



Center for  
Self-Determination

**F R E E D O M** to live a meaningful life in the community  
**A U T H O R I T Y** over financial resources  
**S U P P O R T** to organize resources in ways that are life-enhancing and meaningful to the individual with a disability  
**R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y** for the wise use of public dollars, and recognition of the contribution that individuals with disabilities can make to their communities  
**C O N F I R M A T I O N** of the important leadership role that self-advocates must play in a newly-redesigned system

# LEARNING OPPORTUNITY:

# Micro-Enterprise Development

IN BRIEF

*The creation of income through entrepreneurial activity is a fundamental expression of the concept of self-determination. People with disabilities own many of the skills and talents necessary for some type of business venture; this learning opportunity is a starting place for the consolidation of those skills and the genesis of a business strategy. The income that is produced by micro-enterprise activity benefits the individual in two important ways. Obviously, the additional money provides a financial resource untethered to social agency oversight or administration. Less obviously, but equally important, is the emotional revenue gained by the business person: The feeling of accomplishment and self-worth that is so very fundamental to the overall health of human beings.*

It is difficult to overstate the benefits of micro-enterprise development for people on the road to self-determination. In America, the keys to full participation in the social spectrum are economic keys; power tends to flow from economic strength. People with disabilities find that they may successfully integrate into their lives a broad range of income-producing activities. Here, the goal is transformed from getting a job to creating income through micro-enterprise.

The five fundamentals of self-determination -- Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility, and Confirmation -- are achievable in part through the path of micro-enterprise development. Individuals choose the level of activity appropriate to their specific talents, so the likelihood of success is increased by careful choices at the outset.

The Center for Self-Determination offers extensive training in micro-enterprise development. Goal-planning, strategy preparation, and the freedom of individual expression in the economic sphere are hallmarks of this powerful aspect of the acquisition of self-determination.

**TO REGISTER FOR THIS OR ANY OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY,  
CONTACT THE CENTER AT THE NUMBERS OR WEBSITE BELOW.**

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**IT'S ALL ABOUT FREEDOM.**

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