Who is WID?

The World Institute on Disability is a disability policy, research, and consulting non-profit organization located in Berkeley, CA and Washington, DC. WID’s vision is a world where people with disabilities live integrated fully lives economically and socially.

What is WID E3?

E3 stands for Employment and Economic Empowerment and is a first of its kind portal. WID E3 is an online resource at www.wid.org to assist those serving youth and adults with disabilities, and their supporters, with information, strategies, and techniques which will help to increase the potential of youth and adults with disabilities for work and economic participation.

- WID E3 addresses the often-overlooked roadblocks to full inclusion and equity.
- WID E3 focuses on these missing pieces of the disability employment puzzle by offering strategies and options to improve programming and outcomes.
- WID E3 incorporates personal empowerment, benefits and work incentives, economic inclusion, CareerACCESS, and ABLE 101.

Learn more about E3.

What is CareerACCESS?

CareerACCESS is an initiative designed to support the transition of Social Security’s Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients to employment.

Specifically, CareerACCESS offers much needed programming elements culled from WID’s E3 resources, to impact the dramatic unemployment rates and poverty of people with disabilities by focusing on what’s missing in disability employment policy. CareerACCESS offers a model that will help all disability employment related programs become more effective through a comprehensive coaching and development approach to empower and guide its participants.

What is a CareerACCESS Program Content?

In support of the Career Coach and ICP, there are several WID E3 program and instructional resources which both inform and guide the implementation of CareerACCESS pilots. These are the missing pieces or under-developed supports in disability employment programming and are described below.

- **Disability and Employment Empowerment** – An evidence based curriculum which was created at the University of California, Berkeley, and has been replicated for other youth with disabilities. This package of instructional topics on fundamental skills development in both employment self-confidence and workplace competitive skills has
proven itself able to reverse the negativity people with disabilities have encounter around building their employment expectations and related skills. Far too often, negative labels, messages and experiences have shut down their positive thoughts about employment. This “stop” can and must be addressed if we are to move forward. The SSI CareerACCESS “Implementation Plan” (pages 26-32) offers more details on this content.

- **Benefits Empowerment** – Individualized and state specific disability SSA benefits planning resources created by WID are integrated into the CareerACCESS model. These web based resources are called “Disability Benefits 101” (DB 101). These sites guide individuals with disabilities through the SSA benefits maze as they consider their employment options. These individualized benefits planning guides are already available in nine states (AK, AZ, CA, KY, MI, MN, MO, NJ, & OH). The SSI he CareerACCESS “Implementation Plan” (pages 26-32) offers more details, including how to acquire a “DB 101” site for your State.

- **Economic Empowerment** – Asset development, financial planning and other economic strategies designed to assist people with disabilities with their financial planning are available from WID. The CareerACCESS SSI “Implementation Plan” (pages 26-32) offers more details.

In addition, other content resources and materials are available from WID include mentoring, internships and additional employment supports.

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