



Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity



OPENING DOORS

Break down barriers to accessing job-driven training and hiring for any American who is willing to work, including access to supportive services and relevant guidance. In order for training programs to work, they need to be accessible for the people who need them most. Job-driven training programs should provide needed supportive services such as transportation, child care, and financial and benefits counseling. Programs also should provide accommodations for persons with disabilities (including supported employment services where needed) in order to allow all individuals to benefit from these opportunities.

Breaking Down Barriers in Albany

LaDasia, a single mother with two sons under the age of two, wanted to find training so that she could stop relying on TANF and become financially independent. She enrolled in a certified nursing assistant program at the Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP), a partner to an HPOG grantee. ACAP has provided intensive case management throughout her participation in the program. During the training, LaDasia's mother was incarcerated and LaDasia needed help to maintain her public assistance and transportation for getting her children to child care. After completing training, ACAP helped her obtain her driver's license and secure full-time employment. LaDasia reached her six-month job retention milestone, but it was not easy. A few months in, her son was diagnosed with autism and she had to juggle his therapy with her job. LaDasia has persisted and has been invited back by the program to share her experiences with others, encouraging them to press on even when the going gets tough.

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July 2014

