

**DDS Employment First Initiative
Real Work for Real Pay**

EPIC II Soft Skills Fact Sheet

The overarching goal of Epic II is to build capacity of staff in multiple agencies to provide basic skills and/or employment readiness life skills to young adults (age 16-24) within all state agency systems.

Some employers are willing to hire job applicants who are technically qualified and provide training on the soft skills that are lacking. Yet many anecdotal comments included in surveys and business articles indicate a preference for hiring job applicants that possess the desired soft skills and providing training to build technical competence instead. A job applicant's ability to effectively demonstrate soft skills during an interview, therefore, can have a very significant influence on the outcome of his or her job search.

EPIC II Soft Skills curriculum can best be described as a series of workshops targeting key areas such as job interviewing, professionalism, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. This curriculum can be instructor led sessions that may include some degree of interaction and role-play. In order for students to truly internalize the skills that instructors are attempting to impart, they need opportunities to practice them in a contextual setting. Fortunately, integrating technology into soft skills training can effectively support, reinforce, and augment classroom instruction in order to provide students with hands on experiences that they need.

EPIC II soft skills training curriculum will be available May 2012 on the Connect-Ability website: www.connect-ability.com