# SEAN: Employment support funding example

The following example is one of the many “success stories” that show how through collaboration, state and federal funds can be used together in creative ways to help people with disabilities achieve competitive, integrated employment. Minnesota’s departments of Education, Employment and Economic Development and Human Services worked together to develop these examples. They act as roadmaps for how to use different agency services to help people achieve their preferred employment outcome.

People with disabilities, their families and professionals can use stories like Sean’s to stimulate conversations and ideas about employment. As you work with various partners across the state, you can use these examples to help create more coordinated, innovative plans.

Please note: The example here is based on a true Minnesota story, but we changed some of the details to protect the identity of the person involved.



## His story

Sean had been in a center based work setting for many years paid through his Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver. Sean expressed he wanted to work in the community. He worked with waiver supported employment service (SES) staff on discovery and job exploration to better understand his skills and interests for competitive, integrated work.

Sean wanted to try some jobs to see what he liked. SES staff and Sean’s county case manager had heard about work and training options available through Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) and wanted to explore these options. Sean applied for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Sean and his case manager brought verification of Social Security benefits and information that documented his disability to the VRS intake meeting. With this information, eligibility was determined immediately.

## Team approach

With a team approach, VRS and the SES staff identified Sean’s skills and interests in a manufacturing career and supported Sean with benefits planning through DB101 to see how work would impact Sean’s benefits. They discovered Sean would make more money working. His SESstaff contacted a local manufacturer. After a conversation about Sean and what he could bring to the business, the manager of the plant was open to exploring Sean working for them. Sean had not worked in the community for many years, so he and his team thought job shadowing would help Sean better understand if he would like the job.

Sean did a one-day job shadow funded through VRS. The job shadow was a success, and Sean was interested in the job. The team knew Sean would need support to learn more about the tasks and skills required before moving directly into the job. A 280-hour paid internship at the manufacturer was arranged through VRS. Sean was going to need job support for his internship to be successful, so the county case manager authorized SES through the waiver for the job coaching during the internship.

## Success

Sean’s internship was a success. Sean was offered a job at the manufacturing plant. VRS purchased the steel toe boots Sean needed for his position. He currently works at the manufacturer for 15 hours per week and continues to attend the center-based day program on his days off. Sean has four hours of job coaching a week paid for through SES.