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State to Fund Employment Assistance Program
Program to Help Low Income, Disabled Individuals

The State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) today announced the Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, Inc. and Horizon Health Services, Inc. will receive a \$199,800 and \$173,200 grant, respectively, to help individuals with a disability become independent through education, training and employment.

“Every individual in the state deserves the opportunity to acquire work-related skills and find employment. This is especially true for low income individuals with physical or mental impairments,” said OTDA Commissioner Robert Doar. “These grants will help local agencies develop successful employment strategies for those individuals who are disabled yet are willing and capable of participating in the workforce.”

The grant award is part of a \$1.7 million effort statewide to better connect these individuals to services available through the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID). It is expected that as many as 1,000 people will be served by the program.

The Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, Inc. and Horizon Health Services, Inc. are two of nine organizations selected throughout the state to assist individuals with the VESID eligibility process, develop an individual plan for employment and provide ongoing case management needed for successful participation in job preparation activities.

The program focuses on the needs of Family Assistance (FA) recipients and former FA recipients who have reached their 60-month TANF limit. A portion of the funds may also be used to serve non-public assistance families with monthly household incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and meet TANF certification requirements.

The grants will allow the Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, Inc. and Horizon Health Services, Inc. to service area residents through April 2007.

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