



APSE Announces Inaugural Regional Institute Detroit Event

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ROCKVILLE, MD— October 19, 2015— APSE (Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst) will hold its inaugural Regional Institute “*From Workshops to Workplaces—Achieving the Goal of EmploymentFirst*” from November 16-18, 2016 in Detroit, Michigan.

For the first time in APSE history, this two-day program brings together national experts on organizational change and organizations seeking to change their business model from one of segregated services to integrated community based employment services. The program gives disability services providers the opportunity to build their organizational capacity by learning how to transition to a supported employment business model that will enable them to support their clients in securing competitive, integrated jobs in their communities. In addition to disability service providers, the Regional Institutes will have tracks designated to people with disabilities and their families, focused on providing accurate information on integrated competitive employment.

This event is made possible largely through the generous corporate support of JPMorgan Chase. There are a number of alignment points between APSE and JPMorgan Chase that will allow both organizations to advance their own mission and philanthropic goals together through the work of the Regional Institute. These include:

- **Investing in Detroit.** APSE’s inaugural Institute is being held in Detroit as an investment in the local economy. JPMorgan Chase has made a \$100 million, five-year commitment to Detroit’s economic recovery.
- **Focusing on financial capabilities, financial education, and “unbanked” consumers** as the end consumers of publicly-funded disability services. The end consumers are the most impoverished minority group in the country. They are often unbanked, lack basic financial education, and have little disposable income because they are forced to live below the poverty line. Building the capacity of disability service providers to help their clients to get jobs in their communities at competitive wages will put these individuals on the path of economic self-sufficiency and financial capability.
- **Strengthening Workforce Readiness.** The vast majority of individuals (95%) with disabilities who are placed in segregated, subminimum wage jobs never work in real jobs for real pay. Supporting individuals to be placed in competitive employment is what APSE’s Regional Institute is all about. Gaining job skills allows these individuals to be part of the economy rather than living on its margins. JPMorgan Chase continues to engage and support nonprofit organizations and use information from these partnerships to develop products and services that help people with disabilities lead full and barrier-free lives.
- **Capacity Building.** Ultimately, the APSE Regional Institute is about building the capacity of disability service providers to learn how to build their capacity for placing individuals with disabilities in real jobs at real pay.

For more information about APSE’s Regional Institute please contact Lise Bram, Director of Communications and Marketing Office: 301-279-0060 • Cell: 301-943-2088 • lise@apse.org

About APSE

Founded in 1988, Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE) is a growing national non-profit membership organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. APSE has chapters in 37 states and the District of Columbia with members from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, as well as several foreign countries. For more information, please visit our website at www.apse.org.