



# Pathways to Partnerships (P2P) Disability Innovation Fund Grant

CHOM

February 10, 2025



# Maine's P2P Award

- **Funding Amount:** \$7,632,256 (front-loaded grant)
- **Length of Grant:** Five years (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2028)
- **Lead Agency:** Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- **Funding Source:** Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, US Dept. of Education
- **Targeted Population:** Children and youth ages 10-24 with disabilities
- **Pilot Schools** – RSU 29 & 71
- **Grant Manager:** Rod Bouffard
- **Pathways Youth Specialist** – Mudiwa Mupotsa

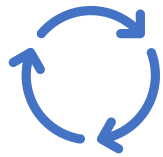
# Maine P2P Initiatives

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- (1) Launch of a **web-based sustainable site to serve as a primary hub** for cross-agency transition information, training, and learning opportunities across the state
- (2) Development of accessible on-demand **curricula on transition topics** (including benefits counseling, financial literacy, Pre-Employment Transition Services, etc.) for a wide range of stakeholders including children, parents, educators, and service providers,
- (3) Enrollment of participants in **virtual services** including career exploration, peer mentoring, independent living skill building and Pre-Employment Transition Services,
- (4) Increased stakeholder knowledge of **work incentives and benefits counseling** for individuals who receive Social Security benefits,
- (5) Increased awareness and use of **work-based learning**, internships, pre-apprenticeship, and Registered Apprenticeship – for children ages 10-13 and youth ages 14-24 as well as educators, families, service providers and other stakeholders.

We expect to increase enrollment in Pre-Employment Transition Services and increase career readiness and employability skills for **300-500 children ages 10-13** and to improve the employment rate and quarterly earnings of **300-500 transition-age youth 14-24**.

# Grant Timeline



Year One: Planning and Development of Model



Year Two: Pilot Model and Activities



Years Two – Five: Pilot, Implement and Refine Activities and Model



Year Five - Dissemination

# Evaluation and Technical Assistance

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**National Evaluator:** Mathematica

**Maine's Principal Investigator:**

Michelle Yin, Ph.D.  
Director, Dual Master's Degree in Applied Economics and Social and Economic Policy  
Associate Professor, School of Education & Social Policy  
Northwestern University

**National Technical Assistance Partners:**

- Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) at the University of Wisconsin-Stout
- TransCen
- Mathematica
- University of Maryland's Center for Transition and Career Innovation (CTCI)

**Maine-selected Technical Assistance:** National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative (NTACT:C)

# P2P Advisory Group

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In addition to Core Partners:

- Diverse Youth Members (2-3)
- DHHS – Office of Aging and Disability Services
- DHHS – Office of Child and Family Services
- MDOE – Career and Technical Education
- Maine Medical Center’s Benefits Counseling Services Team
- Maine Parent Federation
- State Workforce Board
- BRS Apprenticeship Navigator
- Pilot Schools
- With support from the Maine’s Children’s Cabinet

# Year One Accomplishments (10/1/23 – 9/30/24)



- In-person Grant Launch – October 2023
- Hire (first!) Grant Manager
- Core Team – Monthly Meetings
- Core Team – Attends NTACT:C's Capacity Building Institute – May 2024
- Launch SharePoint Site
- Round One Workgroups – MOU, Resource Mapping, Website Development, Training & Curriculum Development, Evaluation & Data
- Required Memoranda of Understanding – CIL, MDOE, RSU 29 & RSU 71
- Approved Cooperative Agreement with RSA
- Begin Data Sharing Agreements
- Complete contracts - Northwestern, Benefits Counseling, Maine Parent Federation
- Purchase Career Exploration Tools – Discovery Kits, Pathful
- In-person Grant Meeting – September 2024
- Year One – Evaluation Report – Northwestern

# Year Two – Pilot Year (10/1/24 – 9/30/25)



- Hired (second!) Grant Manager
- Hired Pathways Youth Specialist
- Round Two Workgroups
  - P2P Model Partnerships
  - P2P Model Services
- Purchase Independent Living Curriculum for AlphaOne Use
- Establish Separate Aware Case Type - “P2P”
- Launch Recruitment and Outreach – January 2025
- Enroll P2P Participants via Grant Enrollment form – January 2025
- Public Website – Goes Live January 2025
- P2P Overview & Training for Leaders (1/7) and Transition staff (1/21)
- Pilot Model Services in RSU 29 & RSU 71
- Pilot Training with Educators, Service Providers, Families & Youth



# P2P Model Services

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Benefits Planning

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Financial Literacy

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Career Exploration

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Pre-ETS

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Self-Advocacy

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# Career Exploration Tools – Career Awareness Kits



## ▶ LET'S DISCOVER CONSTRUCTION

Perfect for students with a curiosity about how things are built, this module increases student awareness of construction and related careers such as architect, mason, electrician, plumber and carpenter. It explores the duties and skills involved and the typical tools and equipment used in these types of careers. Students also gain awareness of the importance of this occupation within the community.

### Sample Activities:

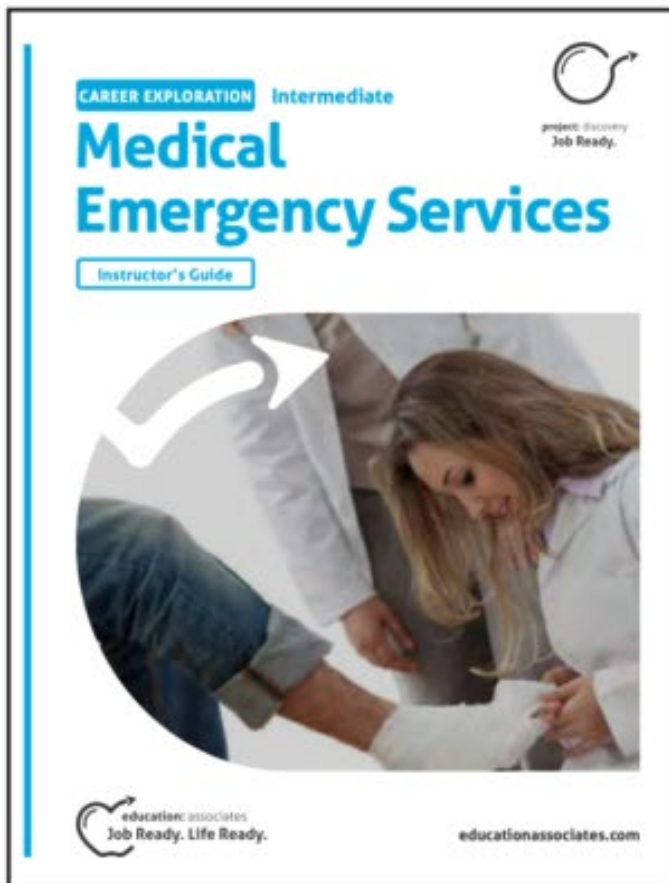
- Examining Blueprints
- Completing a Circuit
- Assembling Mortar Mix
- Completing a Carpentry Project

### Sample Materials:

- Screwdrivers, tape measure, mortar box
- Hard Hat, Tool Belt and Hammer/Nails
- Circuit Kit
- Pre-Cut Lumber

PD11000

# Career Exploration Tools – Career Exploration Kits



## ▶ MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

What tasks do emergency medical technicians do? Students will be able to answer many of these questions after completing this module on medical emergency services. Students learn about patient care, first aid procedures and stabilization techniques.

### Sample Activities:

- Bandaging a Patient
- Immobilizing a Patient
- Wound Care/Vital Signs
- Cleanliness/Safety Procedures

### Sample Materials:

- Triangular, Elastic and Gauze Bandages
- Splints
- Bandage Scissors
- Dressing Forceps

PD2400

Pathful -  
[www.Pathful.com](http://www.Pathful.com)

- Interactive Digital College & Career Readiness Platform
  - Junior
  - Explore
  - Connect
- Career Interest Inventories, College & Career Exploration, Learning about the World of Work, College & Career Preparation, Aptitude & Values Assessment, Work-Based Learning, Work Readiness
- Virtual Job Shadow Videos
- Virtual Workplace Tours
- Readiness Lessons and Courses

# Family Engagement

# Maine Parent Federation

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MPF will coordinate and collaborate with the Maine P2P grant in pilot project activities through its programs

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MPF will provide information and training around student transition services to identified population with Maine P2P grant.

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MPF will provide access to Empower the Learner and work with Maine P2P grant with delivery as part of student career awareness.

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MPF will provide information to parents about Empower the Learner.

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MPF will provide training to teachers on how to best utilize Empower the Learner.

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MPF will provide access and resources to families during their “Parent Nights” to help encourage youth and family participation in Maine P2P grant activities.

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MPF will make designated staff available as needed for grant activities and pilot projects as they are developed.

# P2P Benefits Counseling Services

- Two CWICs dedicated for this grant
- Benefits counseling will be available to P2P students *who receive any public benefit*
- Will use a multi-family approach:
  - BCS always considers if the individual's wages or work goal will impact other family member's benefits and vice versa
  - Encourage and offer benefits counseling to adult family members with Social Security disability benefits
- General information and consultation to P2P student under 14 who cannot work yet or are considering applying for benefits. CWICs cannot help people apply for Social Security benefits.

# Pre-Employment Transition Services – Vocational Rehabilitation

1. **Job Exploration Counseling**
  - Available to students with disabilities ages 14 to 22
2. **Work-based Learning Experiences**
3. **Counseling on Opportunities for Post-Secondary Training and Education**
  - Designed to be delivered in groups in collaboration with schools
4. **Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living**
5. **Instruction in Self-Advocacy**
  - Will offer co-enrollment as “Potentially Eligible” for all P2P participants who meet the WIOA definition of “student with a disability”



Website Launch – This week!

**MAINE**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR**

**Pathways to  
Partnerships**







For More  
Information

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The Maine Department of Labor provides Equal Opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request

