

Complexity & Needs

Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive
Integrated Employment for Individuals with
Disabilities

8th Meeting, April 27-28, 2016

Complexity & Needs Recommendations for Final Report

Funding Recommendation:

The Department of Labor (DOL) should lead a collaboration of federal agencies to identify, align, and develop clear policies and practices across all federal agencies that make Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) a funding priority for all individuals with significant disabilities.

- *Participating agencies should include WIOA committee members (DOL, SSA, CMS, RSA, and ACL), as well as OSEP and DOJ.*



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Funding Recommendation (cont'd):

Activities should include agreeing on common principles that align cross-agency funding priorities and developing guidance for states on policy, practice and accountability measures that establish competitive integrated employment as the priority.

- *Guidance on braiding, blending, Medicaid authorities, and leveraging federal funding*
- *Pilots with enhanced rate for transition from segregated setting to CIE; outcome-based payments guidance and TA*
- *RSA and ED funding to prioritize CIE outcomes, particularly for transition-age youth*



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Data and Outcomes Recommendation (with Capacity Building Subcommittee)

Federal agencies that provide funding to support people with disabilities to obtain competitive integrated employment (CIE) should establish a common definition of CIE and develop common outcome data points on which states that receive funding must regularly report to ensure accountability.



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Freedom to Succeed Recommendation:

SSA should collaborate with Federal partners, state governments, and other key stakeholders to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive, longitudinal research, systems-change, and policy reform initiative designed to increase the number of SSI/SSDI beneficiaries that become optimally employed in CIE while simultaneously preserving cash and health benefits and long-term supports and services (LTSS) necessary for self-sufficiency, and maximum socioeconomic advancement.

- *Strengthen and expand work incentives*
- *Education campaign about benefits, financial planning, etc.*
- *Expanding state and local capacity to provide effective practices*



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Ticket-to-work For Transition-age Youth Recommendation:

Congress should authorize the creation of a Ticket-to-Work demonstration focused on youth with disabilities in transition. With Congressional approval, the Office of Management and Budget should provide authority for SSA and the other Federal partners engaged to waive certain eligibility requirements for participants in the Ticket-to-Work youth demonstration so they can access services across systems with the goal of maximizing the potential of these transition-age youth with disabilities to achieve CIE and financial independence.



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Wrap-Around Supports & Integrated Day Recommendation:

HHS, in collaboration with the WIOA agencies, should convene a cross-agency working group to provide policy guidance and technical assistance on integrated day services and other wrap-around supports that can help people with significant disabilities access competitive integrated employment.

- Purpose of integrated day and wraparound supports is to maximize, not limit or displace, CIE*
- Identify funding and key components and best practices, including use of natural (non-professional) supports*

