

The Road to Better Futures



SEEDS Center Project Summary



Disability Solutions through Social Enterprise

Community SEEDS is a new 501c3 organization in Yakima County, formed by concerned citizens with a mission to create inclusive opportunities through social enterprise in job training, employment, and enrichment for people who have autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

WHY WE NEED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Creating social enterprise that includes people with disability is crucial. It is alarming that WA State is now ranked 41st in the country for its spending on our citizens with an I/DD. Nearly 350 people in Yakima County with an I/DD are on a DSHS “wait list”, unable to get employment and social activities they need due to lack of funding.

While it is unacceptable that our

social service system is not adequately funded, we recognize that government funding will never be able to pay for all of the supports and services that people with disabilities and their families need in Yakima County.

RESPONDING WITH SOLUTIONS

Community SEEDS was formed to respond at the local level, within the communities where we live, to the unmet needs of our neighbors who have an I/DD. To get there, we’re focusing on social enterprise, with goals that produce a triple bottom line: social benefit, revenue that helps sustain, and green practices.

Community SEEDS will launch startup for the SEEDS Center featuring a Bistro, Calico Cat Café, and Rad Dog Playpark as its first social enterprise program in 2018.



The SEEDS family of social enterprise programs fulfill the mission of Community SEEDS, and move us forward in our vision of vibrant community partnerships that bring meaningful solutions. Our programs will be centrally located in Zillah, Washington and serve the citizens of Yakima County.



1. SEEDS Center Campus

PHASE I: Farm to Table restaurant, Cat Café, bakery (for people and pets), chef's greenhouse, catering, pet shop/spa, Lower Valley pet adoption center, dog park with doggie daycare, grooming, event center, family resource lounge, and administrative offices. **Creates 60+ jobs**, and hundreds of training and volunteer opportunities.

2.Horticulture Campus

PHASE II: Greenhouses, garden center, florist shop, and training in landscaping and grounds keeping. **Creates 45+ jobs** and activities at each greenhouse, and hundreds of training and volunteer opportunities. *Long range plans for a satellite campus located in Yakima.*

FAQs

1. The SEEDS Center campus will be *the first of its kind campus for disability in WA State*. This first campus will feature the **SEEDS Bistro, Event/Conference Center, Calico Café & Bakery, Rad Dog Playpark & Doggie Daycare**. These programs will generate revenue to help fill the gaps in funding, and offer therapy rich activities, employment, and job training in food services and pet care - areas that people with disabilities do not typically have access to learn about or become skilled at. A Horticulture campus will be added in phase II.
2. We will hire people of all abilities to work hand in hand to foster inclusion. Eligible program participants will include high school students in transition programs, adults with autism and other I/DD, and disabled veterans. Advocacy, education, and resources will also be offered to families at the center.
3. Partnerships are currently under development with local pet rescue/shelters, transportation vendors, food services, carpentry (dog houses, etc), experts in horticulture, various school districts, and other agencies.
4. We recognize that not everyone with a disability can, or wants to work. SEEDS is committed to offering therapy rich social activities such as cooking, nutrition, art, nature and gardening, advocacy and other educational opportunities for individuals and families.