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FAST FACTS

Self-Employment

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The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (2014) recognizes self-employment as a pathway to competitive integrated employment for individuals with extensive support needs.

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Self-employment involves establishing and running one's own business, either independently or with assistance.

3

Individuals with extensive support needs who have struggled in traditional employment may be well suited for self-employment due to the flexibility and autonomy available.

4

Vocational rehabilitation counselors play a crucial role in supporting individuals with disabilities who are interested in self-employment.

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Counselors who effectively facilitate self-employment are able to assess how a job seeker's disability might impact employment, evaluate the job seeker's ability to complete tasks necessary to run a business, and clarify the expectations and responsibilities of self-employment with the job seeker.

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Transition personnel can support students to explore self-employment prior to exiting school by offering hands-on entrepreneurial experiences such as school-based enterprises or student-run businesses.

This fact sheet was developed by the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign through a contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. Information presented may not reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

