

Capacity Building

Group Skills Trainings for Students

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Introductions



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Objectives

Understand definition and purpose of a group skills training (GST)

Identify the components of interagency collaboration in creating a GST

Analyze potential obstacles that arise during GST planning

Recognize opportunities for continued growth and development for future GSTs

Definition / Purpose

A GST is an avenue for providing essential pre-vocational and independent living skills training to groups of students with disabilities, including those who are potentially eligible with VR.

A GST must focus on one or more of the required Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) categories.

Refer to VRSM Chapter C-1305-13: Group Skills Training for additional information.

Partnering on a GST

A GST typically involves designing more than one service for the target audience, and it is ideal for younger students.

Planning and conducting GSTs can also involve other partners serving students with disabilities (e.g. LEA or the Blind Children's Program at HHSC)

Proposing a GST

The GST proposal template includes the following sections:

- Program description
- Agenda and Objectives
- Contract status
- Budget (Purchased items/services)

JOB S: Job Opportunities for Blind Students

**Group Skills
Training in
Action!**





I came into this program feeling anxious and questioning all of my capabilities. I didn't feel confident in the things I could accomplish. The whole idea of just being at this program made me feel like I was not cut out for it and basically incapable. But to my surprise, I was capable, I was confident, I worked efficiently, and I met some amazing people. I learned the importance of every single skill that we were taught throughout the program and lessons that would serve me for the rest of my life.

The Beginning



From Lubbock to Austin

Lubbock – 5-week work program implemented
by several Education Service Centers and DARS

Austin, 2005 – A new idea was born!
ESC Region 13
DARS



Application Required

Non-residential community
based work experience
program



Evolution to JOBS



Each year we evaluated the program.

- Assessed successes
- Identified additional needs
- Refined programming
- Eliminated what didn't work!

Evolution in Practice

Assess Successes

- Interagency collaboration
- Use of job coaches with experience with visual impairment
- Job development
- Work readiness curriculum
- Increase in student work readiness skills and overall confidence

Identify Additional Needs

- Certain transition needs not being met
- Residential component
- Variety of travel opportunities
- Social opportunities
- Provide real-life experiences
- Setting boundaries with families

Evolution in Practice

Refine Programming

- Added and improved residential component
- Scheduling for Participants
- Added orientation day for staff and participants/families
- CapMetro Bus Familiarization
- Housing location
- Safety and social/emotional health
- Number of students
- Route practice
- Curriculum edits
- Job coach protocols
- Overnight staff
- Added End-of-Program Celebration

We're always refining the program!

Evolution in Practice

Eliminate What Doesn't Work

- Home community-based work sites
- Four separate classes for week 1
- Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Jam-packed schedule
- Job sites that don't work
- Staffing considerations
- Tuna salad

**Don't be afraid
to refine, edit,
and eliminate on
the fly!**



When I started JOBS, I admit that I knew quite a bit of things. But, I didn't realize that I could improve so many of my skills that I had already learned. All of my skills like cleaning, budgeting, public transportation, and asking for help were all kind of average when I first arrived. It was actually crazy how much I still needed to learn.

Spirit of Collaboration



JOBS 2023 TASK LIST

June 4th-23rd

Month	Task	Person Responsible	Due Date	Completed
July	Confirm with Hardin House	TWC		
September	Review notes from previous program			
	Create Christa's contract	Erica		
	Set Orientation date	Team	Scheduled for 4/29/23	
	Edit orientation agenda dates	Team	11/29/22	
	Reserve Orientation Rooms	Erica	11/29/22 (Laguna Gloria of Canyon of Eagles)	
October	Update application	Team		
	Edit acceptance letter			
	Create Job Coach List	Team	11/29/22	
	List for weekend/evening help	Team	11/29/22	

Fiscal Responsibilities and Potential Red Tape

- TIME
 - Proposal Process (allow plenty of time)
 - Contract Process (allow even more time!)
 - Vendor set-up
- Paid wage services
 - WorkQuest/Workforce Boards
- Job site development
 - Background checks

Don't let the process scare you!
Supports are available!

Moving the Work Forward



Dollars and Sense



Own Your Own Future



College Visits



**Year-Round Work
Experiences**

You Can Do It – Together!



Tips!

- Identify needs in your area
 - Talk to teachers, families, students
- Identify and develop your team
- Brainstorming sessions
- Clear, consistent, and honest communication
- Realistic goals and expectations

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I absolutely loved being here and being a part of JOBS because it was such a life changing experience.

Any questions?

You can find us at:

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Thanks!