

REPORT FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

POLICY UPDATE

Limited Exam Appointment Process State Internship Program (LEAP SIP)

This summer, through the state budget process, SCDD (together with DOR) successfully championed the elimination of the sunset on the LEAP SIP program.

Every year we have advocated for an extension of SIP, this year we successfully made the program permanent by eliminating the 1-year sunset. This was accomplished with the support of the SB 639 Transition Plan recommendations that SCDD released January 2023.

Background on civil service and IDD

Historically, persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities have not been represented in California state civil service.

The State Internship Program (SIP) is an alternative pathway to LEAP certification upon completion of 512-hours of an internship.

SIP interns receive wages during their internship through the DDS and on-the-job-supports from a Community Rehabilitation Program funded by DOR.

For more information, please visit this DOR website [SIP - CA Department of Rehabilitation](#)

Establishment of an Employment First Office

This year we made employment our legislative priority by championing the establishment of an Employment First Office. This priority was realized in the 2022-23 budget that passed this summer by way of the Developmental Disabilities trailer bill AB 121. Here is a brief summary of that new office and the accompanying changes:

- ✓ Establishes an Employment 1st Office under the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) effective 7/1/2024 (Section 28 WIC 4868.5.)
- ✓ The Employment 1st Committee (EFC) will be inoperative effective 7/1/2024 (Section 26 WIC 4868 (f))
- ✓ The Employment 1st Office will form a new EFC as part of its mission

Update on SCDD Supported Legislation

Here is a list of the bills and their status as of 6/29/23

1. SB 271 (Dodd) - Wheelchair Repair
2. AB 1568 (Wood) - Developmental services: independent living skills services: rates
3. AB1567 (Principal Authors: Eduardo Garcia, Wendy Carrillo, Connolly, Friedman, and Papan) - The Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – provides technical assistance to I/DD during emergencies.
4. AB 248 (Mathis) – Removes offensive/outdated language from law
5. SB 246 (Ochoa-Bogh) - Interagency Council on Homelessness- adds SCDD to Council

6. AB 222 (Arambula) - Creates Employment Workgroup- **now a 2-year bill**
7. AB 447 (Arambula) – Creates inclusive college opportunities
8. AB 87 (Quirk-Silva) - Education- Authorizes recordings of meetings
9. AB 545 (Pellerin) – Voting- Accessibility
10. SB 37 (Caballero) **Co-Sponsor** – Housing assistance to prevent homelessness- **now a 2-year bill**
11. AB 946 (Nguyen) – Public Safety -Endangered Missing Advisory- includes I/DD.
12. AB 280 (Holden) – Civil Rights - Prohibits solitary confinement of persons with I/DD.
13. ~~AB 244 (Wilson) **Failed Deadline**— Inclusivity Training for Childcare Staff~~
14. SB 544 (Laird) - Bagley-Keene Meetings
15. SB 483 (Cortese) – Education – prohibits restraints - **now a 2-year bill**
16. AB 1147 (Addis/Garcia) - Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023 – Regional Centers
17. AB 624 (Grayson) - Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments
18. ~~AB 1097 (Rivas) — Became tax bill — dropped from Support~~

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

OUTREACH

- ✓ MAY NEWS & EVENTS: Included messaging that highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month, this year’s theme: “Look Around, Look Within.” This year’s theme challenges us to examine how our surroundings—like safe and stable housing, healthy home lives, neighborhoods and cities, and nature—affect our overall physical and mental health and Older American’s Month. This year’s theme “Aging Unbound” encourages everyone to remove the barriers of ageism by exploring an array of aging experiences without confining ourselves to the typical stereotypes and expectation of what growing older means. Messaging also included details about Medi-Cal eligibility reviews which began on April 1st and the RFP for the Council’s Cycle 46 Program Development Grant. Messaging was disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and posted to the Council’s primary social media pages.
- ✓ CA NEON CIE CoP: Comms developed an email blast promoting the NEON grant and community of practice sessions happening this summer. Messaging was disseminated in English and Spanish to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and posted to the Council’s primary social media pages:
- ✓ JUNE NEWS & EVENTS: Email blast included a brief overview about the significance of Pride, how it began and included the 2022 video of Councilmember Adler sharing what Pride means to her. Messaging also included CA NEON CIE CoP calendar of sessions, and a Medi-Cal eligibility reviews reminder. Messaging was disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and posted to the Council’s primary social media pages:

- ✓ Comms contributed useful tools to help aid the coalition of supporters of [AB 121, Budget Act of 2023](#). Developmental Services (1) Act for use in email and social media posts. Below is a flyer that serves as an accompaniment to the News Release <https://scdd.ca.gov/newsroom/> that was disseminated via Constant Contact email, and posted to the Council's Newsroom page on the website and social media platform.

✓

An Employment First Office is Coming to California!

"We all want to work, and employers need employees. The new Employment First Office will focus on helping everyone, including the state agencies supporting us."

— Wesley Witherspoon, Chair
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities









- ✓ JUNETEENTH/NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY COMMEMORATION: Through a series of three videos which featured Council Chair Witherspoon (<https://youtu.be/m2SNJehz5HI>), and Councilmembers McNair (https://youtu.be/WFy7jv_tfFI) and Ashe (<https://youtu.be/e-8htRPkdc4>) recorded in 2022, as they each shared their personal reflections and the significance of the holiday. The trio of videos were disseminated on June 15 via a Constant Contact email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses and shared via SCDD Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- ✓ Participated in legislative outreach planning meetings and assisted regional offices, SCDD committees, and partners with disseminating information about existing and upcoming initiatives (including webinars and live in-person events) via statewide email or social media.

BRANDING

- ✓ Completed: SCDD Branded PowerPoint Presentation Template for staff wide use.
- ✓ In Progress: SCDD Personal Stories Campaign and story archive.
- ✓ Ongoing: Suite of SCDD branded design elements for staff wide use.