**Definition of Terms**

**Blended funding** occurs when dollars from multiple funding streams are combined to create a single “pot” of dollars that is then used to purchase one or more specific services that support an individual with a disability in pursuing, obtaining or maintaining integrated employment.

**Braided funding** occurs when multiple funding streams separately and ***simultaneously***, purchase and provide specific services that support an individual with a disability in pursuing, obtaining or maintaining integrated employment.

## Advantages of Blending or Braiding Funds

* Permit systems to fund activities that may fall outside the specified limits of categorical programs
* Allow separate funding streams to be used in flexible and coordinated ways to implement an individual’s employment and/or service plan objective(s) more effectively
* Result in more efficient use of limited resources as agencies work together to overcome barriers, address gaps and eliminate duplication or redundancy
* Create greater direction and control of public resources by the job seeker
* Establish a method for meeting the range of a job seeker's needs that any single funder could not effectively respond to alone

***Source:*** *ODEP*