

ROAD TO SELF- SUFFICIENCY

A Guide to Entrepreneurship
for Youth with Disabilities



National Collaborative on
Workforce & Disability for Youth
Institute for Educational Leadership

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) is composed of partners with expertise in disability, education, employment, and workforce development issues. NCWD/Youth is housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC. The Collaborative is charged with assisting state and local workforce development systems to integrate youth with disabilities into their service strategies.

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Information about the Office of Disability Employment Policy can be found at <www.dol.gov/odep>.

Information is also available at <www.disabilityinfo.gov>, the comprehensive federal website of disability-related government resources.

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This Guide, which grew from that memorandum, promotes the benefits of entrepreneurship education and self-employment for all youth, including youth with disabilities. It provides tools to those providing service to youth with disabilities to use entrepreneurship as a means to attaining independence and self-sufficiency. It also provides guidance to those who have been providing entrepreneurship programming as to how to include youth with disabilities in those programs.

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Preface

This Guide is intended to serve as a resource for organizations working with youth on career exploration and employment options, and policymakers who support youth programs through policy and practice by showing how entrepreneurship can be used in their programs. The Guide offers suggestions on how organizations can introduce self-employment as an option to young people. There are many such efforts currently underway. Existing programs are listed in the Guide along with information to help those who want to start a program.

THE STRUCTURE OF THIS GUIDE

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction: Background on Entrepreneurship** presents an overview of entrepreneurship today and describes how entrepreneurial education supports positive youth outcomes.
- **Chapter 2 – Entrepreneurship: Developing Successful Programs and Strategies** examines entre-

preneurial education programs and the different activities coordinated within those programs, and describes how the National Content Standards and the *Guideposts for Success* framework can drive entrepreneur programming.

- **Chapter 3 – Additional Considerations for Youth with Disabilities** identifies the legislation that supports entrepreneurial activities, describes the importance of accommodations and financial planning in providing inclusive entrepreneurial programs, and identifies useful resources.
- **Appendix A – Resource Section on Entrepreneurship and Small Business** includes both government and non-government resources including programs and materials that can be helpful to program operators interested in entrepreneurship.
- **Appendix B – References and Appendix C – Glossary of Terms** used throughout the Guide are found at the end.