



New York **Makes Work Pay**

Developing a path to employment for New Yorkers with disabilities

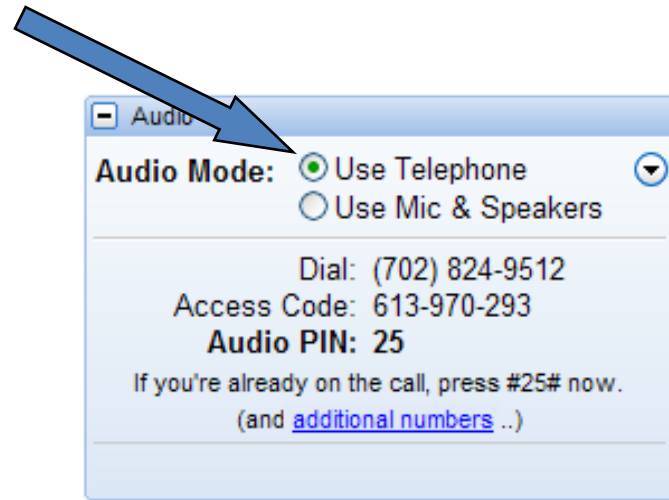
New York Makes Work Pay

Overview of New York State's Comprehensive Employment System and the Work Incentives Information Network

New York Makes Work Pay is a Comprehensive Employment System Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (Contract No. #1QACMS030318) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services to the Office of Mental Health on behalf of New York State. It is a joint effort of the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University and the Employment and Disability Institute at Cornell University with the collaborative support of the Employment Committee of the New York State Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council to remove barriers to employment and develop pathways to work for New Yorkers with disabilities.

The screenshot shows a GoToWebinar application window with a menu bar (File, View, Help) and standard window controls. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Audio Section:** Features a vertical toolbar on the left with icons for back, forward, mute, and unmute. The main area shows "Audio Mode" with two radio buttons: "Use Telephone" (unselected) and "Use Mic & Speakers" (selected). Below this is a "MUTED" status indicator with a speaker icon and a volume level bar. A blue arrow points to the "Use Mic & Speakers" radio button.
- Questions Section:** Contains a "Questions Log" with a scrollable list of questions and answers. The current question is "Q: Is there a volume discount?" and the answer is "A: Yes! We will send you more info after the event." Below the log is a text input field containing the word "Yes" and a "Send" button. A blue arrow points to the text input field.
- Footer Section:** Displays "Webinar Now" and "Webinar ID: 731-938-951" above the "GoToWebinar™" logo. A blue arrow points to the window's title bar and control buttons.



Introduction

- Medicaid Infrastructure Grants (MIG)
 - Authorized under Section 203 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act through 2010
 - Administered by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) within Health and Human Services
 - Two types of grants
 - Basic Infrastructure Grant (Buy-In Program)
 - **Comprehensive Employment System**
 - Purpose is to support people with disabilities in securing and sustaining competitive employment in integrated settings

Our Goal in New York State

REDUCING THE EMPLOYMENT GAP

“All people can work. New York State, in partnership with the whole community, will exercise leadership to advance prospects for employment and economic self-sufficiency of all individuals with disabilities. Resources will be directed or redirected to realize this vision of integrated competitive employment. Individuals with disabilities will have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the economic vitality of the workforce. Employers will view individuals with disabilities as valued employees in their recruitment and hiring efforts.”

CES MIG Partners

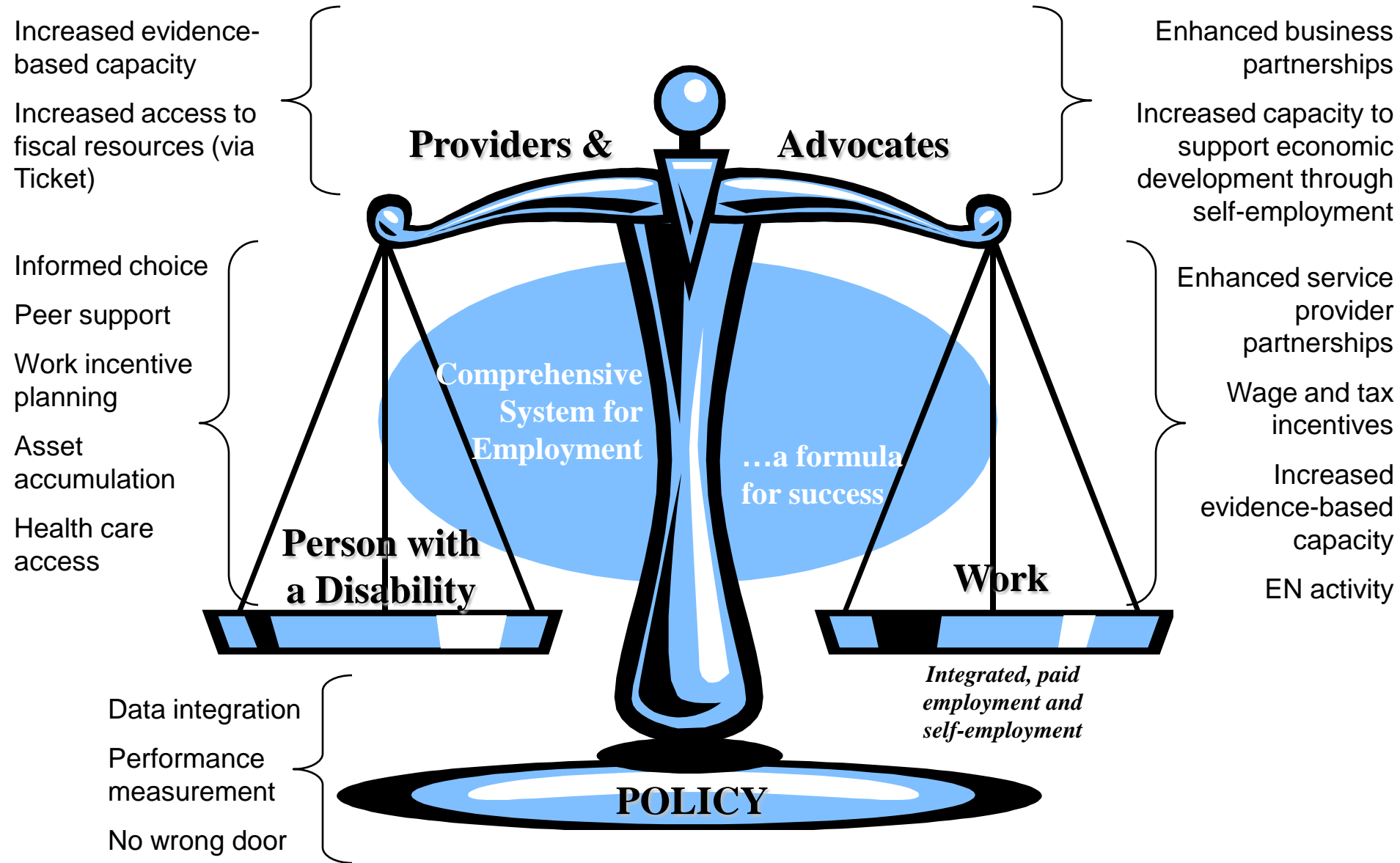
- New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)
- Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene (RFMH)
- New York State Department of Health (DOH)
- Governor's Office
- MISCC Employment Subcommittee
- Syracuse University's Burton Blatt Institute (BBI)
- Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute (EDI)

New York Makes Work Pay Goals

- **GOAL 1: Develop and implement a statewide employment and economic development strategic planning effort incorporating all employment stakeholders and increasing the number of New Yorkers with disabilities who will go to work, maintain employment and advance their self-sufficiency**
- **GOAL 2: Build partnerships among employment stakeholders to align disability services, workforce and economic development efforts**
- **GOAL 3: Enhance the capacity of employers and employment services providers to improve employment outcomes for people with diverse disabilities using evidenced-based and promising employment and practices**
- **GOAL 4: Facilitate a comprehensive dialogue and set of actions to identify and address policy, practice and economic barriers to work and self-sufficiency for New Yorkers with disabilities**

Goals continued...

- **GOAL 5: Increase work incentive utilization by reinforcing and enhancing provision of comprehensive benefits and work incentives planning**
- **GOAL 6: Alleviate chronic poverty by linking employment at livable wages with asset accumulation tools and strategies**
- **GOAL 7: Increase access to healthcare through the MBI-WPD Program**
- **GOAL 8: Expand informed choice and decision-making for people with disabilities facing multiple barriers to employment through expanded opportunities for education, skills development, and economic empowerment**
- **GOAL 9: Develop and expand customized and entrepreneurial approaches to employment as a vehicle for increasing the State's labor force through inclusion of New Yorkers with disabilities**



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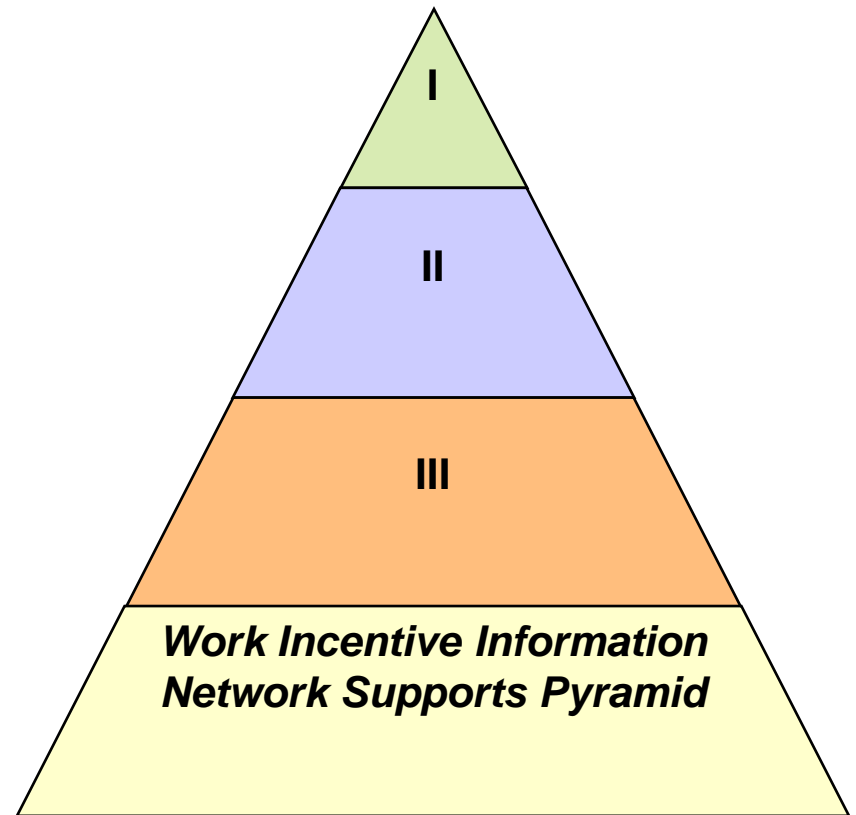
The Work Incentives Information Network

WIIN Goals

- Develop 100 new credentialed practitioners
- Equip a cadre of 500 work incentive information and referral practitioners
- Provide general awareness and education to the public on return-to-work issues
- Align work incentives planning and assistance services and supports across systems
- Develop standards and competencies for the field
- Support asset development and accumulation
- Link beneficiaries to other critical employment supports
- Increase work incentive utilization statewide

WIIN

- I – Comprehensive and Long-Term Benefits and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance
- II – Basic and Short-Term Benefits Planning Services and Supports
- III – General Benefits and Work Incentives Information and Referral



Level III

- Practitioners provide general information and referral on work incentives issues as part of their existing job
- Typically spend less than 15% of their time conducting this type of work
- Practitioners will be able to access toll free technical assistance and participate in supplemental distance learning events
- Primarily will assist beneficiaries in navigating return to work and make active referrals to Level I and II practitioners when that level of support are provided

Level II

- Practitioners provide general information and referral and short-term basic work incentives planning as part of their existing job
- Typically spend 16-35% of their time conducting this type of work
- Practitioners will be required to participate in a two day work incentive seminar and be able to access toll free technical assistance and supplemental distance learning events
- Primarily will assist beneficiaries in navigating return to work and make active referrals to Level I when that level of support is needed

Level I

- Practitioners provide comprehensive array of work incentives planning and assistance services
- Typically spend more than 35% of their time conducting this type of work
- Practitioners must be credentialed, completing a rigorous nationally-recognized course of study inclusive of a minimum of a practicum experience
- Practitioners will also be able to access toll free technical assistance support as well as participate in supplemental distance learning events

WIIN Services and Supports

- Certificate Program in Benefits and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance
 - Core competency-based, five-day program for Level I
 - Required credentialing process
 - Mandatory proficiency assessment
 - For new practitioners, time-limited supervised field experience
 - For seasoned practitioners, continuing education requirement
 - Data tracking/monthly reporting of activity and impact
 - Targeting a 100 new credentialed practitioners per year
 - Existing WIPA/CWIC personnel will be grandfathered in
 - Training events (three per year) will be conducted in various locations throughout NYS (NYC, Ithaca & Buffalo)
 - Content will cover all disability/public entitlement programs

- Work Incentive Information Network Seminar
 - Required two-day training event for Level II
 - Seven sessions to be conducted regionally throughout NYS (NYC and Long Island scheduled)
 - Provide a comprehensive introduction to SSA's disability, return to work and work incentive programs
 - Data track/monthly reporting of activity and impact

- Supplemental Distance Learning Events
 - 90 minute webinar/webcasts
 - Offered on a regular basis with no registration cap
 - minimum of a monthly events beginning 7/09
 - Communities of practice on the MBI-WPD, PASS and Employment Networks will be developed
 - Programs will qualify for continuing education requirements for Level I practitioners

- Toll Free Technical Support
 - 1-888-224-3272
 - Accessible to all WIIN practitioners
 - Available through a collaboration between Cornell and Neighborhood Legal Services
 - 24/7 access
 - Spanish/English
 - TTY accessible

- Organizational Development Support
 - BeneQUAL – online organizational assessment tool to increase quality and fidelity of benefits and work incentives planning and assistance services
 - <http://www.beneQUAL.org>
 - Organizations providing the comprehensive array of services will be able to access this tool and ongoing technical assistance



Application Tips

- Complete the entire application
- Clearly identify what level of membership you are interested in – confirm available FTE
- Provide a letter of commitment from your organization which documents availability of resources to support your membership
- Attempt to qualify/quantify the impact you anticipate being able to have in your capacity

Forward Applications To...

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Questions / Answers

New York Makes Work Pay

Partnering Organizations



Cornell University
ILR School
Employment and Disability Institute

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