – To provide emergency funds after fire damage: \$5,000.

Montclair Rehabilitation Organization (Little Falls, NJ) – To provide funds to transport individuals with disabilities to medical appointments: \$15,000

New Jersey Connect, Inc. (Westfield, NJ) – To underwrite pre-construction costs necessary towards renovating a vacant convent to provide 12 barrier-free apartments for people with physical disabilities: \$25,000

Newark Museum Association, (Newark, NJ) - To provide programming for two annual Arts Enrichment & Science Education Days for 1,000 children with disabilities and 2 workshops for 50 special education teachers: \$20,000

North Jersey Navigators, Inc. (Bayonne, NJ) - To help defray the expenses related to the 2008 National Junior Disability Championship games; including registration fees, uniforms, transportation, lodging and meals, and/or purchase of new adaptive sports equipment that the team needs to compete: \$20,000

St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, (Paterson, NJ) – To fund the International Behavioral Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Symposium, a gathering of international experts developing a detailed report for the US Congress, as well as a budget for funds to be allocated for brain injury research and treatment: \$15,000

Village Resources, Inc. (Ewing, NJ) - To provide under-employed people with disabilities personalized career planning and work skill development to enhance employability and promote their careers: \$10,000

Wheelchair Sports USA (St. Peters, MO) - To fund the travel and living expenses of 12 elite high school wheelchair athletes to the 2008 Glenn D. Loucks Games in White Plains, NY: \$6,900