



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!

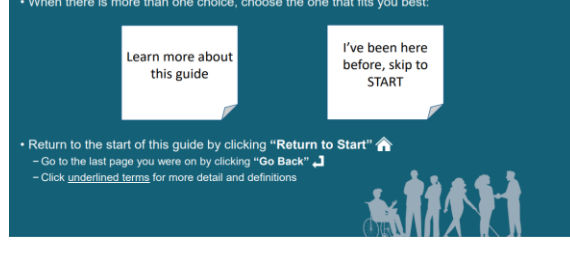
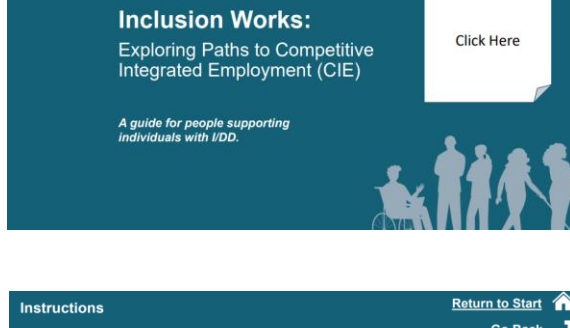
INCLUSION WORKS NEWS

Coming in May: Exploring Paths to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Guide

Inclusion Works will be launching an **“Exploring Paths to CIE Guide”** for people supporting individuals with I/DD, including their care managers, providers, and families. The guide explores key terms, processes, and support options available to individuals with I/DD to achieve Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).

[Join](#) our upcoming June Lunch and Learn for a demo of how to navigate the guide!

**We will continue to make enhancements to this guide with input from the community.*



INCLUSION WORKS SPOTLIGHT

New Name, Same Mission: NCDHHS Announces Transition to Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities



DHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley sharing remarks at EIPD Kickoff event on April 23.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services announced the division’s new name: the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD). This name change reflects the division’s century-long history of critical work with North Carolinians with disabilities. NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley, EIPD Director Kathie Smith and EIPD clients celebrated the change at a kickoff event on April 23 at the Haywood Building on Dorothea Dix Campus in Raleigh.

“We all want to lead fulfilling and independent lives, and individuals with disabilities are no different,” Smith said. “We hope our new name will help providers, community-based organizations and the general public better understand the division’s work and services.”

EIPD helps people with disabilities achieve their goals for competitive employment and more independent living. EIPD also engages with thousands of businesses annually, supporting recruitment and onboarding, training, consultation and other services that help employers develop a diverse, disability-inclusive workforce.

For more information, email eipd.info@dhhs.nc.gov. Read the [full announcement](#).



Kathie Smith, EIPD Director, sharing remarks at the EIPD Kickoff event on April 23.

KEY UPDATES

Call for Community Members with Lived Experiences: JOIN the Inclusion Works Employment Advisory Committee

The Inclusion Works Advisory Committee is seeking community members who identify as an individual with intellectual or developmental disabilities to join a forum for Competitive Integrated Employment consumers, family, and providers. Help shape a more inclusive North Carolina by informing the Inclusion Works strategic priorities through your voices, thoughts, and experiences.

The advisory group meets monthly, and members will be compensated for their participation. If you are interested in learning more or want to recommend someone, please reach out to [Claire Colligan](#).

Achieve a Better Life Experience with the NC ABLE Program

Living with a disability can add some difficulties and hurdles in life. Saving and investing should not be one of them! The NC ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Program allows individuals with the occurrence of disability prior to the age of 26 the opportunity to save money that can be used to pay for a variety of qualified disability expenses (QDE’s) while maintaining Medicaid, SSI, SSDI and other public supports. This presentation will cover the benefits and features of the NC ABLE Program, how to determine if you are eligible for an account, contribution sources and withdrawal requirements, and more. Learn more at NCABLE.org.

Learn more by checking out the past NC ABLE Lunch and Learn [presentation](#) and [recording](#).

Inclusion Connects Launch

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced the launch of Inclusion Connects, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state to better connect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families with community-based services which are essential to supporting their health and well-being.

For more information, visit the [Inclusion Connects website](#).

Announcement: North Carolina Strengthens Commitment to Inclusive Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is excited to announce a significant step forward in expanding employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). The department has extended its collaboration with several partner organizations through July 2025 to drive forward efforts to expand competitive integrated employment (CIE) in North Carolina.

Check out the [full announcement](#). Please note this went into effect in October 2023.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

June Inclusion Works Lunch & Learn!

Meeting Time: June 19th from 12 – 1 pm

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

Topic for Lunch & Learn on 6/19: Assistive Technology for the Workplace and Demo of Exploring Paths to CIE Guide

[Register](#) for the 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

- [Inclusion Works Initiative](#)
- [Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities \(EIPD\)](#)
- [EIPD Information Request Form](#)
- [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, Assant General Counsel, OGC
- Chris Egan, Asst. Secretary for Employment & Inclusion
- Kathie Smith, Director of EIPD
- Kenneth Bausell, Sr. Dir. of Employment & Inclusion
- LaCosta Parker, I/DD Program Manager, DHB
- Tara Heasley – I/DD Policy Consultant, DHB
- Alice Farrar – Chief of Employment Services & Prog. Dev., EIPD
- Adrienne Kittle - Program Specialist for I/DD, EIPD
- Jeanna Cullinan – Comms & Special Proj., Employment & Inclusion
- Dina Reynolds – Communications Consultant, DMH/DD/SUS

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

