

WIN Employment and Entrepreneurship Focus Group

March 26, 2018

Ideas & Opportunities

For some for whom employment is not realistic, create activity centers where a person can connect and contribute to the community. *Where do these exist now?*

- Example: Shared ARTS center, photography, creating greeting cards,

Create a co-location for entrepreneurial activities. *In current incubators/we work?*

Recognize employers with awards for inclusion (with chambers/ FCPS)

Develop and share examples of successful models “templates”

- Example: NYC Sock business in NYC, Cameron’s Chocolates in Fairfax. *Intern project?*

Find investors to match family contributions and public sector dollars –

- Example: Community Business Partnership – CDFI

Fairfax County government and schools should set an example by hiring more persons with different abilities. *“Walk the talk”* as we ask others to do this.

Info & Training

ARC of NOVA – has offered training on *Creating a path to employment*.

Skill Source – Ticket to Work staff will work with people with disabilities.

- Could these organizations and others partner to offer workshops on entrepreneurial models? Example: *Skill Source and Didlake?*

Need for further research and information sharing?

Who are the Employers that are hiring people with different abilities? What are their inclusion plans and onboarding practices, sensitivity training?

What makes it work for their company and their employees?

What are barriers/hesitation of employers to take employment enclave/due, i.e. transportation – explore transportations schedules. *Why is tied to school days?*

How does Case Support fit in and can it help with employment/entrepreneur ideas?

Will earnings impact benefits? Can financial options be more flexible for the Targeted Job Tax Credit and other programs?