

# Clark County Developmental Disabilities

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Job Foundation Information Night &  
Provider Meet and Greet

Kristin Wade

September 24, 2025



# Tonight's Agenda

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- Introduction to Clark County DD
- Job Foundation Project Overview
- Meet the Providers
- Q & A



# County Role & Team

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## Program Manager

Trish Buescher

## Program Coordinators

Angela Gomez

Kristin Wade

## Administrative/Office Support

Alex Koval

Cheri Osterman

Trudi Cumberbatch





*Inclusion  
Matters*

## Developmental Disabilities Program



# Developmental Disabilities Program

## Mission

Clark County will assist all people with developmental disabilities to have the opportunity to achieve full, active, integrated, and productive lives.

## Values

**ACCESS** People with disabilities and their families should have access to the supports needed to live, work and fully participate in local community life.

**CHOICE** Services and supports will be tailored and customer driven. Individuals and families will have the power, authority and ability to personalize and direct supports to achieve a life typical of all community members.

**INCLUSION** People with disabilities and their families should have opportunities for natural interactions and participation in all aspects of community life.

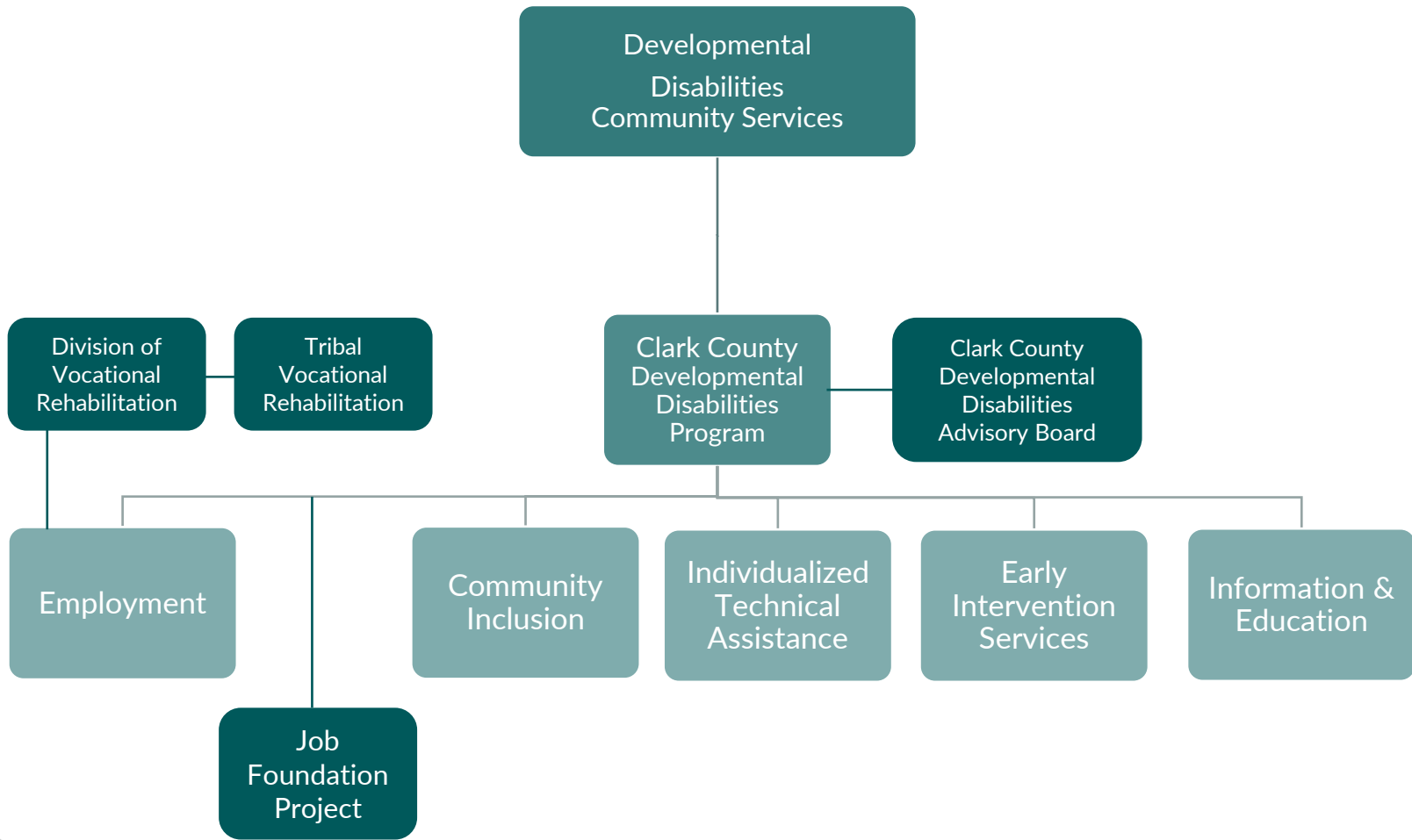
**PARTNERSHIPS** Clark County promotes partnerships including business, education, service providers and neighborhoods to ensure all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have the opportunity for formal and informal supports. Formal supports and services should foster independence and personal growth, while informal supports should encourage friendships and community membership.

## Vision

People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) are fully participating community members. This will occur in a community where each person is recognized for their gifts and contributions to that community without regard to their heritage, gender, orientation, age, disability, history, religion or nationality.

# Network of Services

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# County Services Overview

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# Clark County Events

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**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Clark County's Annual Employment Awards

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY,  
INCLUSION, AND CONTRIBUTION**

Music - Networking - Appetizers - Awards

October 8, 2025, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

**Clark College Gaiser Hall**  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way,  
Vancouver, WA 98663



**Scan the QR code to register!**





# Job Foundation Project

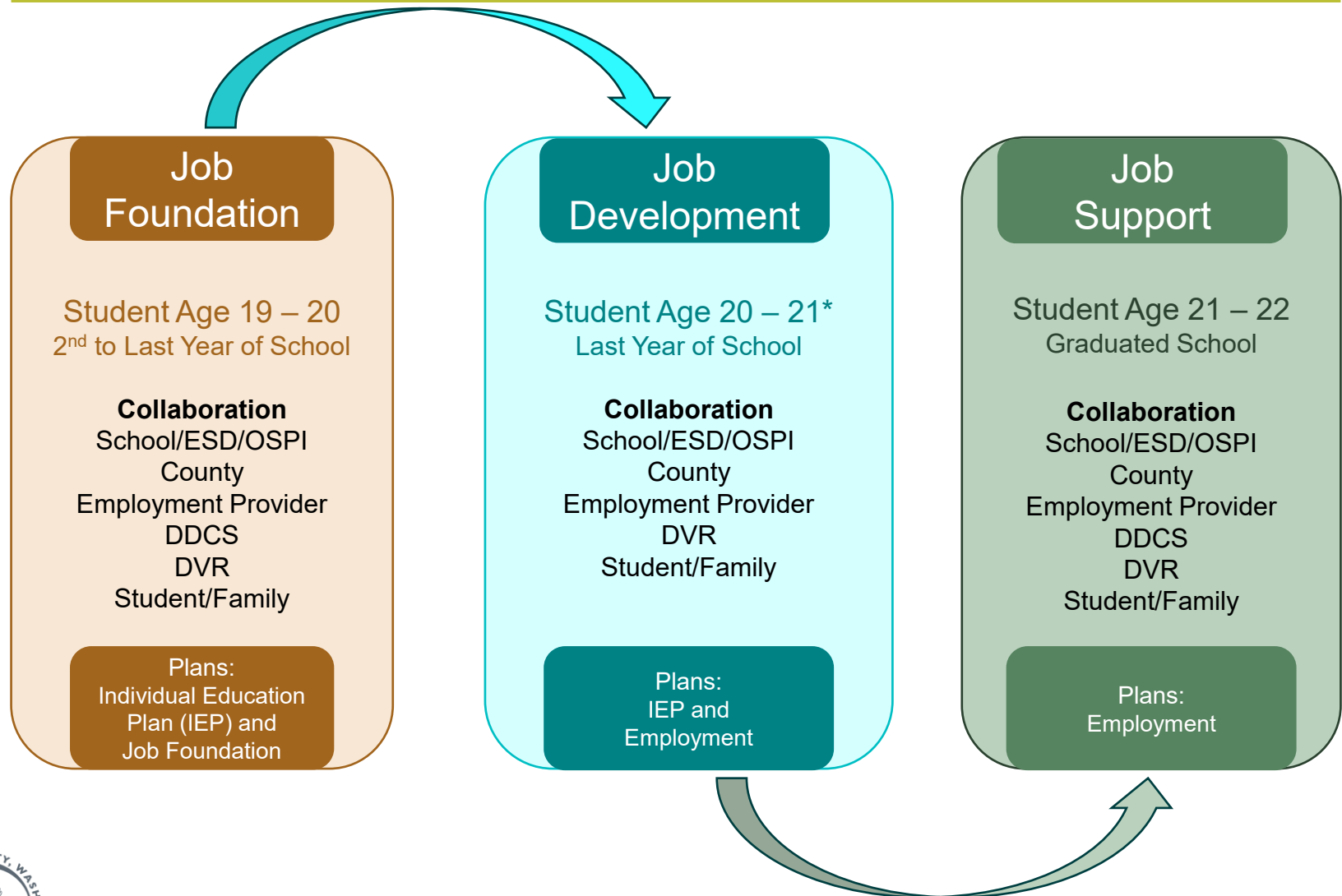
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- Engage students earlier in planning for employment after graduation
- Connect students and families to community partners and resources
- Increase partnerships with and between schools, supported employment providers and other community partners to complete a detailed report that includes next steps for employment and future plans
- Increase the number of students completing transition programs with a job or a connection to education opportunities
- Eligibility requirements
  - Students ages 19-20 who are enrolled in and actively attending school (high school transition or life skills program)
  - Are an established client of DDCCS
  - Willing to work collaboratively with a team to help complete the Job Foundations Report
- Partners for this project
  - DDCCS
  - DSHS' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
  - Educational Service Districts (ESD)
  - Schools
  - Employment providers
  - Students & Families





# Collaboration Process Overview



# Job Foundation Report

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Communication



Interactive Social Skills



Self-Advocacy



Task Management



Work Interest Exploration



Critical Documents



Transportation



# Meet the Providers

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## Job Foundation Presentation



# A Little Bit About ENSO

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Open for 19 Years

Provides Services in  
King, Pierce, Spokane,  
and Clark County

Began providing  
services in Clark  
County in July of 2022

Small Team of 4  
People

- Largest Caseload is 10 Participants
- Smallest Caseload is 4 Participants

Support 28 Participants

- 25% of Participants Currently Employed

Focus on Discovery  
and Robust  
Development



# ENSO: Discovery, Development, and Coaching

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- **Discovery looks different for everyone!**

- Who are you!?
- Preferences?
- Daily Schedule or Routine?
- Transferable Skills

- **Development**

- Building Relationships
- Touring the Environment
- Job Carving

- **Examples of Placements**

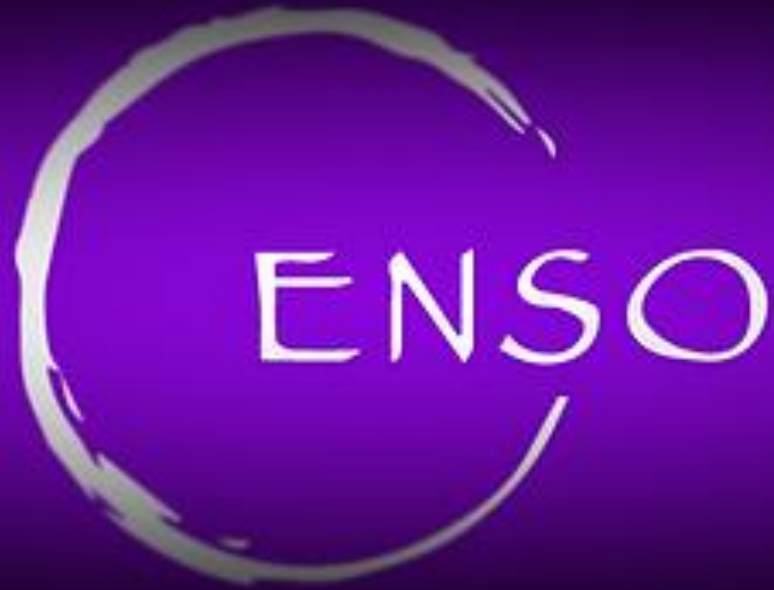
- Key Property Services
- Applebee's
- PDX
- Evergreen Public Schools
- Clark College
- Peace Health



**Key Property  
Services, Inc.**

*"Where Service is the Key"*





# Contact Information

- Kiernan McKinley
- 509-599-3189
- [Kiernan@ENSO.ws](mailto:Kiernan@ENSO.ws)





**What's your approach to getting to know the students you work with?**

At Goldman & Associates we meet our clients where they're at. This can look different for every student, we worked with some that prefer to have their support provide most information after confirming an answer, and others that enjoyed reaching out and speaking with us during meetings. We also accommodated communication styles such as those that prefer to communicate physically or in shorter answers. We make sure as many members of the student's support team as possible are in each interaction. We have a team approach where the whole Job Foundation team checks in and gets to know the students that Goldman & Associates are working with.

**What discovery activities do you find most insightful?**

We found directly observing the student in action to be the most insightful. This could take the form of completing tasks but can also mean seeing how they interact with their peers and support in a naturally occurring environment. Also, communicating with as many sources as possible to answer any questions and provide a full circle of insight into who the student is. This process results in both the student learning about their own skills and interests as well—and just as importantly—as our own knowledge of and rapport with the student.



**Give us an example of what discovery has looked like working with you/ your agency? Are there specific learning opportunities/ “ah ha” moments that stood out (e.g. you learned something new, someone was able to access new opportunity etc.)?**

Discovery was primarily focused on inviting the family as well as the school supports to every meeting to ensure that each piece of information found could be thoroughly discussed. There were moments such as seeing a student that we were told did not work independently moving to the next step in a task without prompting or guidance. It was helpful to see the difference based on environment. The observation period also afforded more time to get to know the student and their family. In one case, this led to a discussion in which the student's truly preferred work goal came out which did not match the goals they had shared prior to the Discovery process.

**What are your job development strategies? What is the average length of time to find a job? Has that been impacted by current times?**

We try to leverage existing connections within the community such as employers that have previously expressed interest, also we build new connections based on student interests and skills to ensure the following job placement is a great fit. This can look like being in a potential employer's building, talking to their workers and managers, identifying opportunities to customize a position. Timeline depends; however, it generally takes anywhere from a couple of weeks to several months depending on client skills and abilities as well as the current openings that fit their interests.





**GOLDMAN**  
& ASSOCIATES INC.  
A JOB DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE

## Equity Statement

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### **At Goldman and Associates**

- We believe equity and inclusion are vital to a thriving community and workforce.
- We believe that equity is being able to provide an individual with everything possible to have the opportunity to be able to perform to their full potential.
- We believe that we need to remove barriers that may be present in thorough policies and procedures.
- We believe this means employment should be accessible to everyone and should honor and accept our differences and commonalities.
- We believe that everyone has the right to have person centered learning.
- We believe that everyone has the right to be paid the same wage for the same job.

**Contact Vanessa:**  
**360-607-3505**  
**vanessa@goldmaninc.com**



# *Keys to Advancement, Inc.*

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Family-owned business Since 1999.

Diverse group of 15 staff that provide Employment services, Community services, Discovery Services, Independent Living Services.

55% of our 47 customers in Employment Services are employed (15 with multiple barriers to employment and 5 are employed)

We do not provide transportation; however we provide support around transportation; Travel training, riding with, navigating community transportation, we strive to build capacity and independence in our customers.

Creative staff who think outside the box. (Batcave games, VA, 5 Guys, Safeway, VEGA gym, PDX)



# Strive Northwest

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**WELCOME TO WHAT'S POSSIBLE.**

*Formerly known as Innovative Services NW, we are a local nonprofit serving Clark County since 1963.*

## Our Services

- Employment Services
- Community Inclusion
- Job Foundation
- Pediatric Therapy
- Educational Childcare



# Strive Northwest

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## WHO WE ARE



Abbie  
Aspinwall



Wendy  
Rush

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

- **Every student has the ability to find meaningful employment** - it is our job to uncover what that is!
- **Collaboration is key** - I look forward to working with all members of your students support team to discover who they are and how I can help them thrive.
- **Person-centered services** – each individual has a unique set of skills, gifts, and interests.
- **Consistency between systems** – We offer services within schools, DVR, DDOS to support your student in every season of life.



## THANK YOU

Let's get started! Please feel free to reach out at any point.

Contact Information: [wrush@strivenw.org](mailto:wrush@strivenw.org)





# Trillium Employment Services

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**Promoting inclusive community and employment opportunities**



# Trillium Employment Services

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Trillium provides Individual Employment Services, Community Inclusions Services, and participates in the Job Foundation Project



Since 2020, we've served 33 students  
14 students have been successfully employed



School Partnerships: Camas, Washougal,  
La Center, Woodland, Vancouver,  
Battle Ground, and Evergreen School District



# Trillium Employment Services: Success in Job Foundation



Open and regular communication with teachers, parents, support team, DVR and DDCS



Meeting the client where they are at



Finding student's strengths, interest & motivation to work



Exploring personal connections in the community



Focus on the future

## Next Steps for Students / Families

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- Contact the County to receive your application packet today!
- Select an Employment Provider
- Apply for the project by returning the application to Clark County at [dd.transition@clark.wa.gov](mailto:dd.transition@clark.wa.gov)
- Begin working with your team to complete the Job Foundation Report





Kristin Wade

Clark County DD Coordinator

[kristin.wade@clark.wa.gov](mailto:kristin.wade@clark.wa.gov)

(564) 397-7830 or call/text to (360) 635-3370

