

**COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:**

Horizon Achievement Centre, a registered charity, is the largest provider of services & employment options for adults with intellectual disabilities within the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. The mandate of the Centre is to promote & enhance the independence, choice, & integration of adults with mental &/or intellectual disabilities, who reside within CBRM, through individualized training & instruction. We have a client base of over 100 individuals, & employ 23 full time staff, 5 part time staff, & many casual/relief positions. We run several businesses that fulfill contracts in banquet/catering, baking products, printing & bindery, mail preparation, etc.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Serving the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities (who may be non-verbal) presents challenges. It is imperative that all staff are able to generate detailed, ongoing, & meaningful assessment of each client, using language that is detailed, empathetic, & asset-focused (e.g., It is insufficient to note that "X had a good day.")

To this end, we have spent many years developing a detailed online Client Database to enhance staff record-keeping & communication, as well as enabling us to easily generate summary statistics. Our database is now ready to pilot-test with staff at Horizon & up to 5 local partner organizations. CBU researchers will assess staff suggestions for improvement.

**PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

Horizon Achievement Centre is a non-profit organization & responsible to generate 30% of our operating budget through the sale of products & services. This project will help us move toward our goal of marketing our online Client Database to other organizations, in order to generate much-needed revenue. We aim to expand our services, our building, social enterprise businesses & our client-base, while continuing to develop innovative & empowering services for an underserved population. We have a limited number of staff, & lack the capacity (in terms of both time & research training) to conduct this evaluation internally. We see this partnership with CBU as the first of many research collaborations to come.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal 16/02/18