

How WIA System Can Be Used To Fund Project SEARCH Programs:

East Bay Innovations operates several Project SEARCH training programs. One PS program has the County of Alameda Administrative Offices as the host employer. As with many PS programs, 12 regional center consumers attend the County Project SEARCH program per year. These participants attend class room instruction for part of their PS day and for the rest they serve as interns in the County departments. Each participant rotates through three departments and internship jobs during the year. The internship experience helps to build skills and experience the participants need to be more competitive in the job market. Once the participant graduates from the PS program, EBI provides intensive job development services. Currently funding for job development services is not adequate to support the effort and cost incurred by supported employment organizations.

Oakland's Private Industry Council (OPIC) was impressed by the job placement outcomes achieved by EBI especially for graduates of the PS program. OPIC offered to assist EBI to develop a course that would be listed on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) and then would receive Individual Training Account (ITA) funds. Regional center funds the PS program through day program funding (055 code Community Integration). EBI's PS staff are funded by this regional center funding. What was not funded was EBI's job developer. EBI's job developer works with participant throughout their time in the PS program to prepare them for placement. EBI has developed a specialty in developing jobs for people in the Public Sector (jobs in counties, cities, public universities, transit agencies, etc.). These jobs often require the EBI job developer to prepare the applicant to compete by getting pre-certification from DOR, take civil service exams, ask for specific accommodations to allow for job coaching, etc.. To help provide funding for this effort, EBI developed a specific course for the ETPL called "Preparing for Jobs in the Public Sector". EBI assists PS participants to enroll as WIA clients with OPIC for this course. OPIC then authorizes ITA funding for each individual, \$2,200 per year in tuition, that goes to EBI to help offset the cost of job development.

