



Welcome to the INCLUSION WORKS Community Update

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



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



INCLUSION WORKS NEWS

Celebrate Inclusion: March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

March is DD Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the vibrant community of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

Join us as we:

- Recognize the contributions of people with I/DD who enrich our state's social fabric
- Advocate for equal opportunities in education, employment, and community living
- Promote acceptance to break down barriers and foster inclusive environments
- Connect with resources that support individuals with IDD and their families
- Get involved! Attend local events, share stories of inclusion, and stay informed
- Keep reading to see opportunities to get involved with Inclusion Works!

Together, we can create a more inclusive North Carolina for everyone!



INCLUSION WORKS SPOTLIGHT

Graduation Ceremony Celebrates WorkSource East Successes



Asiya Drivers was a featured speaker and graduate at WES's December graduation. Drivers completed her training course in printing, and she is currently completing an internship in the printing field.

WorkSource East (WSE) is an [NCDHHS](#) training center that offers various employment-related services and supports for [vocational rehabilitation](#) clients with disabilities. Many of WSE's students live on campus as they complete their course of training in their chosen job fields.

WSE provides training opportunities for Wayne County high school students and job seekers with disabilities from surrounding communities, as well as for VR clients with disabilities from other parts of the state, who can apply to be a residential student at WSE.

WSE held its winter graduation on Dec. 13, 2023, for 23 graduates who successfully completed their program of choice.

Those who are interested in receiving training at WSE should first apply for Vocational Rehabilitation services through [their local office](#). If you are interested in learning more about WorkSource East, you can [schedule a tour of our facility](#), follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or check out [our webpages](#).



KEY UPDATES

Medicaid Expansion and the Impact on CIE

As of December 2023, DHHS-Division of Health Benefits began enrolling eligible North Carolinians into the expanded Medicaid program. This enrollment is projected to increase NC Medicaid access for up to 600,000 individuals. This enrollment will provide the necessary access points/opportunities for Medicaid payment for physical and behavioral health service

The [Medicaid Expansion Dashboard](#) provides a real-time overview of new member enrollment.

Home and Community Base 1915(c) Innovations Waiver Public Comment Period is NOW OPEN

The public comment period was opened February 9, 2024, and will close March 12, 2024. The public is encouraged to share their comments and suggestions, for consideration, to Medicaid.WaiverComment@dhhs.nc.gov or by mail to:

NC DHHS
NC Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) Innovations Waiver Team,
1950 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1950

Please submit your comments by 5:00 pm on March 12, to be considered during this public comment period.

The Innovations Waiver Includes a New Service for Members

The Innovations Waiver includes a new service for members interested in working and can provide the member with information on options for their employment path. The new service definition for Benefits Counseling:

- will assist individuals to receive counseling and planning services as they prepare to seek competitive integrated employment.
- will support individuals who need problem solving assistance to maintain competitive employment.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Announcing a Celebratory DD Awareness March Inclusion Works Lunch & Learn!

Meeting Time: March 25th from 12 – 1 pm

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

Topic for Lunch & Learn on 3/25: A Celebration of the NC I/DD Community and a Q&A with Community Guest, Brittany Ellis

[Register](#) for the Celebratory 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](#)

NC APSE Conference March 13-15th

NC APSE is a state chapter of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE.)*

NC APSE provides leadership, training, technical support and advocacy concerning the benefits of hiring employees with disabilities in North Carolina.

[Register for the NC APSE Conference!](#)



Employment First
Employment for All



RESOURCES

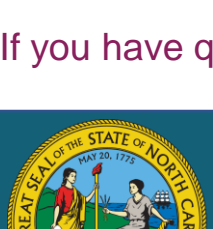
Helpful Links and Resources for Inclusion Works

[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, Director I/DD, TBI & Olmstead, 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
- 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



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/competitive-integrated-employment

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