

IL-NET

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Youth Transition: The Growing Role of Centers for Independent Living

Avenues for Broadening the Funding and Reach of IL Services to Youth and Young Adults (Part 2)

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Innovative Funding and Partnerships

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Innovative Funding and Partnerships, cont'd.



- Always look for opportunities.
- It all comes down to relationships – take every opportunity, be persistent, and be respectful!
- Make your success known!

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Businesses



- Look for businesses where you could run programming (work experiences, job shadowing).
- Look for sponsorships.
- Seek donations – financial, in kind, space for events.
- Recruit volunteers for events.
- Provide education and sensitivity training to businesses.
- Many businesses also provide seminars and education to groups.
- Provide awards to businesses “who get it.”
- Get business owners on your board.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Other Non-Profits or Groups



- This should be happening as part of I&R.
- Partner with events - conference, transition fair.
- Partner with programming – sharing, funding.
- Some provide information and referral, or workshops about different IL skills.
- Advocacy groups – who might refer consumers to you?
- Partner with Youth Groups, Transition Councils, Employment Coalitions.
- Create a group that is working on common transition-related goals, others who have social or financial capital.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Vocational Rehabilitation



- Seek funding.
- Partner on programs.
- Partner on events.
- Set programs with set rates.
- Develop MOUs.
- CILs and Vocational Rehab should complement and supplement each other – share consumers.
- Work with other organizations/agencies who must also serve youth.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Schools



- Give presentations – HYTAL, CIL history and services.
- Find a “ champion” who totally gets what a CIL is.
- Recruit teachers / administrators on your board.
- Create programs for partnerships– Transition house.
- Gain social capital: know teachers and administrators, go into classrooms to speak, and build a reputation – get to know parents and young adults.
- Link your services to research– educators are all about best practice.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Department of Education



- Your states IDEA Advisory Council (Federal membership requirements—PWDs and parents)
- Education-based groups
- Transition-related groups
- Events or activities to partner on
- IL education
- Link your services to research.
- Partner to develop a statewide transition event.
- Network with the IDEA office!

Innovative Funding and Relationships: County and Other Funding



- Partner on events and activities.
- Investigate funding options for various services.
- Look at waiver programs.
- Apply to United Way.
- Apply to foundations.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Service Clubs



- Financial support, options to get the word out, partner with businesses.
- Speak at and/or join Rotary, Sertoma, Lions Club.
- Investigate other “nontraditional” entities.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Legislators



- Discuss ideas for funding.
- Point out how they can support their constituents.
- Invite them to events.
- Consumers learn about advocacy - #iwanttowork
#HireMeSC
- Youth Leadership Forum visits with legislators.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Post-Secondary



- Numerous programs popping up that are post-secondary related.
- Interns – natural peer support – can get a lot of work out of an intern, and they often make good staff!
- Special education / rehabilitation professors on your board.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Internally or With Other Close CILs



- Consumers can conceivably use numerous CIL supports and programs.
- A one-stop shop.
- Can you partner with a CIL that is close to you?
- Create a CIL-focused youth program where all of your state's CILs work together.
- Include youth activities in the SPIL.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Grants



- Business and corporations – for sponsorships, donations (Foundations)
- Legislators
- All have certain specifications and deliverables to meet, many limited in amount of time, sustainability.
- DD Council, I&E – VR, Dept. of Education, United Way
- Great place to start – have a good writer and a good fiscal person!

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Fundraising



- So many options for fundraising – ways to involve young adults and parents where skills can be learned.
 - LVCIL/Able SC Gala
 - Flapjack fundraiser
 - Treats2love
 - Lottery calendar
 - T-shirt sales
- Have young adults be involved in the asking.
- Helps to have a Major Gifts Officer.

Innovative Funding and Relationships: Tips



- What's the plan?
- Each funder is different: contracts, expectations, deliverables, reporting, etc.
- Partners, partners, partners!!
- Setting rates for fees-for-service can be tough. Having good fiscal support helps.
- Relationships and a history with a funder is key.
- Incorporate youth into it as much as possible!
- Start small and build!

Pitfalls & Lessons Learned

Sierra Royster

Expanding your dollar



- In-Kind
- “Money” Sharing
- Reciprocity of community partnerships
 - Comedians use Base to practice and in return volunteer in the youth programs.
- Use your community – don’t re-create
- Volunteers
- Donation of time/space
- Remember: Buy-in and ownership is the hook. Youth can give back too.
 - Ask for nominal Youth program membership fees like \$1
 - Ask for volunteer hours. Turn the control of the programs over to the youth.

Pitfalls

- Don't chase money for money's sake.
 - Money that targets a small and specific group
 - Look for Broad outcome RFP's not narrow scopes
 - it's easier to fit some of what you already do into them!

Sustainability

- Have a plan for sustainability before you reach out for funding or before you get too deep.
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
 - Having one staff that holds all the knowledge and training.
 - Turnover can be higher for a youth position as they are learning about themselves and growing.
 - Have multiple staff know other positions.
 - Write it down! Its easier to back up a computer than to back up a brain!

Share the knowledge

- Share the budget with your youth staff...let them learn.
- Have youth own their own budget
 - YODA Bucks
 - Youth group budget spreadsheet ran by youth (VGN)

Partnerships & Collaborations Discussion & Q&A

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