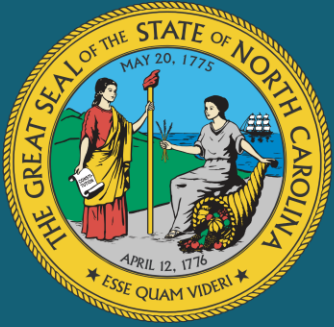




NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Inclusion Works Community Advisory Committee Meeting

We'll get started in a few minutes.
Please mute your microphone

July 21, 2026

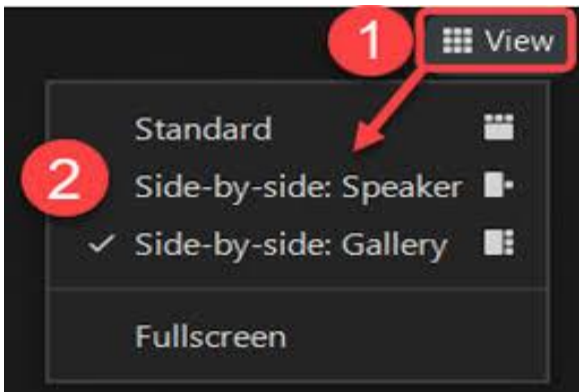
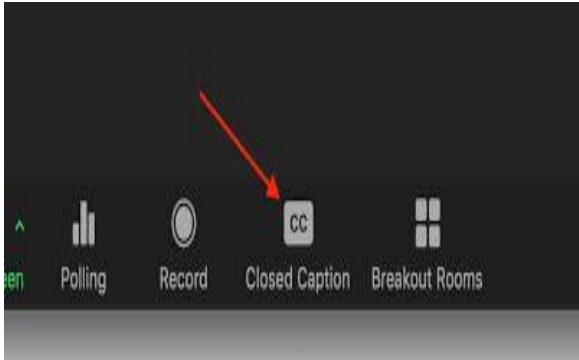


Housekeeping

- Reminders about the webinar technology:
 - Please make sure you are using a computer or smart phone connected to the internet, and the audio function is on, and the volume is turned up.
 - Please make sure your microphone is muted for the duration of the call unless you are speaking or asking questions.
 - Questions can be submitted any time during the presentation using the “Q&A” box located on your control panel, and we will answer as many questions as time allows after the presentation.



Housekeeping



- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and Closed-Captioning
 - ASL Interpreters and Closed-Captioning options will be available for today's event.
 - For closed-captioning options select the "Closed Caption" feature located on your control panel.

Intérpretes en lengua de signos americana (ASL) y subtítulos:

Habrán intérpretes de ASL y opciones de subtítulos disponibles para el evento de hoy. Para opciones de subtítulos, seleccione la función "Subtítulos" ubicada en su panel de control.

- Adjusting Video Layout and Screen View
 - Select the "View" feature located in the top-right hand corner of your screen.

Welcome

Introductions



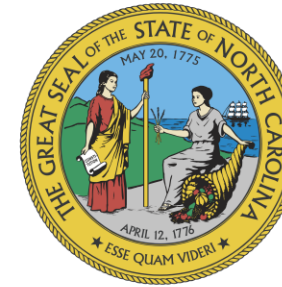
Claire Colligan, MS, LCMHC, LCAS, CCS
I/DD Employment Lead, I/DD, TBI, & Olmstead
DMH/DD/SUS



Barbara Bossen, M.Ed.
Propel Project Site Coordinator/Intervention
Coach
PACE Project Research Specialist/Site
Coordinator
UNC School of Education



Katherine Titus, MSW
Senior Technical Assistance and Training Manager
WISE



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



Anita McMahan, MA
Chief of Employment Services and Program
Development
Division of Employment and Independence for People
with Disabilities



Work Together NC
Possibility to Opportunity



Brianne Tomaszewski
Assistant Professor
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Psychiatry
TEACCH Autism Program



Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Advisory Committee Details**
- **Workforce Training North Carolina**
- **Provider Innovation and Training**
- **Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities Program**
- **Employment Assessments**
- **Q & A**



Community Meeting Details

Purpose Statement:

To provide a forum for individuals with lived experience, family members, providers, and advocates to share their thoughts, perspectives, and opinions about the Inclusion Works Program. NCDHHS will share key updates about Inclusion Works and gather feedback on the implementation of program activities.

Community Advisory Meeting Schedule

3rd Tuesday every 3 months (quarterly) at 11:00am

The Community Meeting has been UPDATED! Future meetings will allow opportunity to update and track progress on the Inclusion Works Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

2026 Meetings:

July 21, 2026

October 20, 2026

Reminders:

- RSVP to Calendar Invitations
- Come prepared with questions and ideas about the Inclusion Works program
- Reach out to Claire.Colligan@dhhs.nc.gov if you know other individuals who would like to participate in Advisory Committee

If there is a specific topic you would like NCDHHS to cover during the Advisory Committee, please reach out to Claire Colligan (Claire.Colligan@dhhs.nc.gov) and it will be added to the agenda for our next meeting.

Inclusion Works Program Updates

Inclusion Works Updates

What's New for Spring and Summer 2026:

- Our new [Informed Choice video](#) is now available on NCDHHS YouTube.
- Our June Lunch and Learn was held on June 17th. Inclusion Works was proud to offer information on From School to Work, and the availability of transition services. Look for this and other events: [Transition Age Students](#)
- Join us August 19, for a special Lunch and Learn, as we hear about the success of our Provider Innovation grantees as they implement their Action Plans! Stay Tuned for a Registration Link!

Provider Innovation Cohorts



Cohort One	Cohort Two	
OE Enterprises	Alula	Durham Exchange Club Industries
Neuse Enterprises	Gateway Human Services	Community Workforce Solutions
Alleghany Group Homes	Monarch	ARC of Davidson County
Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee	Workshop of Davidson	Chatham Trades

Inclusion Works Strategic Plan

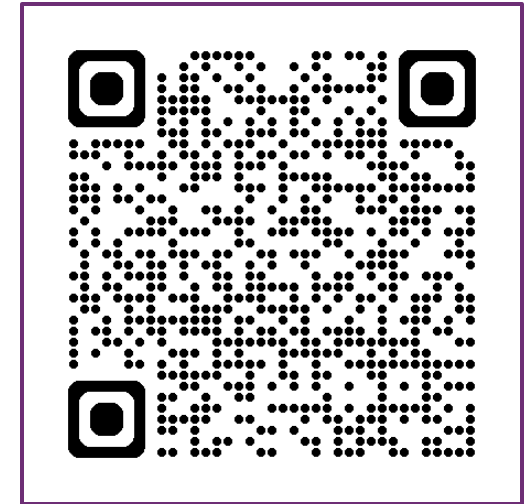


Inclusion Works Strategic Plan

The Inclusion Works Strategic Plan will continuously evolve based on feedback from community and availability of resources and funding.

We are now 11 months into Strategic Plan implementation!

We are planning a special **One Year Review** in the fall of 2026.



Find it on the **Inclusion Works** website!

Five Core Inclusion Works Goals – Strategic Plan

The Inclusion Works Strategic Plan is organized by outlining the **Goals, Objectives, and Strategies** that NCDHHS will employ to increase Competitive Integrated Employment for people with I/DD.



**Informed
Choice**



**Quality I/DD
Services**



**Community
Outreach**



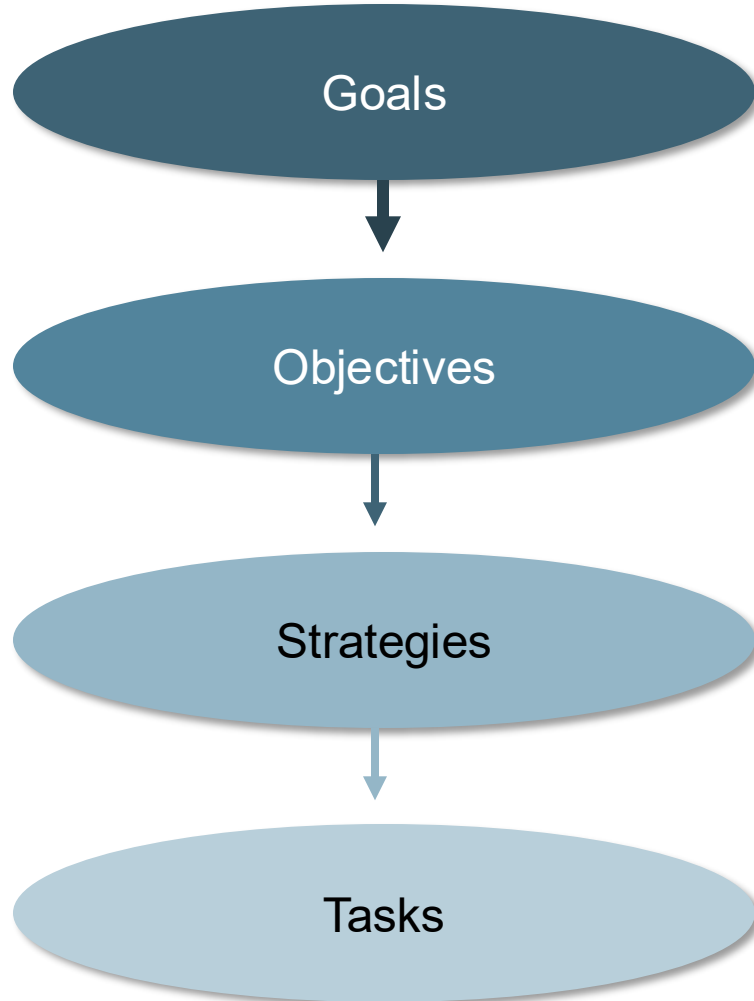
**Workforce
Development**



**Employer
Connection**

Inclusion Works Implementation Plan

The Inclusion Works Implementation Plan breaks the **Five Core Goals** down by **Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Tasks** with assigned owners and due dates to increase accountability.



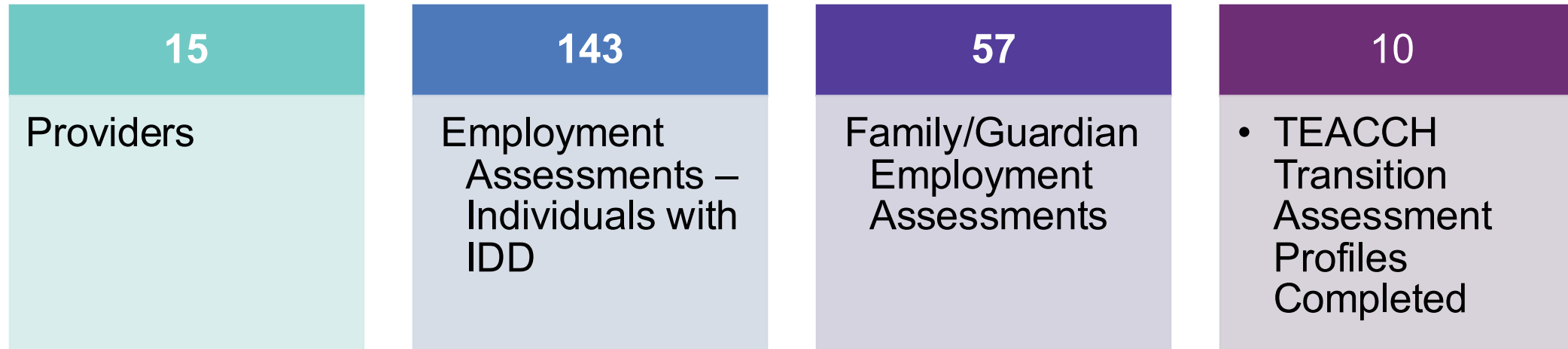
All Strategies and Tasks are assigned:

- Planned Start and End Date
- Divisional or Organizational Owner
- Task-specific Owner
- Status

Tracking tasks allows us to stay accountable to accomplishing the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan

Work Together NC Assessments

The Work Together NC Team



As of June 30, 2026

Testimonial

"The team came in and met with participants, a family member, and a caregiver to ensure all assessments were completed. We are very appreciative of the wonderful assistance provided over the past two months in ensuring participants were assessed. Thanks for your Amazing TEAM!"



CIE Liaison Team

CIE Liaisons are part of a **collaborative** approach toward CIE supports and care management

North Carolina
LME/MCOs



EIPD

CIE Liaisons are a **joint team** of LME/MCO and EIPD staff specializing in **CIE Referrals**

Their responsibilities include:

- Working with individuals who expressed interest in CIE during Employment Assessments
- Contacting families or guardians to discuss employment options
- Sharing information and resources about the benefits of CIE and available services
- Supporting individuals to apply for EIPD or Supported Employment based on their eligibility

ONE TEAM!

Process for Receiving CIE Liaison Referrals

Work Together NC

Work Together NC completes Employment Assessments and uploads documents for CIE Liaison team referral.

CIE Liaison Team →

Progress to Date:

46 Referrals to EIPD

26 Cases Opened with EIPD

EIPD

EIPD Outreach Team Lead populates LME/MCO-specific Referral Progress Tracking sheets with member information and notifies CIE Coordinators of new referrals

EIPD Outreach Team identifies:
Local VR office contact for referral

Triage Meeting to determine path of supports (SE vs EIPD) and assign CIE Liaison based on team capacity

CIE Coordinators

CIE Coordinator identifies:

- Contact information for individual/ guardian
- Name and contact of TCM
- List of services individual is receiving/ authorized for

EIPD

EIPD Outreach Case Management team has also assumed responsibility to conduct Career Counseling and Information and Referral Services for individuals earning subminimum wage. This is a requirement within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA 2014).

Adults 25 and over-

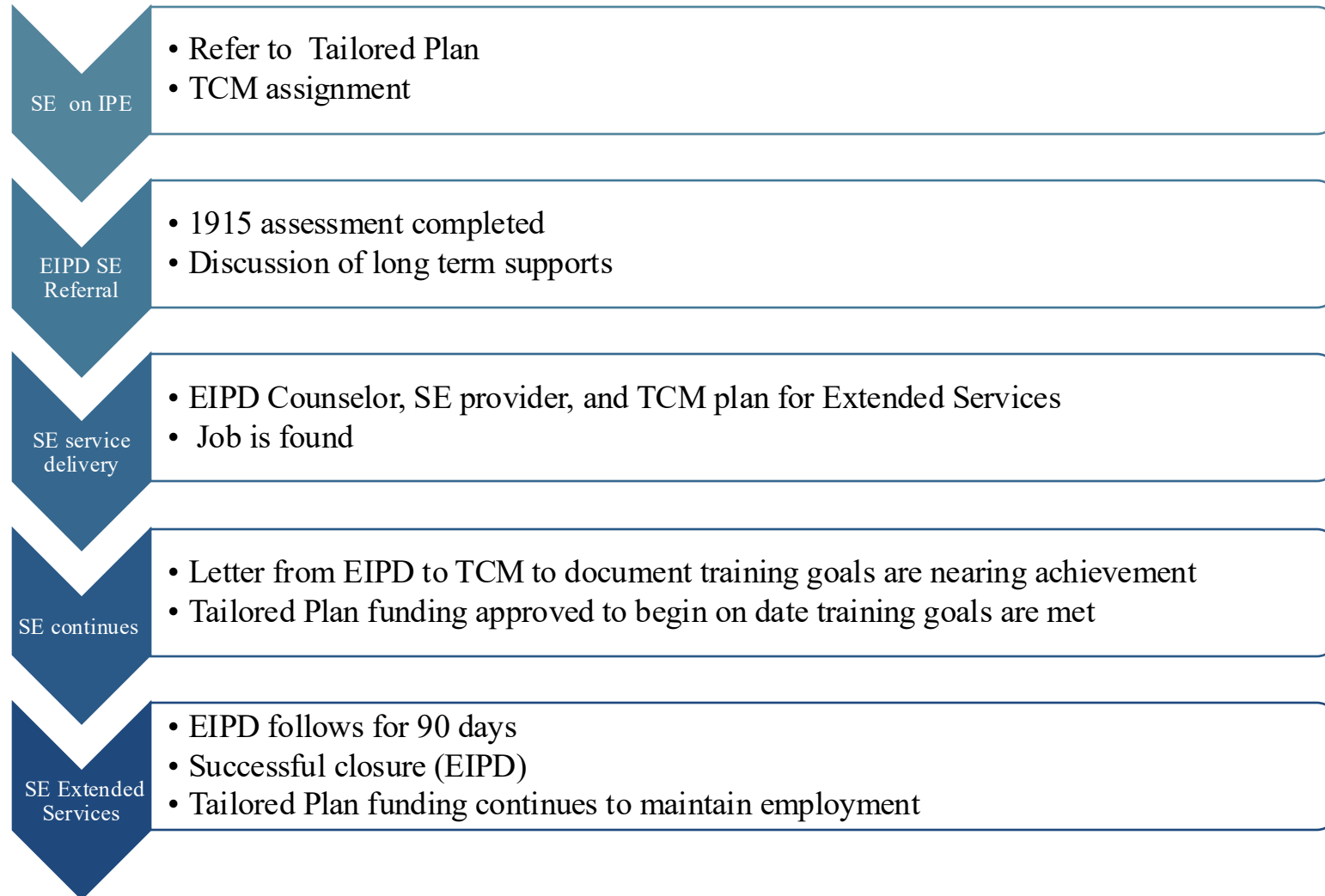
- **Within 6 months and annually thereafter.**

Youth under the age of 26-

- **Prior to admission, must be determined ineligible for EIPD**
- **Receive Career Counseling before beginning work, at 6 months, and annually thereafter.**

Supported Employment Services Coordination with the Tailored Plans

EIPD is the initial/primary funding source for Supported Employment services.



Work Together NC Community Engagement

Social Media: <https://www.instagram.com/worktogethernc>

- Posts for Weeks 1-10 were posted on schedule
- Videos (~2000 views for recent Purple Bowl video) have more engagement than infographics (~300-700 views).
- NC EIPD has re-shared several posts, increasing engagement
- We are hoping for more cross-posting to reach larger audiences.

Other:

- The new CE course was included as a Hot Topic on the NCDHHS Newsletter on July 14th.

Work Together NC Transportation Alliance

• Key System & Website Initiatives

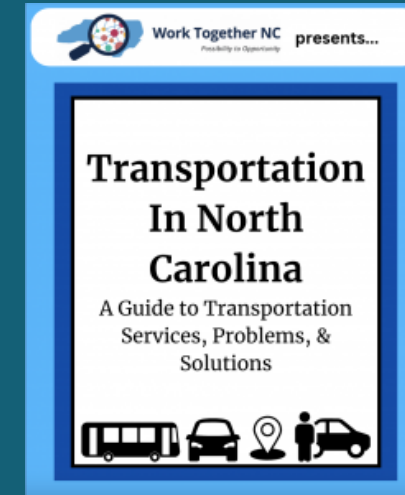
- **New Platform Transition:** Digital resources are transitioning to a new website hosted by ECU. (<https://mobilitymatch.net>)
- **Digital Navigation Guides:** Student-created instructional video guides are under development for app setup, personal safety, and Uber navigation.
- **Inclusion Works Library:** Building an online library of transportation choices to maximize visibility for the Inclusion Works project.
(<https://worktogethernc.com/resource/transportation-in-north-carolina-a-guide-to-transportation-services-problems-solutions/>)

• Strategic Focus for the Upcoming Year

- **Advocacy Frameworks:** Creating documentation to guide self-advocates on how to communicate with local public officials to impact change.
- **Navigating Issue Protocols:** Refining the "Hierarchy of Contacts" to clarify who to approach (ADA coordinators, resident advocates, town managers) when public transit fails.

• Next Meeting

- **Date & Time:** Tue, Aug 11, 2026, at 1PM



Provider Innovation Program and Wise Online Academy

Round 1 Providers have completed 4 of the 5 milestones.

Round 2 Providers have just gotten started!

Training and TA provided is individualized but has included:

- Organizational Change
- Future Planning
- Communication Planning
- Job Development
- On-Boarding
- Employer Perspective
- Family Stories
- Increased provider collaboration

8 CIE Job Starts since January, 1 additional offer, and 5 CIE temporary job opportunities! That's 14 people with expanded opportunity so far!



Jobs

Each provider will be supported to obtain new CIE jobs over the course of the project.



Provider Innovation

Each provider will be supported to complete a Provider Innovation Training and Technical Assistance Plan to Expand CIE.



Training and TA

Providers actively engage in training and technical assistance opportunities.



Employment Data

Employment data will be collected and shared confidentially.

Wise Online Academy 100 SERIES



The Wise Online Academy (WOA) 100 Series is an online training series based on customized employment core competencies.

Whether you are a new or seasoned employment professional, this course will give you the knowledge, tools and resources to deliver quality, customized services and move people forward in their job pursuits.

What to Expect:

- Immediate Application: Practical strategies you can apply with job seekers right away.
- Accessible & Flexible: Fully on-demand to fit your schedule.
- Stay Current: Refresh your skills with current best practices.
- Boost Professional Competence: Strengthen your effectiveness in delivering competitive, integrated employment services.



The training series consists of self-paced online training content.

- Completion of the 4-part course results in an ACRE Certificate of completion with a Customized Employment Emphasis.

REGISTER

"As a new person in customized employment, with a depth of knowledge and experience in this field, this training gave me the confidence and tools to do and understand my job."

For Questions, Contact: Katherine Titus, katherine@gowise.org

Benefits for Staff:

- Earn \$100
- Increase knowledge and ability to help the people they work with
- The Certification belongs to them
- Upon completion, opportunity to connect with others through Practicum

Benefits for Providers:

- Well-Trained and Talented Staff
- Increase the capacity of your team
- Free for Employers
- Highlights commitment to CIE and expanding opportunities

***As a commitment to the value of expanding CIE, Providers will be signing a commitment to course completion**



Inclusion Works Training Opportunities and Resources

Disability Benefits 101 North Carolina

Disability Benefits 101 (DB 101) is an online directory that helps individuals with disabilities understand how work, benefits, and health coverage interact based on their specific state.

- It provides information in plain language with simple tools to help dispel myths and reduce confusion around public benefits, earned income, health insurance, and more
- NC-specific DB101 went live in **May 2025**

Worried about how work will impact your benefits? Visit DB101!

Disability Benefits 101

North Carolina



Training Opportunities and Upcoming Conferences

Available Training Opportunities:



Wise Online Academy 100 SERIES



The Wise Online Academy (WOA) 100 Series is an online training series based on customized employment core competencies.



Work Together NC

Possibility to Opportunity

Join Inclusion Works at Upcoming Conferences:



April 29 – May 1



June 9 – 10

What's Happening



- **Inclusion Works** is a proud partner of:
 - NCARF
 - NCAPSE
 - Paths to Possibility IDD Resource Summit
 - DECI Resource Fair
 - I2i Spring Event
 - NC DCDT
- **Coming in the fall:**
 - New Educational Videos
 - New Social Media Posts
 - Inclusion Works at NCAPSE, NCARF and NCRA conferences
 - Annual State Employment Leadership Network

WELCOME TO TULA!



- Inclusion Works is proud to partner with Technology Ultimate Living Assistant, sponsored by Trillium Health Resources
- Our Provider Innovation Grantees are already taking advantage of this remarkable and innovative Tool.
- Learn more at: [Technology Ultimate Living Assistant | Trillium Health Resources](#)

TULA Benefits:

- **Connection and Support**
 - Secure video calls and messaging with family, friends, providers, and remote supports
- **Health and Safety**
 - FDA-approved monitoring for vitals and smart sensors for alerts
- **Daily Support**
 - Task reminders for medications, chores and daily routines
- **Engagement and Wellness**
 - Community resources, interactive games, workouts, nutrition guidance and more.

Inclusion Connects Background

Inclusion Connects is an NCDHHS program to connect people with I/DD to more choices and more access to services and supports. It is designed to help people with I/DD, regardless of age or ability level, and their families navigate the complex system of services from birth to the end of life.



Link to Inclusion
Connects Website

Inclusion Connects Activities



Supporting the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce:

Addresses workforce shortages and connects DSPs with providers and people with I/DD.



Promoting Access to Services: Focuses on providing access to necessary services, including those on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist.



Improving Housing Access: Enhances the housing options available for people with I/DD.



Strengthening Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Supports:

Prevent IPV for people with I/DD and provide trauma-informed information and tools.



Inclusion Works:

Expand support employment services and increase access to Competitive Integrated Employment



Q & A

Stay involved with updates from Inclusion Works!

Register for our bi-monthly
[Lunch and Learns](#)



Visit the [Inclusion Works Website](#)



Join our [mailing list](#) and
receive community updates



Visit the [Work Together NC Website](#)

