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**October 21, 2014**

## **Closing the Gap: Transition to Work Programs Empower Youth with Disabilities**

*By Larissa Crossen, Administration for Community Living Program Specialist*

Most Americans recognize work as an important part of a person's ability to contribute to the community. Yet, people with disabilities face remarkably high unemployment rates. According to recent statistics released by the U.S. Department of Labor, while 64 percent of the adult non-disabled population is currently employed, only 17 percent of the adult population with disabilities currently holds a job. One of the reasons for this gap is that few people with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition from school to competitive integrated employment. At the Administration for Community Living, we are working to change that by funding transition programs that provide mentoring, training, and hiring opportunities so more young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities can thrive in the workplace. [Click here](#) to read more.

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