



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COARC Awarded OMRDD Quality Improvement Demonstration Program Grant

Mellenville, New York (May 9, 2008) COARC is one of seventeen organizations selected by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) to receive funding for Quality Improvement Demonstration Programs. Over 100 New York organizations applied for the \$2.4 million in grants, and COARC's proposal to develop a workforce investment program was selected to receive \$64,970 to enhance career opportunities for its OMRDD-funded direct care workforce and frontline supervisors, the men and women who provide hands-on support for individuals experiencing developmental disabilities.

"By showing us how to best support the people who truly touch the lives of those with developmental disabilities, these demonstration projects will benefit our entire system of care," said OMRDD Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter. "We're about putting people first, and that means our workers as well those we support. We must nurture and reward the best practices of our valuable staffers, or as I like to call them "our angels," so they can continue providing excellent care, and know that they are vitally important to our agency."

Beginning in July, COARC will create a career ladder for its OMRDD-funded direct care workforce and frontline supervisors, offering opportunities for job advancement and increased income through independent education and training. The grant will also allow COARC to open a multi-media library for improved access to professional research and literature, and to offer on-line continuing education certification through the College of Direct Support.

COARC is a Columbia County not-for-profit organization whose mission is expanding abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their personal goals. COARC provides an array of services and programs that benefit more than 600 individuals and it employs more than 400 local residents. Established in 1965, COARC is the Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. It is primarily supported through state and federal funding, and also by individual and corporate members and other foundations. Information about employment, program services, membership and donation opportunities at COARC is available at www.COARC.org or 518-672-4451.

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