



## **AHEDD's Community Relationships and Sponsors**

AHEDD is committed to serving the community as a catalyst in the employment and development of persons with disabilities and frequently collaborates with various organizations in carrying out this mission. Our partners consist of organizations and individuals that can help with: agency funding; referrals of program participants; training for our staff; guidance for AHEDD's operational needs; job opportunities; and/or much more.

Our services to people with disabilities are often sponsored by public resources at the federal, state, and local levels. Currently, these funders include: the Vocational Rehabilitation agencies of both PA and DE; the Social Security Administration; the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services; PA Department of Public Welfare (county level administration through the funds available from the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS); and the Division of Developmental Disabilities Service (DDDS) in DE.

Today, we also partner with several transition councils and have had over 50 direct agreements with both public and private schools to provide and/or supplement the transition services that the educational system is mandated to deliver. We routinely partner with foundations to receive grants and welcome donations from employers and individual supporters. When a third party funder is not available or has eligibility requirements that do not meet the need of an employer and/or individual, we can also arrange for private pay situations.

In order to strengthen our connections to the business community and understand the needs and challenges of today's workplace, various staff at AHEDD participate in functions for business organizations. Specifically, many of our employees attend events hosted by such business minded groups as chambers of commerce, local affiliates of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and manufacturing organizations. Our geographic reach and role in administering the PA Business Leadership Network has really expanded AHEDD's connection to business and has often helped us to leverage expertise that we need for individual services and our support of employers.

While direct service is our main focus, AHEDD's interest in acting as a "catalyst" has driven key representatives to remain actively involved in the discussion of industry challenges, best practices, policy updates, and legislative changes. Our key management team is involved in such groups as : advisory committees for the Employment First Initiative at both the state level (PA DPW) and county level ; the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Association (an industry trade association); PA's Statewide Transition Team; Cumberland/Perry's marketing efforts to promote employment as a part of recovery for those with a mental illness; the Rehabilitation Advisory Board for Penn State's Department of Counselor Education; the Advisory Council for the Pennsylvania Initiative for Assistive Technology (PIAT) out of Temple University; and many others.

AHEDD is a specialized human resource organization with a mission to serve the community as a catalyst in the employment and development of people with disabilities.. AHEDD provides community employment services through a network of field offices throughout Pennsylvania. For further information about AHEDD's Community Relationships and Sponsors, contact AHEDD at 1-866-902-4333 or [inforequest@ahedd.org](mailto:inforequest@ahedd.org) .