



Employment Resource Guide

2026-2027 Celebrating Value and Talent

California's Employment First policy supports competitive integrated employment as the preferred outcome for people with developmental disabilities.

Transition planning should begin by age 14, and no later than age 16, as part of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Students can begin exploring their interests, strengths, career goals, education/training options, and employment supports.

Assembly Bill (AB) 438

https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/bills/ca_202320240ab438#mc_cid=6b807b3899&mc_eid=e2e54f4a17

“I want a job.” “I want to work.”

If you want to work, make sure employment is included as a goal in your IEP and, when appropriate, your Regional Center Individual Program Plan (IPP).

Ask your Service Coordinator:

“What employment supports are available to me to reach my goals?”

Explore **SCDD's Regional Center Service Code Directory** to learn about services and support that may be available to you (<https://scdd.ca.gov/regionalcenterservices/>).

Get Connected with the **Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Student Services** for job exploration and services. Explore the world of work here (<https://dor.ca.gov/Home/StudentServices>)!

California Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF):

<https://www.dor.ca.gov/home/ylf>

Know Your Employment Rights and Options

Your goals. Your choices. Your future.

Advocate for Yourself

Ask for what you want. Ask questions. You have the right to be part of decisions about your work and your future.

Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)

A real job, in the community, for real pay.

Employment First

Your goals and choices matter. What you like. What you are good at. What you want to learn. Your interests.

Individual Program Plan (IPP)

Your plan with your Regional Center, centered around your needs, goals, and supports.

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

Helps people with disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs.

Learn and Grow

You do not have to know what job you want before you start exploring.

Benefits and Work

Get information about your benefits before making decisions on what you think might happen.

Transportation

Start thinking about transportation before you get the job.

Planning Benefits and Supports

About This Guide

This guide is a starting point for exploring employment resources and supports. It is not a complete list of all available services or resources. Services and eligibility may vary based on your individual needs and circumstances.

Inclusion in this guide does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).

For help connecting with your local SCDD Regional Office, visit our Contact Us page (<https://scdd.ca.gov/contactus/>).

California Department of Education (CDE) Secondary Transition Planning

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/SP/se/secondarytransition.asp>

Parents Helping Parents, Transition and Adulthood

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNXBd59Oob9Z1Lwm0m49046paZfvnwDd/view>

Disability Benefits 101 <https://ca.db101.org/about.htm>

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

<https://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA.html#:~:text=WIPA%20programs%20serve%20people%20who,the%20availability%20of%20work%20supports>

Social Security - The Red Book <https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/>

Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm>

Social Security's Ticket to Work Program <https://www.ssa.gov/work/>

Job Accommodation Network (JAN) <https://askjan.org/>

CalABLE <https://calable.ca.gov/>

Regional Center Employment Services: services through the Regional Center to help you get and keep Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)
Supported Employment, Job Development, and the Paid Internship Program (PIP).

Career Exploration Training and Jobs

WorkAbility Programs: <https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CpEducation>

CareerOneStop:

<https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/AmericanJobCenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx>

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR): <https://www.dor.ca.gov/>

Alternate Assessment Process - Limited Examination and Appointment

Program (LEAP): <https://www.calhr.ca.gov/about-calhr/divisions-programs/equity-accessibility-management-services/limited-examination-and-appointment-program-leap/>

College-To-Career (C2C): <https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CppCollegetoCareer>

California Center for Inclusive College (CCIC):

<https://www.cainclusivecolleges.org/>

Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS):

<https://www.semel.ucla.edu/initiatives/ucla-peers-clinic/>

PEERS for Careers Employment Skills Program:

<https://teams.semel.ucla.edu/peers/peers%C2%AE-careers>

Transportation

Tip: Use the SCDD Regional Center Service Code Directory. Select “Transportation and Travel Supports” to learn more.

<https://scdd.ca.gov/regionalcenterservices/>

Mobility/Travel Training: Need help learning to use public transportation? Ask your Service Coordinator about Mobility Training.

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR): Ask your DOR counselor about transportation and mobility supports related to your employment goal.

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/department-of-rehabilitation-dor-and-transportation-funding>

ADA Paratransit: If you have a disability that prevents you from using fixed-route public transportation, you may be eligible for ADA paratransit. Contact your local public transit agency to learn about eligibility and how to apply.

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/paratransit>

Alternative Transportation Options: Rideshare services such as Uber or Lyft, taxis, and other community-based transportation options.

Find Transportation Where You Live: Contact 211 for information about local transportation and community resources. <https://211ca.org/> available in most California counties; coverage and services vary).

Trip Planning & Real-Time Transportation Information: California 511 provides transportation information and trip-planning resources. Availability varies by region.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/traveler-information/511>

Community and Employment Connections

California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities:

<https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CCEPD>

Meristem's Transformative Autism Program (TAP):

https://tapautism.org/#what_is_tap

Advanced Employment Group: <https://www.advancedemploymentgroup.com/our-services>

Institute for Community Inclusion: <https://www.communityinclusion.org/publications>

The Uniquely Abled Project: <https://uniquelyabledproject.org/>

Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability (EARN):

<https://askearn.org/page/neurodiversity-in-the-workplace>

California's Workforce Network: <https://calworkforce.org/local-boards>

Disability Employment Technical Assistance (TA) Center:

<https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CppCollegetoCareer>

Lime Connect - Rebranding disability through achievement:

<https://limeconnect.com/>

Northern California Business Advisory Council <https://health.ucdavis.edu/mind-institute/centers/cedd/business-advisory-council>

IDD Employment Podcast Series, California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/idd-employment-podcast-series/id1820309945>

Self Employment

Regional Center

Ask your Service Coordinator about employment supports and how your self-employment goal can be included in your IPP.

California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

<https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SelfEmploymentProgram>

Ask about vocational rehabilitation and self-employment services.

SCORE

Connect with volunteer business mentors and small-business resources.

<https://www.score.org/ca/>

California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity (CAMEO)

Find small-business and microenterprise organizations that offer training, technical assistance, and financing resources. <https://cameonetwork.org/>

Additional Resources

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Resource Library <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdm-tap-resource-library/>

Self-Determination Program (SDP) <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-home/>

Learn more about NDEAM

www.scdd.ca.gov/ndeam