What is the COVID-19 Back to Work Program?

The COVID-19 Back to Work Program was designed by Dakota County Social Services to incentivize businesses to hire or re-hire individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities have been disproportionately unemployed due to COVID 19 and are eager to return to work.

Who is eligible?

Any individual receiving Dakota County disability case management services is eligible for the program. Any business that directly hires an eligible individual from September 1st to November 1st is able to receive the incentive payment.

Work Time Requirements:

The incentive payment will only be paid after the employee completes **one** of the following:
- 40 hours of work completed by November 13, 2020
- One month of consecutive employment with any number of hours worked
- Five (5) completed work shifts

What is the incentive amount for businesses?

Each business will receive $3000 for hiring or re-hiring an eligible individual. The employee must meet the work time eligibility criteria by November 13th. The employer must submit all required documentation, including proof of work time requirements, to Dakota County by November 13th.

How much paperwork is required for an employer?

Very little! An employer will need to submit contact information and a W-9 alongside documentation that the individual has completed the required amount of work by November 13th (40 hours of work, one month of employment, **or** five (5) completed work shifts).

How do I get started?

The employee, employer, or a staff person supporting the employee can apply by sending the following information to BackToWork@co.dakota.mn.us:
- Employee's name
- Employer's name and a contact person
- Employee's hire date

What else do I need to know?

A business is only eligible to receive one incentive payment per person and all documentation must be received by November 13, 2020. Funding for this program is limited.

Who can I contact for questions?

Email: BackToWork@co.dakota.mn.us   Phone: 651-554-6396