

## New York Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (NY SCION) Year One Narrative Progress Report Abstract

Funding was announced in October 2021. The NY SCION pilot project funding began on January 1, 2022 and will end on December 31, 2026. At the time of this report writing (February 2023), 25 Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) are participating, each with their own DRC, serving 42 counties across NYS. It is projected that by the end of year two, four additional DRCs will be hired, bringing total coverage in NYS to 29 DRCs serving 44 counties.

The data summary reflects the first six-months of pilot activity.

NY SCION Spending Updates		\$
Total original funding over a three-year period:	\$	<b>11,100,000.00</b>
Accrued expenditures through 10/31/2022:	\$	<b>1,338,238.75</b>
NY SCION Outcomes		#
Number of adults with disabilities (ages 18+) served		<b>4,967</b>
Number of adults with disabilities receiving core and intensive services		<b>3,922</b>
Number of adults with disabilities entering Career Pathways training		<b>93</b>
Number of adults with disabilities completing Career Pathways training		<b>34</b>
Number of adults receiving an industry-recognized /post-secondary certificate		<b>77</b>
Number of adults with disabilities entering unsubsidized employment		<b>943</b>
Retention rate (180 days+)		-
Participants who received work experience under the WIOA Participation Period		<b>56</b>
Number of participants that received direct/indirect services from DRCs (NY SCION OSOS tab)		<b>414</b>
Core Indicators of Performance		
Employment Rate (Q2 & Q4)		
Median Earnings (Q2)		
<i>(Insufficient OSOS data to populate the two fields above.)</i>		
Credential		
Denominator	Numerator	Rate
97	62	<b>63.92%</b>

*Please note the data in the fields above only includes the 25 areas that were able to participate in NY SCION implementation.*

### NY SCION Activities Summary

#### Initial Implementation:

- LWDBs spent the initial months of the project (January 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022) addressing state and local procurement and hiring requirements.
- Some DRCs were onboarded as late as July 1, 2022, per the above bullet.
- Three areas advised that far too many local administrative challenges exist to fully and effectively participate in this project.

- Five areas received funding but encountered administrative challenges and have not yet hired or procured the services of a DRC.
  - As of January 2023, two of these areas have decided to opt out, as they expect administrative challenges to continue well into 2023.
  - The remaining three areas have advised that they still intend to hire/procure the services of a DRC once administrative delays are resolved.
- Six areas have encountered DRC turnover due to a variety of factors including promotion and transfer.
  - Two areas recently lost their DRCs due to resignation and are in the process of considering whether they will be able to continue with the project given the administrative challenges they will face in replacing them.

### **Training:**

- A five-week NY SCION DRC Training series – SPT and the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center) Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Program and DRCs from **CDO** and **Hempstead**.
- Reasonable Accommodations and Disability Rights in School and Work – Justice Center TRAID program as well as AIM Independent Living Center.
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) Workforce Issues – JenTex Training.
- Ticket to Work and NY SCION Office Hours – Central office staff and state-level partners.
- One-on-one/group calls to offer ongoing support, resources, and technical assistance.

### **Pilot Site Activity**

- DRCs engaged with over 400 businesses between county chambers of commerce meetings, job fairs, resource fairs, and other specialized events.
- All DRCs are certified, or are in the process of becoming certified, benefits advisors/work incentive counselors, to provide said services to Social Security Disability beneficiaries.
- Bi-Monthly Project Council meetings are coordinated by the Hempstead/Long Beach DRC and LWDB. This continues to be an ideal venue for collaboration and information dissemination. Roughly 30 participants attend each meeting.
- DRCs have formed a collaborative DRC Connections Virtual Group, an information-sharing and resource group comprised of DRCs that cover 18 counties.
- DRCs organized a training of their own, contracting with Niagara University’s Disability Awareness trainer, David Whalen. Over 60 people attended, representing a wide array of agencies including the NYS Education Department’s Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), QUESTAR, The Justice Center, and NYS DOL. DRCs representing 13 LWDBs also participated.
- LWDBs have implemented staff training on topics including disability etiquette; the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reasonable accommodations; programmatic and digital accessibility, and strategies to effectively serve individuals with disabilities. LWDBs are also in the process of providing similar training and information sessions for business.

- All LWDBs have been tasked to create a sustainability plan to develop long-term goals and strategies to continue the NY SCION activities and partnerships.
- Included in the full report are activities related to partnership development, general outreach, business and community engagement, local workgroups and steering committee meetings, creating accessible career pathways, and building Career Center Staff capacity.
- Special Populations Disability Unit (SPDU) has been collecting NY SCION success stories and have highlighted those stories in the full report, and on the following page.

## NY SCION Year One Report Supplement – Customer Success Stories

Ongoing collaboration facilitated by DRC Jones and **Orange** with Pathstone, a community resource and senior employment program, resulted in two new Ticket to Work (TTW) assignments for the Orange EN. The two new ticket holders also secured full-time employment.

DRC Patterson and **Niagara** supported interdepartmental collaboration, resulting in a customer receiving mobility training, job search assistance, and transportation assistance. The customer recently started part-time employment and is receiving supportive services from the Niagara Youth program.

DRC Clothier-Johnson and **St. Lawrence** collaborated with St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES to assist two customers with disabilities to enroll in GED preparation classes as the first step toward gainful employment. Ongoing collaboration with the local department of social services employment unit has resulted in two people becoming employed.

DRC Banas and the **Capital Region** supported a customer with a disability that began working at St. Peter's Hospital in October. The customer receives collaborative support from DRC Banas; SPARC Rotterdam, an outpatient substance abuse treatment program; and ACCES-VR for American Sign Language interpreter services. The customer is participating in a WIOA-funded training in phlebotomy. DRC Banas is working with the customer and family members to establish an ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account in order to continue to provide housing support.

DRC Thomason and **Ulster** facilitated an Integrated Resource Team (IRT) that resulted in a customer learning to use local paratransit to support their employment goals. The customer has successfully secured and maintained part-time employment at a local Walmart.

DRC Blessing Whitsell and **Cattaraugus-Allegany** supported a customer with a disability to obtain their commercial driver's license and secure employment. As a result of this success, the customer plans to enroll at the local community college.

DRC DeAngelo and **CDO** collaborated with the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce to establish a paid work experience for a customer with a disability. As a result of the customer's success in the paid work experience, the chamber is exploring opportunities to hire them.

Through an IRT, DRC Barclay and **Yonkers** supported a customer that was seeking part-time employment. A partnership was established with Inclusive Links, a non-profit corporation that provides respite care and Medicaid service coordination for individuals with developmental disabilities. The customer needed job readiness training and service coordination. As a result of information and support provided by DRC Barclay and Inclusive Links, the customer is working part time at DeCicco & Sons, a local grocery store.

DRC McDonald and **CNY Works** supported a customer to convene an IRT. The goal of the IRT was to explore available employment placements and to secure needed job coach supports. Outcomes from the IRT included coordinating job coaching support and facilitating part-time employment placement as a housekeeper at a local hotel.