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Office of the Secretary of Higher Education Announces Grant Awards for County College-Based Centers for Adult Transition

Affirming the State’s promise to support programs serving special student populations facing obstacles to college access, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) is pleased to announce a \$4.5 million State investment establishing County College-Based Centers for Adult Transition. This funding opportunity, established by [P.L. 2021 c.425](#), provides students with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to hone their skillsets for a more successful transition from secondary school to postsecondary education, adult employment, and independent living. All 18 county colleges submitted applications and received funding to launch their Centers for Adult Transition.

This grant funding must be used to provide services, programs, and resources to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities up to the age of 24. County colleges will utilize part of the funding to support students through mentoring, job coaching, skill training, and other appropriate wrap-around services to help secure employment and maintain independent living.

“Ensuring all New Jersey students have access to an inclusive and supportive learning environment is a part of my vision for higher education in the State.” **said Dr. Brian K. Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education.** “This investment will improve the lives of the developmentally and intellectually disabled by allowing these students to experience higher education while accessing the necessary supports and resources to lead full, rewarding, and independent lives.”

Through career-relevant academic programs, students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will gain the necessary skills to maintain life-affirming employment. The County College-Based Centers for Adult Transition will receive an additional \$4.5 million in fiscal year 2023, as outlined in the recently signed FY 2023 Appropriations Act. This investment will assist county colleges in sustaining and expanding centers to support the diverse needs of all students.

Questions regarding the County College-Based Centers for Adult Transition can be directed to Jessica.Steiger@oshe.nj.gov.