



POLICY PRIORITIES 2019-2020

1. PROTECTING AND ENHANCING CIVIL RIGHTS

Every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) has the right to equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. People with I/DD have the right to be safe at school, work, and in the community. Disparities in access, outcomes, and quality for all services and supports must be addressed. Federal and state programs providing services and supports to people with I/DD must be transparent and accountable. Complexities in the service delivery system must be reduced, and assistance in navigating services and supports should be provided to people with I/DD and their families.

The Council will work to ensure civil rights are protected in federal and state policies. The Council will work to ensure the full and robust implementation and enhancement of recent federal policies that enshrine the values of the ADA including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), the Home and Community-Based Services Setting Rule (HCBS), the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and the Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act.

2. ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIVING

Statewide community-based integrated living options for individuals with I/DD must be increased and enhanced through access to housing programs and subsidies. Community education and integration must be provided. Permanent, affordable, accessible, and sustained housing options must be continually developed to meet both current and future needs. In California, it is estimated that 74 percent of people with I/DD live with family. On average, 138 percent of a person's SSI payment is needed to afford a 1 bedroom apartment.

The Council will work to improve options by implementing the SCDD Housing Framework. The Council will work to ensure money from closures of the Developmental Centers remains in a dedicated housing fund to support integrated community housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





3. IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM

Individuals with I/DD and their families must have the option to control their service dollars and their services. The Self-Determination Program (SDP) gives individuals the tools and the basic human right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness in the ways that they choose. The process begins with a Person-Centered Plan which details the individual's unique needs, competencies, and aspirations.

The Council will support, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the SDP.

4. GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

Every person with I/DD must be provided with opportunities for competitive integrated employment (CIE). In California, CIE is the priority outcome for working age individuals with I/DD, regardless of the severity of their disability. Data shows that only 13.6 percent of Californians with I/DD between the ages of 16 – 64 are employed in CIE (compared to the employment rate of the general population in the same age range at 75.7 percent). Policies and practices must promote collaboration between local and state agencies. Policies and practices must remove barriers to CIE through promoting access to information, benefits counseling, job training, inclusive postsecondary education, and ensuring appropriate provider rates that incentivize quality employment outcomes.

The Council will work to ensure full and robust implementation of California's Employment First Law and the implementing of the Blueprint for Change. The Council will work to ensure that policies and practices set expectations for CIE, microenterprise training, and self-employment. The Council will work to incentivize employers and contractors for hiring employees with I/DD.

5. ENSURING ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Every person with I/DD must have access to and be fully supported to fully participate in their communities. Community based programs must be funded. Adequate services and supports in the community rely on having adequate wages for providers. The state must increase rates to adequately support the availability of quality services and supports. A planned and systematic approach to rate adjustments must prioritize and incentivize services and supports.

The Council will work to restore the Department of Developmental Services programs that were cut in 2009 including camp and social recreation. The Council will support efforts to provide adequate wages (which is being examined by the Department of Developmental Services' Rate Study). The Council will also work to ensure adequate services and supports by working to ensure effective implementation of the new eligibility for receiving benefits from the CalFresh program.

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