

Employment Legislative Update

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UPDATE

2023 SCDD POLICY PRIORITIES

- Earlier this year the Council voted to prioritize employment as a policy priority in the legislature
 - Employment is important now because there are a lot of employment programs happening in our system but our community is still under employed at a rate of less than 20%
 - It is also important now because with the end of subminimum wages (SB 639, 2021), individuals are moving to competitive integrated employment – real jobs for real pay. This means we need to do better at connecting individuals who want to work to jobs.
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Employment Priority #1

Limited Exam Appointment Process

State Internship Program (LEAP SIP)

SCDD worked with Department of Rehabilitation and the legislature to make an important employment focused, temporary state internship program permanent. **We won!**

- This is important because the State Internship Program (SIP) is intended to increase the number people with intellectual and developmental disabilities working in state jobs. Since the program was temporary no one could rely on it and very few people participated.
- We hope to increase the number of state internship and job opportunities in the coming years.
- For more information about LEAP SIP visit this DOR website [SIP - CA Department of Rehabilitation](#)

Employment Priority #2

Create an Employment First Office

Part 1 of 2

California is an employment first state. This means:

- Assume that everyone with I/DD wants to work and can work
- Supports should be provided to ensure success at work, regardless of disability.

An Employment First Office would work with all state employment programs to make sure that they are increasing the number of people with I/DD working in real jobs for real pay.

Employment Priority #2

Create an Employment First Office

Part 2 of 2

We won! In this year's state budget process, we successfully created an Employment First Office.

- Beginning July 2024, for the first time in history, California will have a dedicated team, the “Office of Employment First” who will work to increase the number of people with I/DD in the workforce.
- Our goal is to make your job seeking efforts just as successful as anyone else's, regardless of disability.

Employment First Office Brief Explanation of Legislation

AB 121 (Developmental Disabilities Trailer Bill)

- ✓ Creates the Employment 1st Office in the California Health and Human Services Agency on 7/1/24

WIC 4868.5

- ✓ Ends the existing Employment First Committee on 7/1/24

WIC 4868 (f)

- ✓ Creates the new Employment First Committee

WIC 4868.5 (e)(1) – (2)

So What Does This all Mean?

This year SCDD made improving employment opportunities a priority and **we won!**

- ✓ There will be more opportunities to work in state jobs
- ✓ There will be a state office dedicated to improving employment opportunities for all



Questions?