Building Full Lives







Refresher: What are the BFL grants?

- Grants that provide technical assistance (TA) from content experts to support organizations who want to shift from segregated to integrated community services.
- The TA assists organizations to help people have FULL Lives by providing high quality community employment and day services.



Why did we start doing Building FULL Lives (BFL) project?

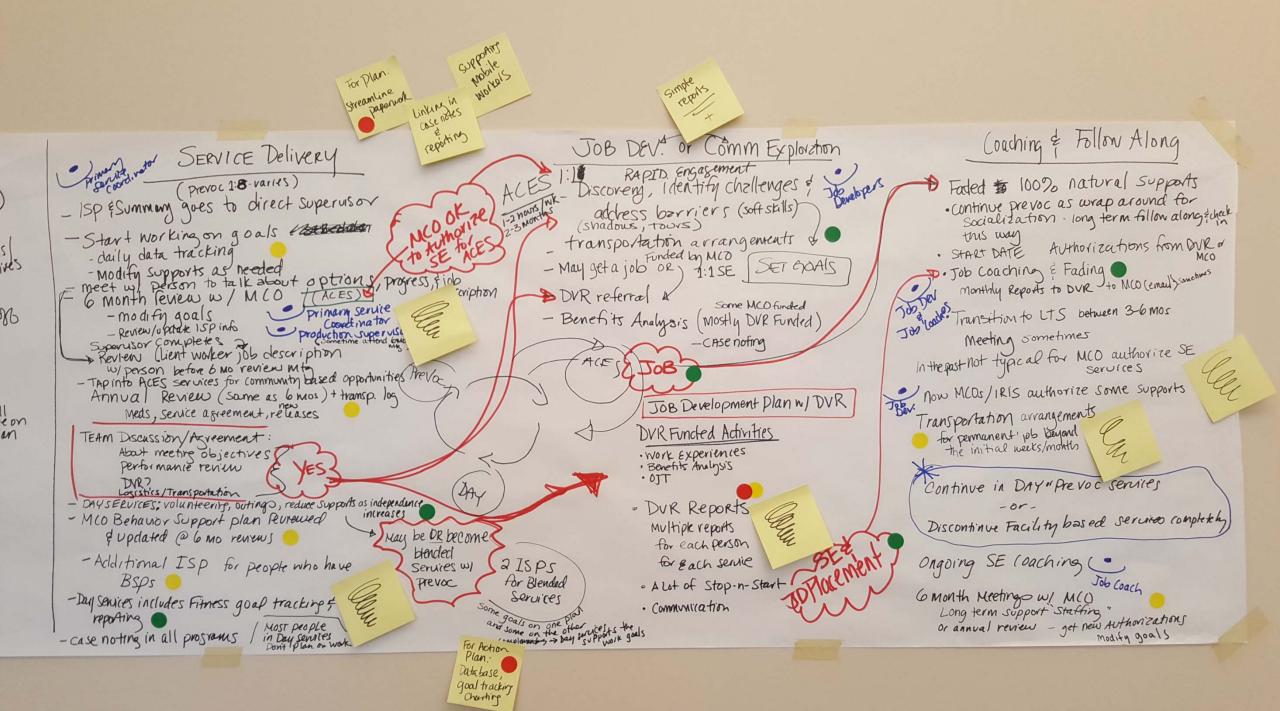
- Interest expressed by many service providers when Worklink presented at 2015 EF Conference
- Major need for organizations to change the way they provide services given new rules that all services must be provided in community settings
- Need for training and technical assistance to help organizations make the change.



What technical assistance is provided?

- On Site and Remote TA is provided for one year including:
 - Two day on site visit to help sites conduct an organizational assessment that leads to an action/transformation plan
 - Remote coaching (e.g., webinars, skype) to guide sites in implementing the action plan





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What technical assistance is provided?

- In person training on Customized Employment
- Training on community mapping and using community connectors/ instructors
- Training/coaching on the business/fiscal aspects of transformation
- Training with organizational staff, leadership, families, board members

What is the grant application process?

- Request for Application is distributed
- Open to any organizations that want to apply
- Includes a list of expectations for grantee
- Applicants respond to a set of questions
- A review team score the applications based upon a set of criteria
- The highest scoring proposals receive the Grant



BPDD and the Building Full Lives Project

- BFL Project started in 2016 with 4 service providers
- Board decided to make it part of the five year state plan (2017-2021)
- Added five more providers in 2017



BFL Service Providers

Round 1 (2016)

- Goodwill of Southeast Wisconsin (Milwaukee)
- ODC Inc (WI Rapids and Marshfield)
- Headwaters Inc (Rhinelander)
- Bridge for Community Life (Hudson)

Round 2 (2017)

- VIP Inc (Elkhorn)
- Threshold (Westbend)
- Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin (Waukesha)
- Green Valley Enterprises (Beaver Dam)
- Bethesda (Watertown)

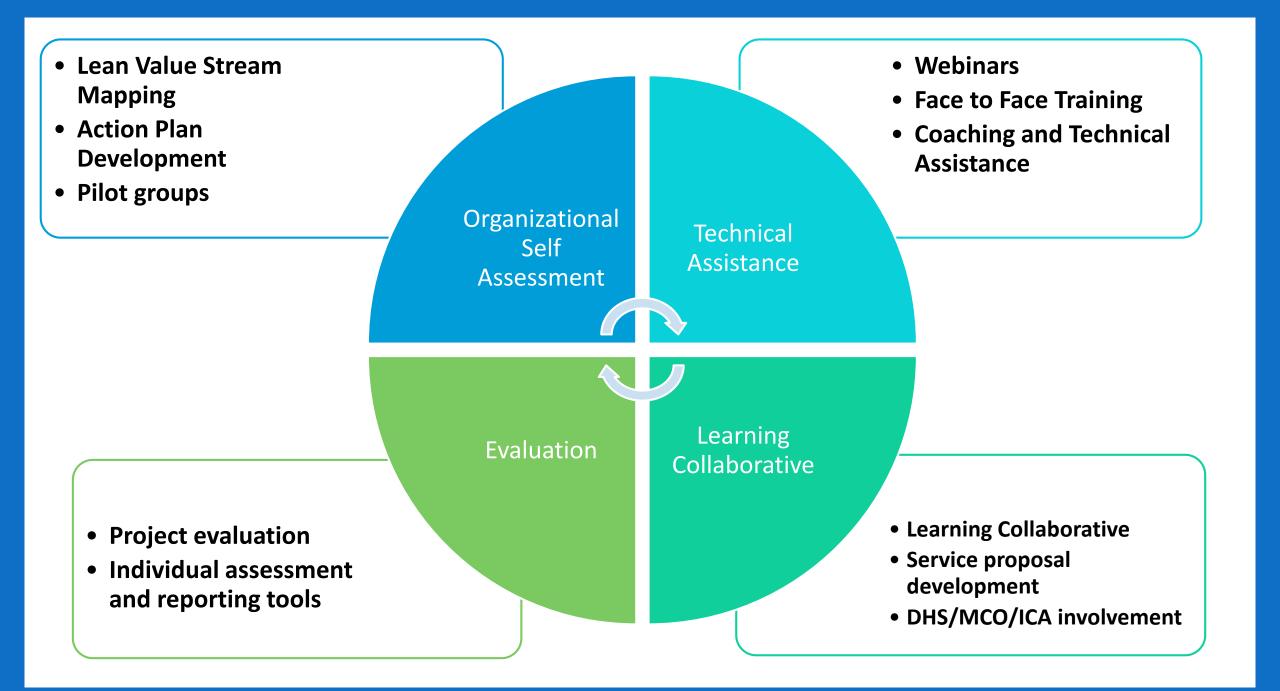
BFL Project Goals

For the Organizations Involved:

- Shift business models from segregated to integrated supports and services
- Increase in number of people moving from segregated to integrated services
- Increase capacity to provide high quality, community- based day and employment services
- Increase integrated employment rates

For the Individuals Involved:

- Increase in the amount of time spent in the community connecting with people who are not paid supports
- Increase in skills and level of independence
- Increase in time spent working in a paid job



What have been some of the challenges?

- Shifting the culture of organizations/staff attitude
- Huge organizational change—rewriting job descriptions, re-training staff
- Family fear/opposition
- Understanding the business/fiscal piece of making such a huge transformation
- Developing solid, consistent service agreements with funders/MCO's and DVR



BFL Outcomes So Far



BFL Impact – Service Provider Responses

All sites report that <u>BFL pilot participants</u> are:

- Significantly increasing their skills and ability to be more independent in the community;
- Spending significantly more time in paid employment in the community;
- Expressing more happiness/satisfaction while participating in the program;
- Making more **choices** about how they **spend their day**;
- Significantly **increasing** the number of **unpaid connections** they have in the community.



BFL Impact – Service Provider Responses

All sites report as a result of participating in the BFL grant their organization is:

- Experiencing significant changes in philosophy, culture and values;
- **Increasing expectations for paid** work in the community for individuals with disabilities;
- Increasing the number of policies/practices that support integrated employment in the community;
- Better supporting individuals with disabilities to develop connections in the community;
- Better supporting individuals to make informed choices;
- Better supporting individuals to develop skills to be more independent in the community.



BFL Impact – IE Outcomes



Out of 46 individuals with disabilities in the pilot, 26 now have paid work in the community.

Organizational Outcomes Achieved

- Shutting doors to work centers-no new entries
- Organizational restructuring--Creation of new job descriptions/duties that focused on community based services
- Increase in staff skills level in developing community connections, finding jobs



Reported Project Highlights:

- "Decreased in house/center based prevocational hours by 4500."
- "Increased community connections for 77 individuals."
- "We have utilized the tools provided by the grant to build the foundation for our transformation from 100% facility based to community"
- "Decreased the number of hours people are participating in sub minimum wage."
- "Staff are more skilled in developing community connections for individuals with disabilities."



More Highlights...

- "My organization is now having significant open conversations about the difference between community "outings" and community engagement and life skills training."
- "We have been having meaningful conversations with all individuals participating in our program about how they want to spend their day."
- "We have had an organizational mind shift that has people thinking and talking about getting more involved in the community through work and nonwork connections."
- "The work we have done with our current pilot participants is already getting other folks we serve (i.e., that are not in the pilot) excited about what they might be able to do in the community."



More...

- "We are working with all staff who work for us, and everyone who participates in our program/families to understand that community integrated employment is an expectation for everyone we serve."
- "Our biggest accomplishment is seeing the growth in self-confidence of all of the individuals in the pilot and the positive results of each person getting a job along the way."
- "The pilot has been a catalyst for change—people are supporting breaking down silos."



And More!

- "There has been a change in staff attitude. They are seeing things/people changing in a positive way and actually hearing it from the people they serve."
- "Staff listening skills have improved dramatically –they are listening, threading and making change happen for individuals."
- "Staff are working with the whole person—not separate silos—i.e., one for work and one for community day services."
- "We are seeing major changes in people's lives—whole different kind of life—whole different conversations. Other people are saying 'I want to do that'."