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GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS LEGISLATION TO FURTHER EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SACRAMENTO – The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) applauds Governor Brown for signing SB 1274 (Developmental services: Data exchange), and Senator McGuire for authoring this important bill. SB 1274 authorizes data sharing between the Department of Social Services and the Department of Developmental Services regarding CalFresh and CalWORKS program. SB 1274 also builds upon AB 1696, signed into law last year, which authorized data sharing between the Employment Development Department and the Department of Developmental Services. These two sets of data will be examined by the Employment First Committee to improve our understanding of implementation of the competitive integrated employment policy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. “Data is so important to the work we do at the State Council. We rely on it to implement policies. We are grateful for the leadership of Governor Brown and Senator McGuire for making this data sharing legislation a reality,” stated Council Chairperson Sandra Smith.

By obtaining more nuanced data, the Employment First Committee can better analyze the factors that contribute to progress toward competitive integrated employment. The additional data will also assist the Committee in the development of more effective data driven policy and strategy recommendations to improve employment opportunities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. SB 1274 is another positive step in realizing the goal of competitive integrated employment for every Californian with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Close to 50 years ago, Congress established the State Councils in every state and territory. The Councils are authorized in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families design and can access services and supports that “promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion” in community life. The Lanterman Act establishes the SCDD in California to be comprised of 31 members appointed by the Governor, including individuals with disabilities, their families, other partners and state agencies. The SCDD develops a five-year state plan to implement the DD Act through the work of 12 regional offices in California. The plan is developed with stakeholder input and is focused on addressing systemic barriers to employment, housing, education, community supports, health and safety for persons with developmental disabilities.