

# Direct Connection



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## Jerome's Story

Submitted by: LOQW

Jerome Jackson is a recent graduate of Macon County R-1 High School, an alumnus of the Learning Opportunities Quality Works (LOQW) Youth Exploration for Success (YES) summer youth programs, and the high school work experience program in Macon, Missouri. Through his two-year experience with the high school work experience program, Jerome was able to work at Loch Haven nursing home while earning credits towards graduation. Jerome gained valuable skills and confidence in his ability to be successful.



Two months before Jerome graduated, Loch Haven hired him as a permanent employee to work in dietary and housekeeping. He received individualized supports on the job through his support coach. Jerome now independently works three days a week and completes tasks such as preparing food, serving meals, and keeping the building looking sharp.

Jerome is the epitome of a great employee. He is focused, friendly, and welcoming. He enjoys his job and loves visiting with the residents. He has strong family support and the support of an extended network to help him along his journey of transitioning from high school to adulthood.

Thanks to his job, budgeting, and strong work ethic, Jerome has saved enough money to purchase his first car. Now, he looks forward to achieving his next goal of obtaining his driver's license.

All of this was made possible by great partnerships between LOQW, County Connections, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Kirksville Area Regional Office.

*The harder you work, the luckier you get.*  
-Gary Player

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CONNECTING WITH THE  
DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

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Disabilities

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## Missouri Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program

Since 2015, the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has provided the Department of Mental Health with technical support for enhancing employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. A critical priority for ODEP is to invest in state systems change efforts that result in increased community-based and integrated employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities. ODEP recognizes that many states desire to align their efforts to support individuals with disabilities toward an Employment First approach but may not yet possess the capacity, experience, or technical resources necessary to lead and facilitate such change.

Past activities have resulted in an analysis report on overcoming current system barriers; the development of an Employment First Memorandum of Understanding between the Division and five other state agencies; and the creation of training videos.

This year, Missouri will be partnering with Griffin Hammis Associates to conduct two professional development webinar events focused on: 1) Balancing earned income while receiving public benefits and 2) Best practices in customized employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition to the technical assistance, any Missouri professional is able to participate in the monthly national ODEP Community of Practice calls. More information is available by contacting Duane Sumate, Director of Employment, at [duane.shumate@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:duane.shumate@dmh.mo.gov).

## Building Skills and Opportunities

As part of the Division of Developmental Disabilities [Empowering Through Employment Initiative](#), a new relationship has been formed with the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) located at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. David Hoff, Program Manager and national subject matter expert at ICI, will serve as the director of this program.

ICI has also hired two Training Associates (Nicholas Holz and Jessica Keenoy) to support Missouri's statewide implementation of national best practice supported employment, customized employment, business engagement, and provider transformation.

The primary role of ICI is to work directly with Missouri's contracted providers on program development, service delivery, staff development, and technical assistance to increase the number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities employed in community businesses.

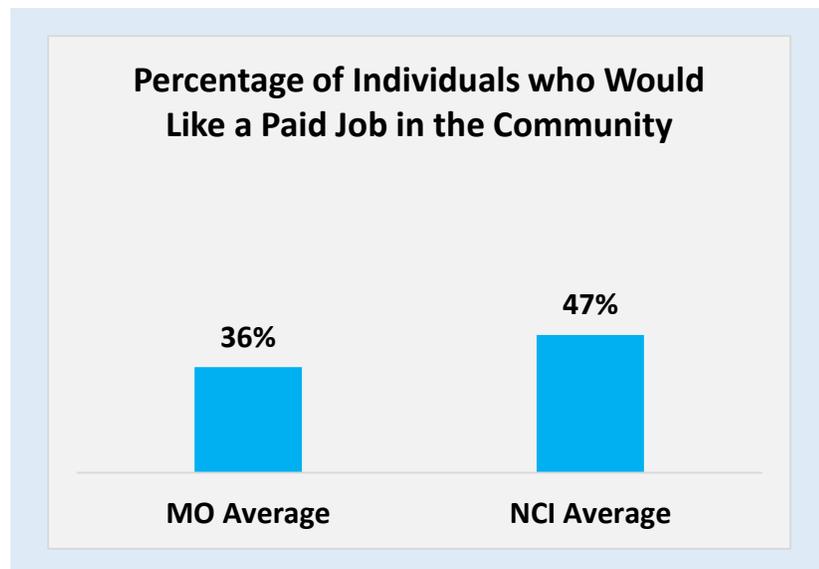
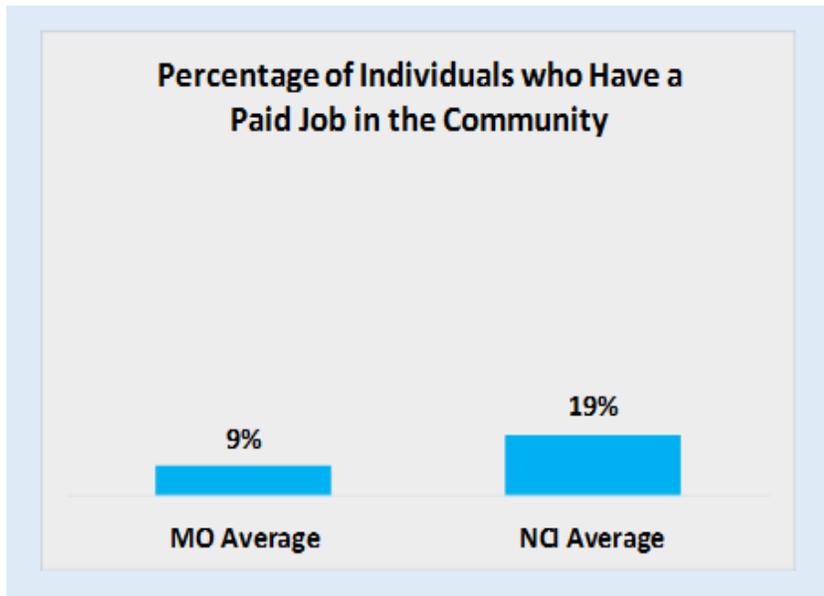
## MO ABLE One Year Anniversary

April 25<sup>th</sup> marked the one year anniversary of the launch of the tax-free savings account known as the Missouri Achieving a Better Life Experience (MO ABLE) program. MO ABLE empowers certain individuals with disabilities and their families to save money without the risk of losing needed public benefits such as Medicaid or Social Security. Similar to 401(k) retirement accounts or college savings accounts, investments are not subject to federal income tax as long as the accounts are used for qualified disability expenses. To open an account or to learn more about MO ABLE, visit the Missouri State Treasurer website at [moable.com](http://moable.com).





# Data from the National Core Indicators (NCI)



Source: [Adult Consumer Survey 2015-16 Final Report](#)

The graphs above show the percentage of individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities who have a paid job in the community and the percentage who would like to have a paid job in the community, in Missouri as compared to individuals in other states that participate in the NCI program.

## Beyond Training: Engaging Families in the Transition to Employment

Families can be the most influential factor in successful employment and life planning for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Yet families often lack the knowledge to move employment from an abstract belief to a real job.

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Advancing Employment for Individuals with I/DD, a project of ThinkWork through the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, offers a brief to share key findings from research conducted around family engagement and preparation for employment for transition age youth with I/DD.

To review the brief and read through the recommendations made to improve engagement with families, please visit: [https://www.thinkwork.org/sites/thinkwork.org/files/files/RRTC\\_brief12\\_F2.pdf](https://www.thinkwork.org/sites/thinkwork.org/files/files/RRTC_brief12_F2.pdf)





# Oral Health and Dental Services

According to the American Dental Association, dental visits are important to prevent diseases such as cavities, gingivitis, and periodontal disease, and visits should be tailored to each person's individual needs. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in 2017 cited reasons for not accessing dental care as high cost of care, inadequate or no insurance coverage, lack of culturally competent care, and lack of available services.

## Access to Dental Services in Missouri (From National Core Indicators Survey Data)

- Based on data from 2016-2017 NCI Family surveys, 61% of adults who receive services and 72% of children who receive services are reported to *always* have access to dental services.
- Of individuals that participated in the 2015-2016 Adult Consumer Survey (age 18+ and receive at least one authorized service in addition to case management), 51% of Missouri participants had received a dental exam in the last six months, while 35% had received a dental exam in the past year.

National Core Indicators (NCI) is a voluntary effort by state developmental disability agencies to measure and track their own performance. More information is available at: <https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/>

Adults receiving Medicaid are provided with a benefit package that covers preventative dental services as well as some oral surgery services. Dental services not covered through the benefit package may be covered through a physician's referral letter stating that, without dental treatment, the participant's health will be negatively affected. Providers should contact the MO HealthNet Provider Communications Unit at (573) 751-2896 if they are in need of assistance regarding coverage for dental services that are a medical necessity.

Information regarding dental service coverage through MO HealthNet can be found at: [https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pdf/hndbk\\_ffs.pdf](https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pdf/hndbk_ffs.pdf)

MO HealthNet Fee-For-Service (Medicaid) participants can find a doctor by using the MO HealthNet Provider Search online at <https://apps.dss.mo.gov/fmsMedicaidProviderSearch> or by directly contacting the Participant Services Unit at 1-800-392-2161.

*The most basic question is not what is best, but who shall decide what is best.*

-Thomas Sowell



# Community Calendar

**May 21 - 22, 2018** – 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Missouri

More information is available by calling 314-647-8100 or at: <http://agingwithbdd.org/>

**June 19, 2018** – Save the Date – 2018 Missouri Mental Health Champions Banquet, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, Missouri

More information is available at: [http://www.missourimhf.org/?page\\_id=353](http://www.missourimhf.org/?page_id=353)

**June 25 - 28, 2018** – National American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency at the Arch Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

More information is available at: [http://aaid.org/education/annual-conference#\\_WXPXAFjovcs](http://aaid.org/education/annual-conference#_WXPXAFjovcs)

**July 24 - 26, 2018** – Missouri Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference, Marriott Courtyard, Columbia, Missouri

More information will be available at: [www.apsemo.org/events.html](http://www.apsemo.org/events.html)

**August 19- 21, 2018** – Real Voices – Real Choices Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort & Conference Center, Osage Beach, Missouri

More information is available at: [http://www.missourimhf.org/?page\\_id=1828](http://www.missourimhf.org/?page_id=1828)

**September 7 - 8, 2018** – The National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals Annual Meeting and Conference, St. Louis, Missouri

More information is available at: <https://nadsp.org/annual-conference/>

MISSOURI DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES



Improving lives THROUGH  
supports and services  
THAT FOSTER self-determination.

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DEVELOPMENTAL  
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