



## Employment Center

### The International IPS Learning Community

The IPS Learning Community provides support to leaders in states, countries, regions, and programs as they develop, improve, and sustain IPS services. Members of the learning community share their experiences, program data, and lessons learned with each other. The goal is to expand IPS and provide excellent services so that as many people as possible have jobs that they enjoy.

The IPS Learning Community has evolved over the last eighteen years, starting with three sites in 2001. Currently, the community includes 21 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Alameda County (California), Broward County (Florida), and six countries/regions outside the U.S.: Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, New Zealand, England, and Montreal, Canada.

IPS program supervisors in the Learning Community share simple program data on a quarterly basis. By doing so, they are able to compare their program outcomes with hundreds of other programs in the U.S. And as supervisors pose questions to the IPS Center, researchers are sometimes able to investigate and provide answers. For example, some IPS supervisors in rural/frontier areas wondered if it is harder to help people find jobs in those types of locations. Researchers used data from Learning Community programs to show there was no significant difference in outcomes between rural and urban areas.

*“It is encouraging to hear that IPS works in other areas and countries. And it helps me to hear how other programs overcome problems. Everyone shares information about funding, strategies to engage more people in IPS, and expansion of IPS to other populations of people such as transition-age youth.”*

Christopher Knoper, IPS Supervisor

*“Being part of the International IPS Learning Community is a benefit to our program. I am constantly getting the most current information about IPS. It links me to the top people in the field and to good resources.”*  
Ginger Yanchar, IPS Supervisor

Other benefits of joining the International IPS Learning Community include the following:

- Manuals about effective IPS services and IPS implementation.
- Greatly reduced cost for online IPS courses offered by the IPS Employment Center.
- Opportunities to contribute to the field of IPS supported employment.
- Access to up-to-date information and tips from peers through emails and newsletters.