



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

Strategic Operations and Discoveries: What Is The Difference?

Strategic Operations is a department of SEEC responsible for helping the agency's work support our mission and strategic direction. To do that, Strategic Operations pilots new projects that help us learn about ideas and practices that may make us stronger in our journey to:

- *Help people live the lives they choose;*
- *Assist Direct Support Professionals in reaching maximum potential; and*
- *Build new programs or practices that make us stronger as a provider of person-centered supports.*

In the past few years, Strategic Operations has built the Discoveries program and piloted the Academy which helps direct support professionals and the people we support learn side-by-side and then practice their learning in the community. The department also helps in completing applications and drafting policies that are important for SEEC to operate. Much of Strategic Operations' work is researching, writing, and trying out new ideas.

Discoveries is a program that is part of Strategic Operations. Discoveries staff provides supports to people who want to gain independence in managing their homes; have new experiences building relationships with others in the community; and become active participants in the lives of their neighborhoods and local communities. Like Strategic Operations, Discoveries staff learns by doing new things in order to understand best practices. In the past few years several people decided to move from their family homes into homes of their own. The Discoveries team helped the people set up homes based upon their dreams and wishes. Each person's home is run according to the routine that works for them. Discoveries staff has been extremely successful in supporting independent living but recognizes that another part of SEEC has a long history of supported living so plans are in place to see if a transition should occur.

Discoveries work is always based upon providing direct supports to people as a program where Strategic Operations develops and provides support to SEEC as a whole. Find out more on our website at www.seeonline.org!