

**Jobs Plus Demonstration Program
Strongest Program Element
St. Louis Team**

The St. Louis team considers its proposed comprehensive approach to Community Supports for Work as the strongest program element. The approach includes Community Coaches, Job Plus Ambassadors and a Community Café to provide peer-to-peer engagement. The Community Supports for Work component of the program is designed to effectuate a shift in the culture of the development and to restore hope to residents that see only barriers to their family being successful.

The approach provides two full-time Community Coaches, who are Clinton-Peabody residents that will recruit, track progress and help solve barriers for residents participating in the program. The Community Coaches will conduct one-on-one interviews with each employable adult resident. They will visit each household and explain the program and the advantages of program participation. The Coaches will also complete a survey for each resident to identify their interest and the barriers that would keep them from participating in the program. The information from the surveys will be used to determine additional needs for supportive services. One-on-one visits to each house will be the primary strategy for reaching those determined least likely to participate.

The approach also includes Jobs Plus Ambassadors, residents participating in the Jobs Plus program who will receive incentives to recruit other residents to participate. The Jobs Plus Ambassadors will be a group of 10-12 residents who are participating in the Jobs Plus program. Ambassadors will recruit other residents to participate in the program by providing testimonials about their experiences and the benefits of program participation. The Ambassadors will receive an incentive for each resident they recruit to participate in the program. This approach is the secondary strategy to recruit those least likely to participate, and will serve to build overall trust and familiarity with the program among residents.

The third element of the Community Supports for Work approach is to create a Community Café centered on employment related topics. The Community Café or Parent Café concept is an evidence-based approach that is modeled after the World Café that is currently used in child well-being programs funded by SAMHSA. The Café provides a strong peer network where residents can find advice, assistance and encouragement to continue their program participation or to retain their job.

In addition to the comprehensive approach to Community Supports for Work, the St. Louis team considers the plan to create an entrepreneurship and technology innovation center focused on education and workforce development in technology and 21st century skills as a very strong program element. The program design is modeled after the award winning 21st Century Youth project by the Blue1647 program in Chicago. The program focuses on providing programming and coding skills to youth to better prepare them for information technology jobs. The team would use the model as a concept to provide a similar on-site program for youth and adults. The goal of the program is to obtain high paying jobs in a fast growing sector of the local economy.