


Welcome to the INCLUSION WORKS Community Update

We are excited to share new updates about Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) in the Community Update!

 Stay tuned to hear about all the great things happening in CIE! New updates every month. [Join](#) our mailing list!

INCLUSION WORKS NEWS

1915(i) Supported Employment Service Definition Updates Provide New Opportunities to the I/DD community

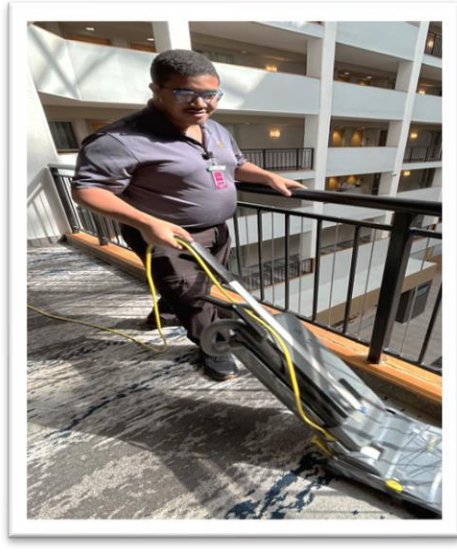
NCDHHS is pleased to announce the approval of the 1915(i) Supported Employment service definition for individuals with developmental disabilities. This will provide a gateway for Medicaid beneficiaries, who may not be involved in a Medicaid Waiver, to receive support in locating a job and guidance to help them in their work transition. If you have any questions regarding the 1915(i) IDD Supported Employment service, please contact your LME/MCO for more information on access and eligibility.

The Clinical Coverage policy (CCP 8-H1) can be [viewed here](#) as well as the full list of other [Clinical Coverage Policies](#) for Medicaid in NC.

INCLUSION WORKS SPOTLIGHT

Project SEARCH® Provides Big Results Through Real-World Experience

Our spotlight this month is on Project Search®.



David, a student intern with Project SEARCH®, is shown vacuuming the hallways at his internship with Embassy Suites

Transitioning from high school to the working world can be a challenging hurdle for everyone – including students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One program making a big difference for students with disabilities in Wake County is Project SEARCH®.

Project SEARCH® is a workplace immersion program that provides interns with a highly sought-after work-ready skillset and a pathway to employment. They complete a program comprising of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training. By the end of the year, interns will have completed three training rotations in their areas of interest at the host business.

You can read the full article [here](#). To learn more about Project SEARCH® and getting involve, visit their [website](#).

KEY UPDATES

Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with I/DD are available with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

North Carolina's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) can provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (ETS) to support students with disabilities move from high school to post-school employment goals. Pre-ETS are a set of activities defined by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) intended to expose students with disabilities at an early age to self-advocacy, postsecondary training, and employments skills and options. Pre-ETS can include one or more of the following five activities:

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Workplace Readiness Training
3. Instruction in Self-Advocacy
4. Counseling on Postsecondary Training Options
5. Work-Based Learning Experiences

Additional information on Pre-ETS can be found in this [presentation](#).

If you think you may qualify for Pre-ETS services, below are ways you can connect with your local VR office. There is no cost to apply or to find out if you are eligible.

 VR provides services statewide. Find an [office](#) near you.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Inclusion Works Lunch & Learns

Meeting Time: 3rd Wed. of even numbered months (Feb, Apr,...), 12 – 1 pm

Purpose: Share information on Inclusion Works topics to individuals and the community.

Topic for Lunch & Learn on 2/21: Inclusion Works Partner Spotlight: Work Together NC

[Register](#) for Inclusion Works Lunch & Learns.

View previous Lunch & Learn presentations & recordings on the [Inclusion Works website](#).

If you want to hear about a certain topic, we want to know! [Send us an email](#)

RESOURCES

Helpful Links and Resources for Inclusion Works

- [North Carolina Inclusion Works Initiative](#)
- [North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services \(DVRS\)](#)
- [Vocational Rehabilitation Information Request](#)
- [North Carolina Division of Health Benefits \(DHB/ NC Medicaid\)](#)
- [NC LME/MCO Directory](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\) on CIE](#)

Meet the Inclusion Works Team

- Kelly Crosbie, Director of DMHDDSUS
- Renee Rader, Deputy Director and COO of DMHDDSUS
- Ginger Yarbrough, I/DD & TBI Section Chief, DMHDDSUS
- Claire Colligan – I/DD Consultant for CIE, DMH/DD/SUS
- Sandy Terrell, Chief Clinical Officer, NC Medicaid, DHB
- Pam Scott, Assistant General Counsel, OGC
- Chris Egan, Asst. Secretary for Employment & Inclusion, DVRS
- Kathie Smith, Division Director, DVRS
- Kenneth Bausell, Sr. Dir. of Employment & Inclusion, DVRS
- LaCosta Parker, I/DD Program Manager, DHB
- Tara Heasley – I/DD Policy Consultant, DHB
- Alice Farrar – Chief of Employment Services & Pro. Dev., DVRS
- Adrienne Kittle - Program Specialist for I/DD, DVRS
- Jeanna Cullinan – Comms & Special Pro., Dis. Employment & Inclusion
- Dina Reynolds – Communications Consultant, DMH/DD/SUS

If you have questions, **email or call:** dmhiddcontact@dhhs.nc.gov • 984-236-5045