**II. Purpose of Technical Assistance Award**

The purpose of this initiative is to improve the employment outcomes of transitioning students with disabilities with complex needs by providing customized training and technical assistance to local teams. These teams will consist of, at a minimum representative from each of these entities:

* intermediate school district;
* district level administrator participation;
* appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (MRS and/or BSBP);
* Regional Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) or Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) organization; and
* local/county level community rehabilitation program (CRP)

It is strongly recommended to include a family organization such as Michigan Alliance for Families.

Additional team members may also include representatives from the local Michigan Works! Agency, business organizations, self-advocacy groups, and youth leaders.

Up to four teams will be selected to participate in the expansion of the model. The selected teams will:

1. Receive guidance on changes in practice that may result in better-coordinated transition supports to youth and young adults with complex needs.

2. Implement a school-to-work transition model (Flow of Service) at the county/district/local level throughout academic year 2019-2020.

3. Receive intensive support during the initial year to assist with establishing the model.

4. Implement the model using the fidelity checklist to ensure long-term sustainability.

Teams will receive intensive technical assistance and training that is tailored to meet the needs of their local county/districts, partners and community that will include:

* Assessment, Resource Mapping, and Strategic Planning.
* Facilitation of planning to implement/strengthen a seamless transition model.
* Skill building for staff to utilize customized and person-centered approaches to discovery (assessment, positive personal profile, career and life planning, work-based experiences), family engagement, job development, job coaching, and workplace supports that lead to and support ongoing competitive integrated employment.
* Community partner relationship building and/or strengthening.
* Peer mentoring, resource materials, and access to other related trainings provided by national subject matter experts associated with the national Employment First State Leadership Mentor Program of ODEP.