**Geraldine Lipari Mental Health Grant was**

**presented to New Beginning for Tomorrow in Fairfield, New Jersey.**

NB4T is a   program for adults challenged with Autism and other developmental disabilities. It is their mission to continue preparation of the clients for the world that awaits them after the age of twenty-one.   The adults work in small groups.  NB4T addresses critical areas of learning that will support the client’s level of independence. This is accomplished by focusing on daily living activities, socialization, and community experience with a goal of meaningful employment opportunities.  The grant will be used to purchase a smart board and two (2) laptops.

**REED Academy, Oakland, New Jersey was presented with a Geraldine Lipari Mental Health Grant.**

REED Academy is a private school program dedicated to educating children with Autism ages three through 21.   Many of the students are nonverbal and rely heavily on technology to communicate.  Our grant funded ten (10) iPads. Said technology is utilized by the student so they can follow a daily schedule of activities with the aim of increasing independence.  For example, a schedule could include a morning routine depicting the steps needed to start their day: going to their locker, hanging up their coat, using the restroom.  Additional schedules may involve steps required to take a shower, do laundry, or make lunch. Activities we take for granted, must be introduced in a step by step process with constant reinforcement.