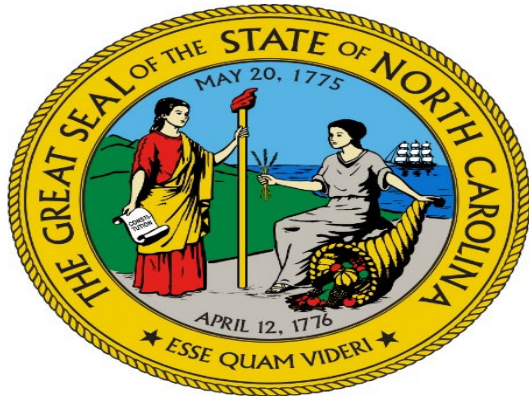




DMH/DD/SUS BIAC Update

Ginger Yarbrough
Chief Clinical Officer – IDD, TBI, and Olmstead

May 14, 2026

Agenda—DMH/DD/SUS Updates

- TBI State Action Plan/Next Steps
- TBI State Partnerships Grant (ACL)
- TBI Website Update
- DMH/DD/SUS Updates

TBI State Action Plan

DRAFT Priority Areas



Better Access to Services- Supporting access for people with lived experience to high-quality services including expanding access to the TBI Waiver, 1915i services, mental health/substance use services, medical, and specialty services.



Better Support Providers and Clinicians- Educating support providers, agencies, clinicians, and care managers on best practices for supporting people with TBI.

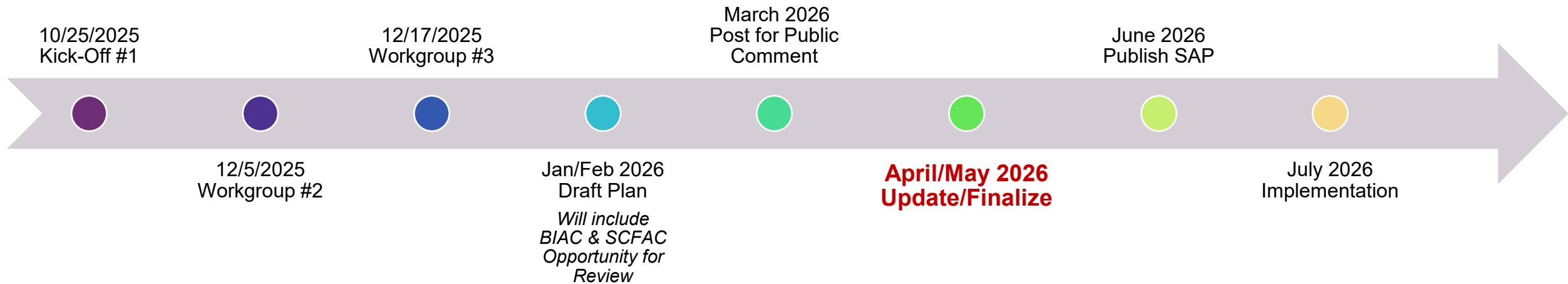


Better Support People with TBI and Caregivers- Providing people with TBI and caregivers support navigating life changes, supporting self-care, and promoting emotional wellbeing.



Better Equip Community to Prevent Brain Injuries- Reduce the incidence of brain injuries in the community by increasing awareness, promoting safe behaviors, and expanding access to prevention resources.

State TBI Action Plan Timeline



TBI State Partnerships Grant





TBI State Partnership Grant

Goal: To create and strengthen systems of services and supports that maximizes the independence, health and well-being of people with traumatic brain injuries across the lifespan, their family members, and their support networks

TBI State Partnership Grant Factsheet

Grantees:

- Support a State TBI Advisory Board (aka BIAC)
- Develop a TBI State Action Plan
- Connect people with TBI and their families to services and supports across systems

ACL Grant Core Activities



Screening



Workforce
Development



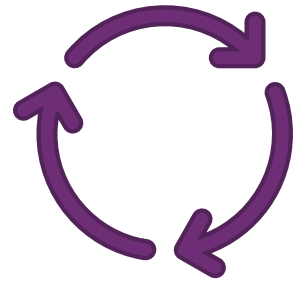
Family &
Caregiver
Support



Resource
Facilitation



ACL Grant Update



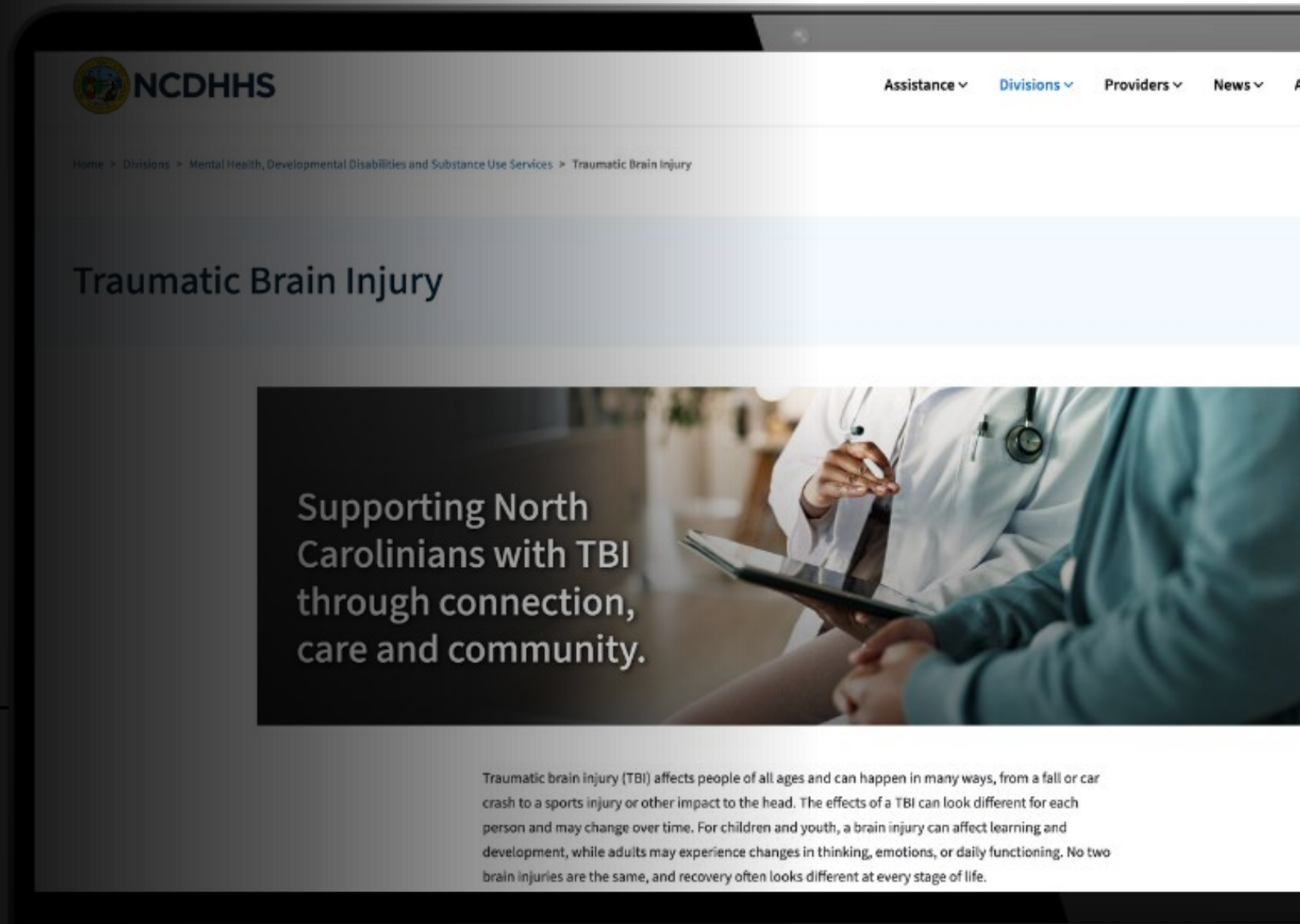
Current cycle
8/1/2021 - 7/31/2026



Notice of Funding
Opportunity (NOFO)
expected in June

TBI Website Update

**STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO
TBI RESOURCES**

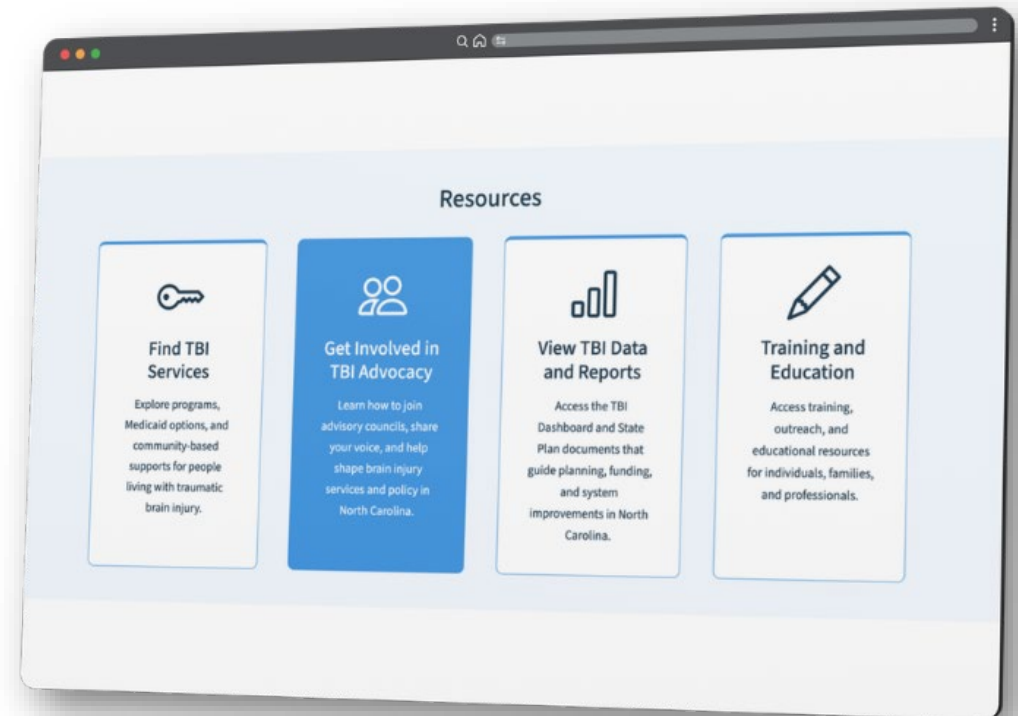


Strengthening Access to TBI Resources

The updated DMH/DD/SUS Traumatic Brain Injury webpage was redesigned to make information easier to find for individuals, families, providers, and community partners.

The page is organized around key areas users most often need support with:

- Finding **services and supports**
- Getting involved in **advocacy and planning**
- Accessing **data and reports**
- Exploring **training and educational resources**



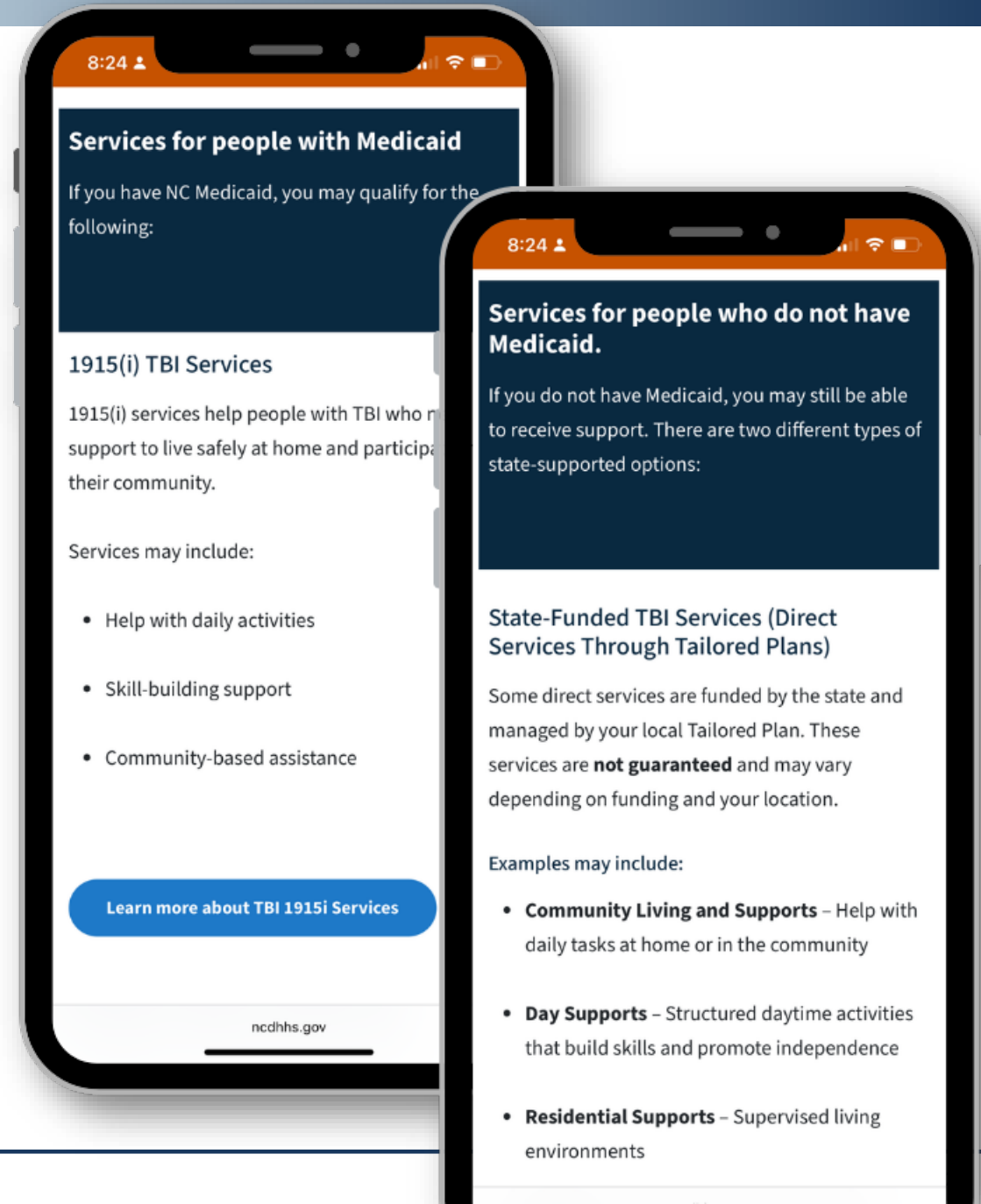
Find TBI Services

Helping People Navigate Support Options

The webpage includes clearer pathways to:

- **State-funded TBI services**
- **Medicaid and waiver options**
- **Community-based supports**
- **Navigation and referral resources**

Content was reorganized using plain language to help individuals and families better understand available services and how to access them.



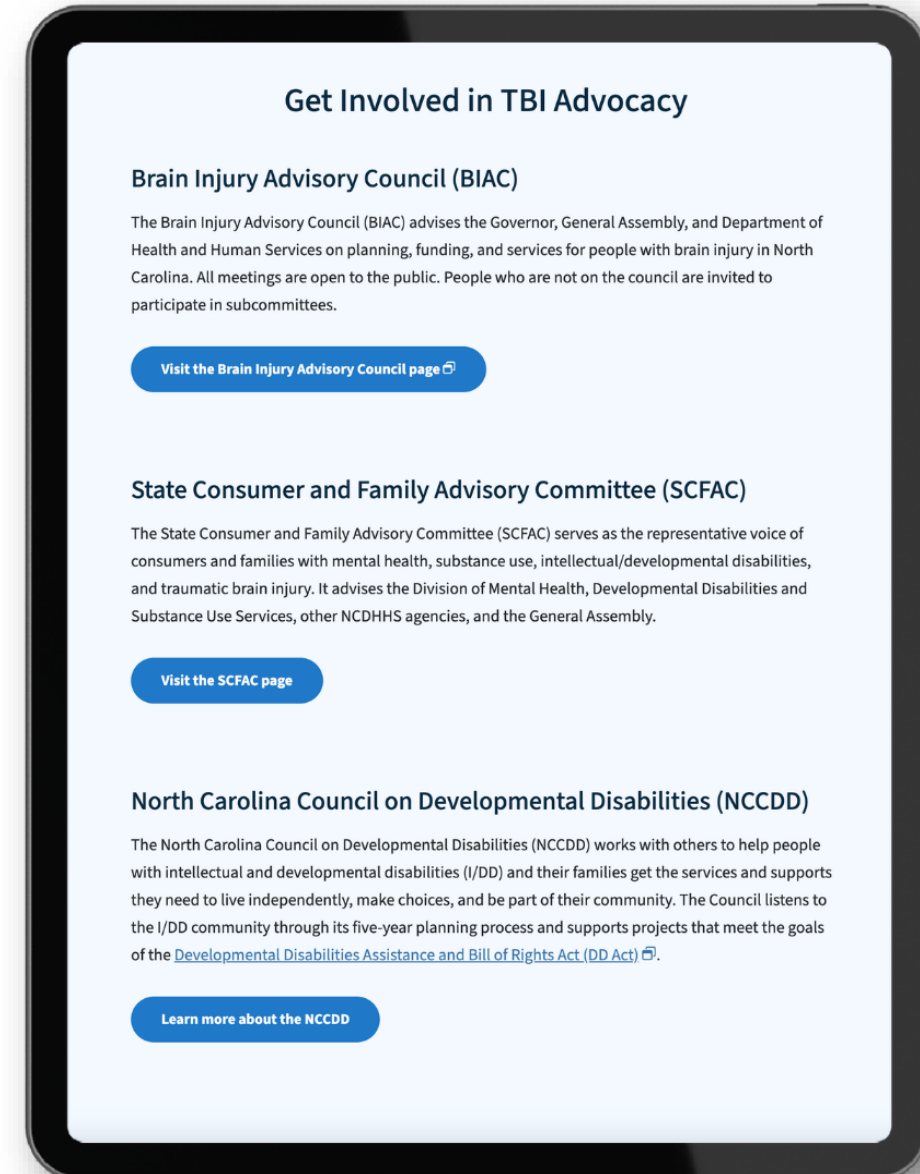
Advocacy, Data & Planning

Supporting Transparency and Community Engagement

The updated page expands access to:

- **BIAC information and opportunities to participate**
- **Public comment opportunities**
- **State plans and reports**
- **The TBI Dashboard and data resources**

These tools support community engagement and help guide statewide planning and system improvement efforts.



Training & Education Resources

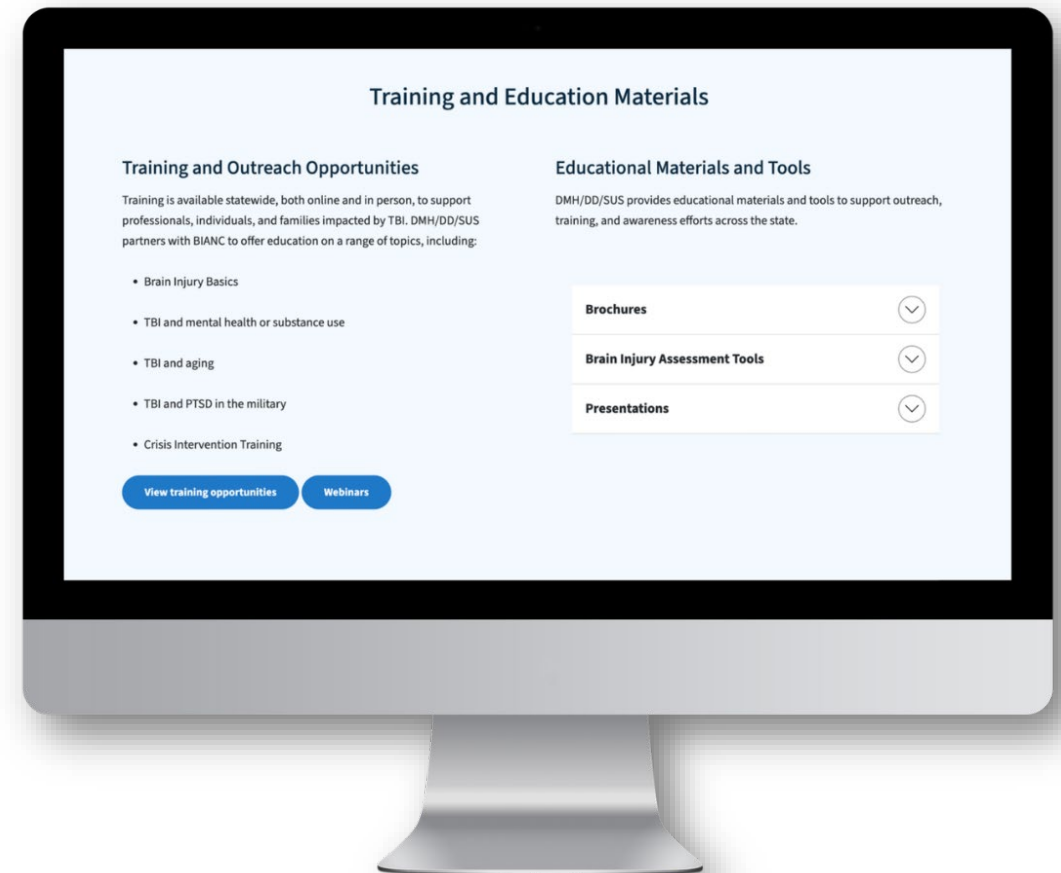
Expanding Access to Information

This section includes training and educational resources for:

- **Individuals and families**
- **Providers and professionals**
- **Community organizations and advocates**

Additional sections also provide:

- Funding and policy information
- State and community partner resources
- Direct contact and support information

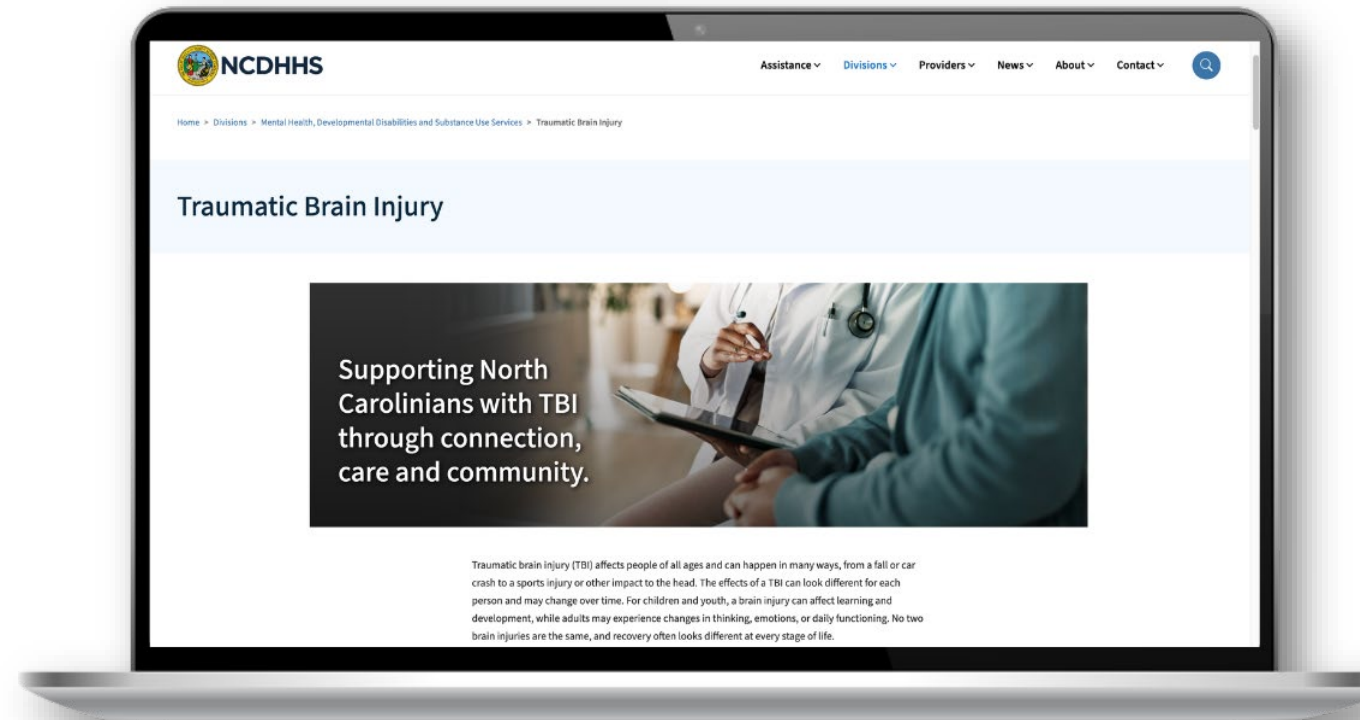


Why This Matters

The updated webpage helps create a more:

- **Accessible**
- **Transparent**
- **User-centered**
- **Community-informed**

approach to sharing TBI information and resources across North Carolina.



April-May MH/DD/SUS System Updates



This Month's Awareness & Featured Focus



Mental Health Awareness Month

This year's Mental Health Awareness Month theme, **“See the Person. Support the Journey,”** encourages compassion, connection, and understanding by reminding us that mental health challenges are not always visible.

Throughout May, DMH/DD/SUS is highlighting **personal stories, community support, and resources** that help people feel **seen, heard, and supported.**

Also this month:

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Celebrating the cultures, contributions, and experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across North Carolina and beyond.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day: May 9th

Highlighting the importance of early support and mental health services for children and families.

Older Americans Month

Recognizing the contributions of older adults and the importance of aging with support and connection.

U.S. Clubhouse Week of Action: May 4-8

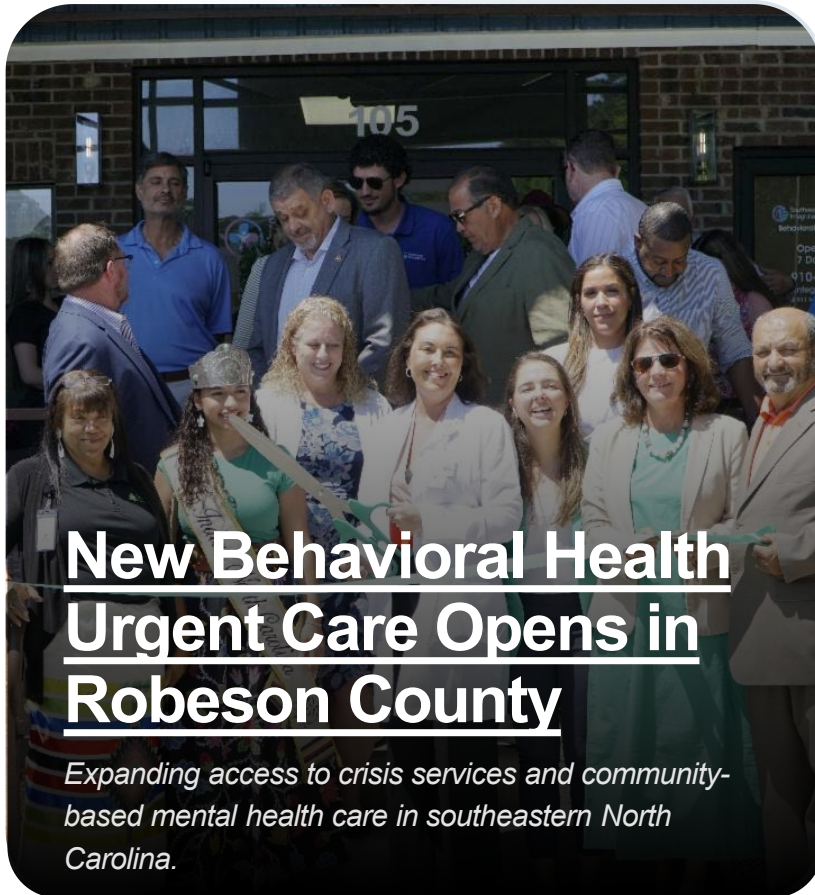
Celebrating community-based recovery supports that promote belonging and independence.

National Prevention Week: May 10-16

Promoting prevention strategies that strengthen community well-being across North Carolina.



Expanding Access to Care & Crisis Services



New Behavioral Health Urgent Care Opens in Robeson County

Expanding access to crisis services and community-based mental health care in southeastern North Carolina.

Mental Health Awareness Month Outreach

NCDHHS reaffirmed its commitment to improving access to mental health care statewide.

988 Pride Month Materials Available

Free print materials are available to help communities promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Assistant Secretary Crosbie Featured in Mental Health Podcast

A new conversation with Triangle Business Journal's Sougata Mukherjee about Governor Stein's [Executive Order 33](#) and how NCDHHS is prioritizing mental health and public safety

Mental Health Leadership Highlighted in NC Medical Journal

Assistant Secretary Crosbie served as guest editor for a special publication focused on mental health.



Recovery, Community Supports & Justice Services



Freedom Life Ministries Breaks Ground on New Transitional Housing Project

Freedom Life Ministries launched a new housing initiative supporting individuals in recovery.

Hope4NC Continues Community Recovery Efforts

Recovery and emotional support services continue across western North Carolina communities.

Supporting Successful Reentry

DMH/DD/SUS continues efforts to expand behavioral health services for justice-involved individuals during Second Chance Month.

NC Joint Reentry Council Collaboration

Assistant Secretary Crosbie joined statewide partners to discuss reentry and behavioral health supports.

Spotlight on Military Community Supports

Programs continue connecting servicemembers, veterans, and families with behavioral health resources.

Pooja Mehta Represents Tarang in Conversation with Former U.S. Surgeon General

Tarang participated in a national discussion on strengthening community care and connection.



I/DD, TBI & Community Inclusion



Inclusion Connects
Launches Awareness
Campaign

A new campaign highlights available supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

New Quarterly Inclusion Connects Report Released

The report highlights efforts to expand access to I/DD services and supports statewide.

New “Informed Choice” Video Released

Inclusion Works launched a new resource supporting informed decision-making for North Carolinians with I/DD.

Wise Online Academy Expands Learning Opportunities

New training opportunities are available through the WOA 100 Series.

Ginger Yarbrough Speaks the 2026 BIANC Conference

Division leadership strengthened TBI partnerships by participating in the 2026 BIANC Conference focused on brain injury advocacy and support.

Emergency Preparedness Survey Open

INCLUDE NC is collecting feedback to strengthen emergency planning resources for individuals with disabilities.



Prevention, Workforce & System Improvement



New Data Shows Decline in Overdose Deaths

North Carolina reported an all-time-low infant mortality rate and a sharp decrease in overdose-related deaths.

NC TIDE 2026 Highlights System Progress

The latest NC TIDE update outlines priorities and progress across DMH/DD/SUS initiatives.

2026 Workforce Survey Now Open Through June 1

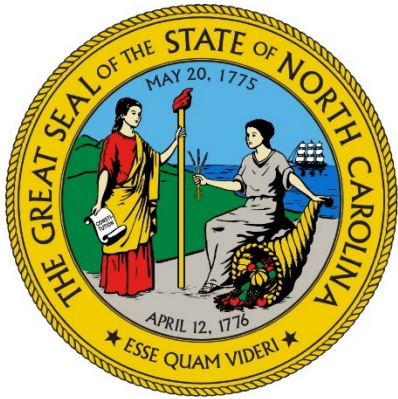
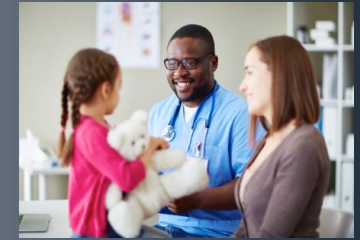
The statewide survey will help inform behavioral health workforce planning and development.

Updated Overdose Data Fact Sheets Released

New SUDORS fact sheets provide updated statewide overdose data and trends.

Alcohol Awareness Month Prevention Efforts Highlighted

Last month's statewide messaging continues promoting education, prevention, and recovery support.



NC Medicaid Updates

Shewunn Pittman, MHA, BSN, RN
LTSS Nurse Operations Manager

NC Medicaid

Division of Health Benefits

NC Department of Health & Human Services

May 2026

Home and Community Based Services

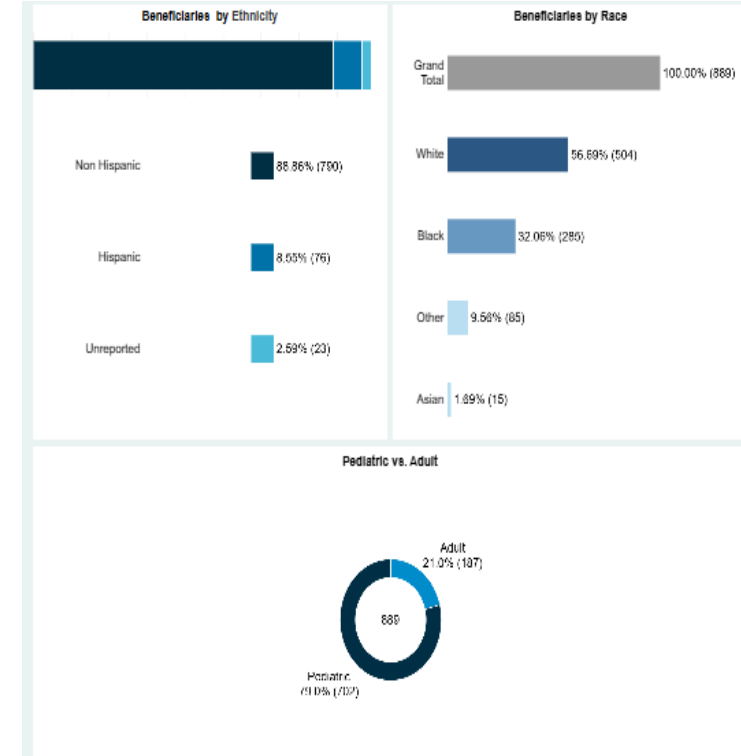
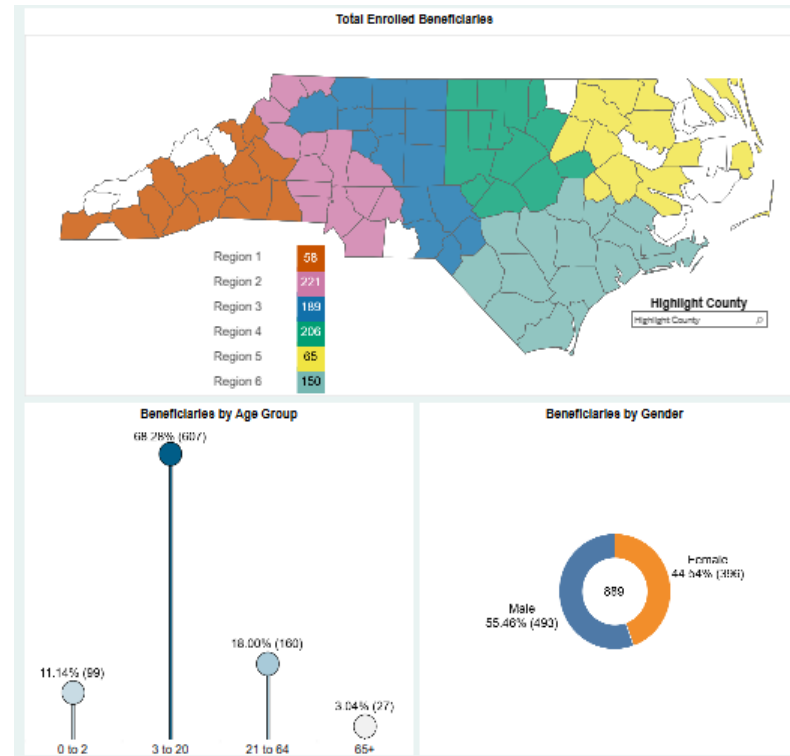
Program	Community Alternatives Program for Children (CAP/C)	Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA)	Personal Care Services (PCS)	Home Health (HH)	Hospice	Private Duty Nursing (PDN)
Policy	3K-1	3K-2	3L , 3L-1	3A	3H-1	3G-1 , 3G-2
Service	Covers a variety of services, based on need and approved plan of care. These services allow the beneficiary to remain in or return to a home and community-based setting. The waiver supplements, rather than replaces, formal and informal services and supports.	Covers a variety of services, based on need and approved plan of care. These services allow the beneficiary to remain in or return to a home and community-based setting. The waiver supplements, rather than replaces, formal and informal services and supports.	Covers hands on assistance with ADLs	Provide medically necessary skilled nursing services, specialized therapies (physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy), home health aide services, and medical supplies to beneficiaries in any setting; Nursing, home health aide, and specialized therapy services are provided on a per-visit basis.	Hospice care is a comprehensive set of services identified and coordinated by an interdisciplinary group to provide for the physical, psychosocial, spiritual, and emotional needs of the terminally ill patient and their family member(s), per a plan of care.	Provides medically necessary skilled nursing services. These services are considered supplementary to the beneficiary's trained caregiver(s) and may be provided in the home or where normal life activities take place.
PA Needed?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, but not for all services	Yes	Yes

For more information on CAP and PCS, contact NCLIFTSS at NCLIFTSS@acentra.com or 833-522-5429. For more information on HH, Hospice and PDN contact the NC Medicaid Contact Center at 888-245-0179.

PDN Dashboard

Private Duty Nursing is skilled nursing care given for a extended period of time to eligible NC Medicaid beneficiaries. Prior approval is required every 180 days.

This information is for Medicaid Direct only.



[NC Medicaid Direct Long Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\) Dashboard](#) | NC Medicaid

Connecting Communities and Medicaid (CCM) – May 13th

Meeting Discussion for May 13, 2026

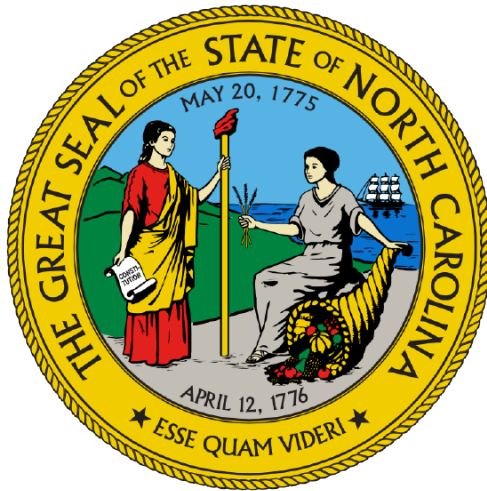
- H.R.1 Review Updated
Medicaid Application Appendix.
- **Notice to inform beneficiaries of the enrollment and eligibility changes for work/community engagement requirements.**



Sign Up to Join CCM

[CCM Registration Form](#)

NC Department of Health and Human Services



Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities 101

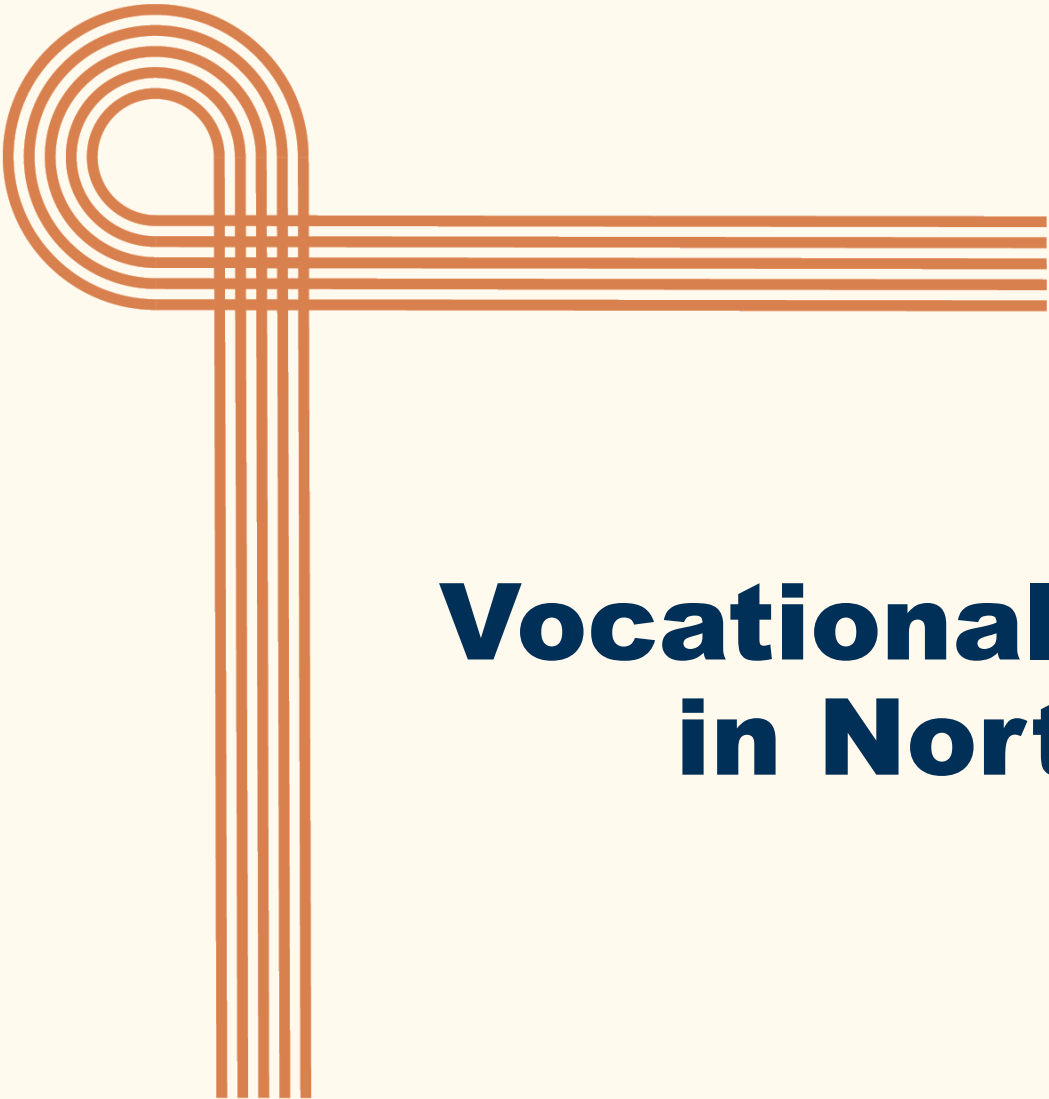
Kathie Smith
EIPD Division Director

May 13, 2026



**Your goals.
Our support.**

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities**

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of multiple parallel orange lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The top part of the 'L' is a horizontal line that curves into a semi-circle, and the bottom part is a vertical line.

Vocational Rehabilitation in North Carolina

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page, consisting of multiple parallel teal lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The top part of the 'L' is a vertical line that curves into a semi-circle, and the bottom part is a horizontal line.

A Century of Services

- The federal Rehabilitation Act (the Act) of 1920 created a program to help civilians with physical disabilities retrain and find employment.
- Over time, eligibility rules and services have expanded over time to help more people with disabilities in more ways
- The NC Department of Health and Human Services is the administrator of state grants for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Independent Living (IL) and Assistive Technology (AT) programs



VR Funding: State-Federal Partnership

- **The Rehabilitation Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Education awards state vocational rehabilitation grants annually according to a formula**
 - **Federal dollars comprise around 78 percent of total grant award**
 - **States “match” the federal dollars by providing approximately 22 percent of total award funding**

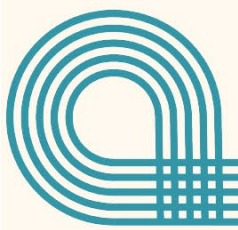
Forfeiting Federal Dollars

- The NC VR System forfeits \$22M in federal funding annually because the system lacks \$5.8M in state matching funds
- A \$5.8M state investment unlocks \$22M in federal dollars—directly supporting employment outcomes for people with disabilities

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, composed of multiple parallel orange lines. It starts with a circular loop at the top left, then extends horizontally to the right, and finally extends vertically downwards.

EIPD Mission and Organization

A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide, composed of multiple parallel teal lines. It starts with a vertical line extending upwards, then extends horizontally to the left, and finally forms a circular loop at the bottom right.



EIPD – Recent History

- **In April 2024, North Carolina’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) transitioned to the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD)**
- **The new name reflects the wide range of services we provide to promote employment from a whole-person perspective and is inclusive of a range of other services provided by the agency**
- **Our name change celebrates the potential and accomplishments of individuals with disabilities and their journeys to independence**
- **We collaborated with our clients, staff and partners to develop the new name and ensure it accurately captures and clearly explains our mission and spirit**

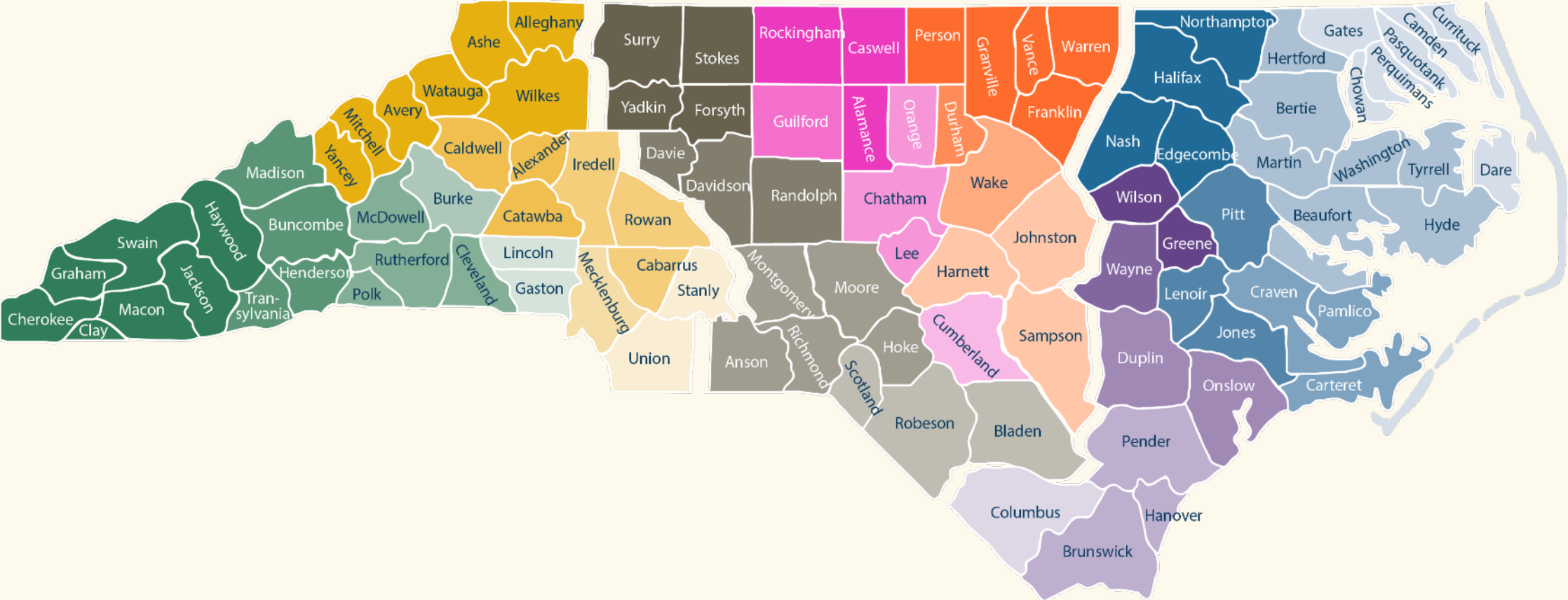


EIPD's Mission

Promote competitive integrated employment and independence for people with disabilities through client partnership and community leadership.



EIPD Offices by Region and County



WESTERN REGION OFFICES

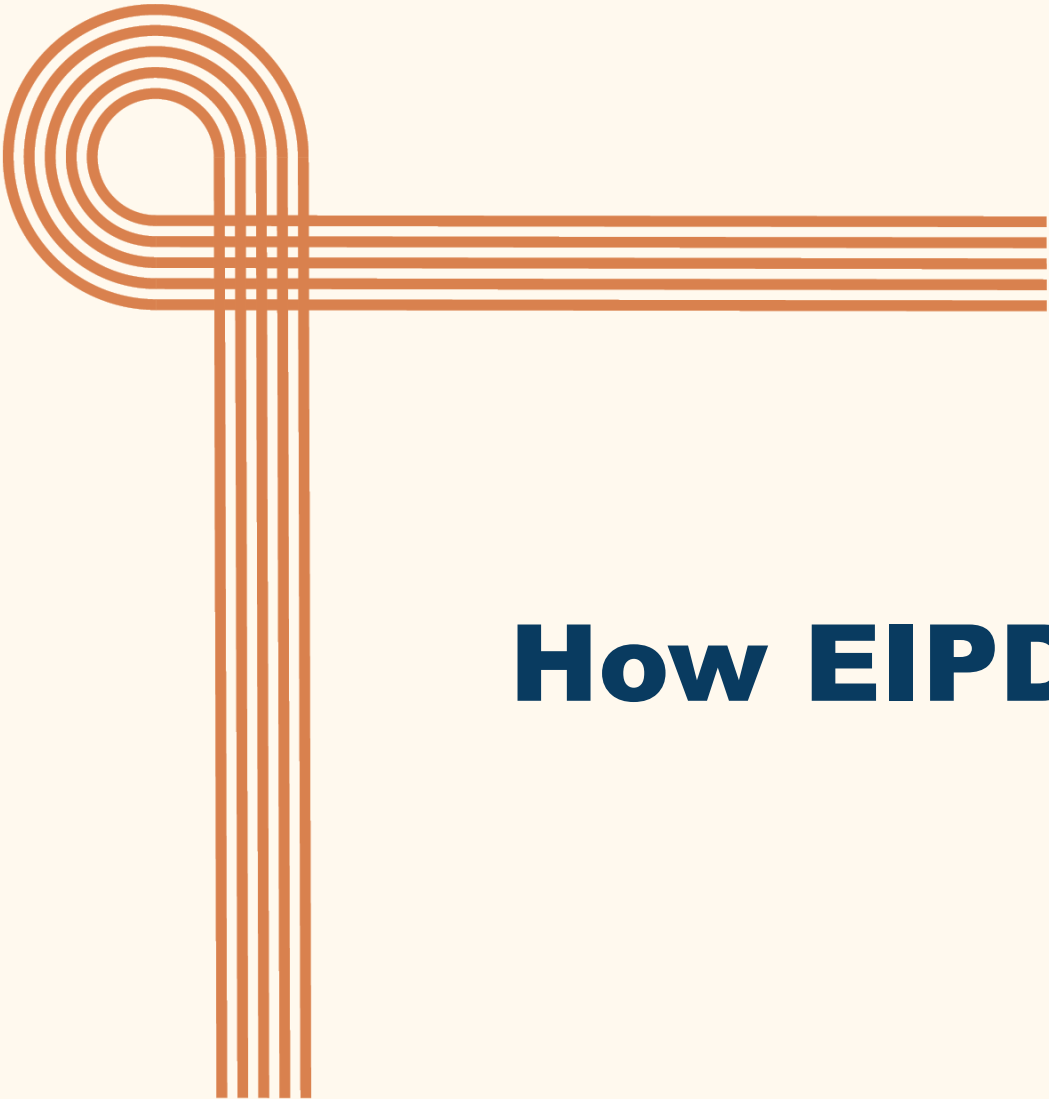
- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Albemarle | Gastonia |
| Asheville | Hickory |
| Boone | WorkSource West |
| Charlotte | Salisbury |
| Forest City | Sylva |

CENTRAL REGION OFFICES

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Burlington | Henderson |
| Chapel Hill | Lexington |
| Dunn | Lumberton |
| Durham | Pinehurst |
| Fayetteville | Raleigh |
| Greensboro | Winston-Salem |

EASTERN REGION OFFICES

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Elizabeth City | Rocky Mount |
| Goldsboro | Washington |
| Greenville | Whiteville |
| Jacksonville | Wilmington |
| New Bern | Wilson |

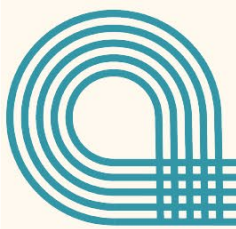
A decorative graphic in the top-left corner consisting of multiple parallel orange lines. The lines enter from the left, curve upwards and to the right to form a rounded shape, then continue horizontally to the right, and finally curve downwards to continue vertically.

How EIPD Helps Clients

A decorative graphic in the bottom-right corner consisting of multiple parallel teal lines. The lines enter from the right, curve downwards and to the left to form a rounded shape, then continue horizontally to the left, and finally curve upwards to continue vertically.

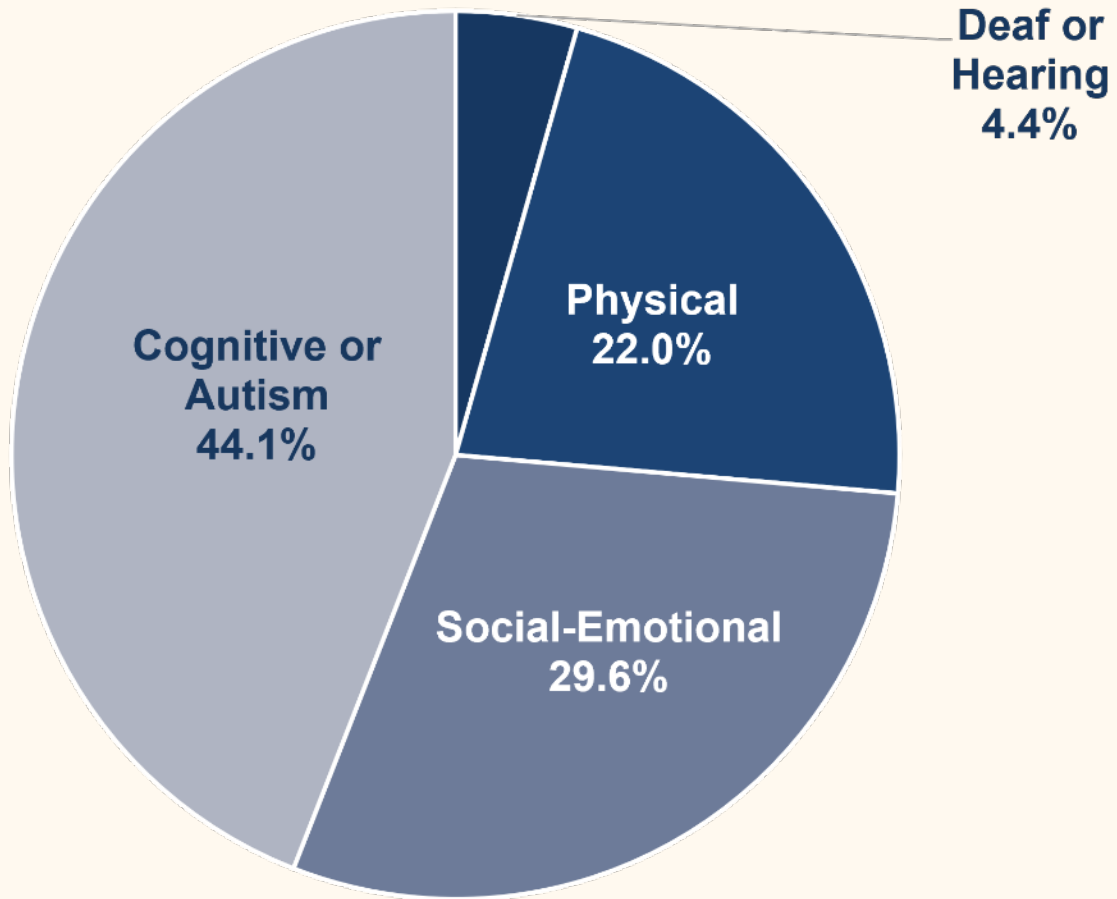
**We help people
overcome disability-
related barriers
and achieve their goals
for employment and
more independent living.**



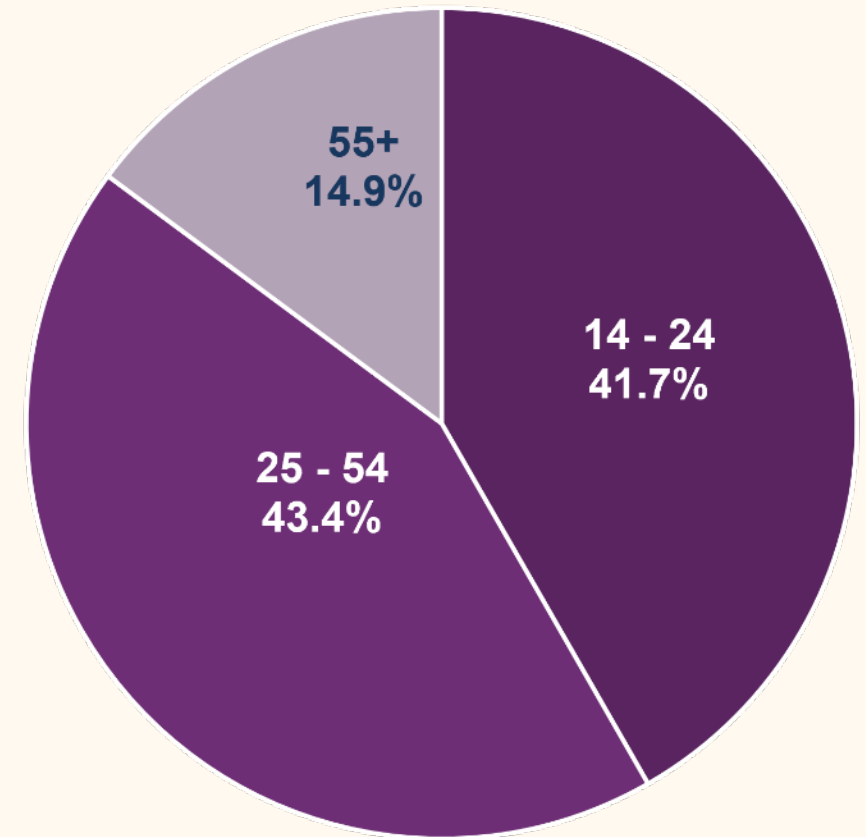


Client Demographics

Primary Impairment Type



Age Group



Examples of Disability Types

Cognitive/Developmental

- Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Developmental Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disorders

Physical

- Amputation, Arthritis, Cardiac and Cardiovascular Impairments, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Diabetes, Disc Herniation, Epilepsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Neurological Impairment, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury

Mental/Behavioral Health

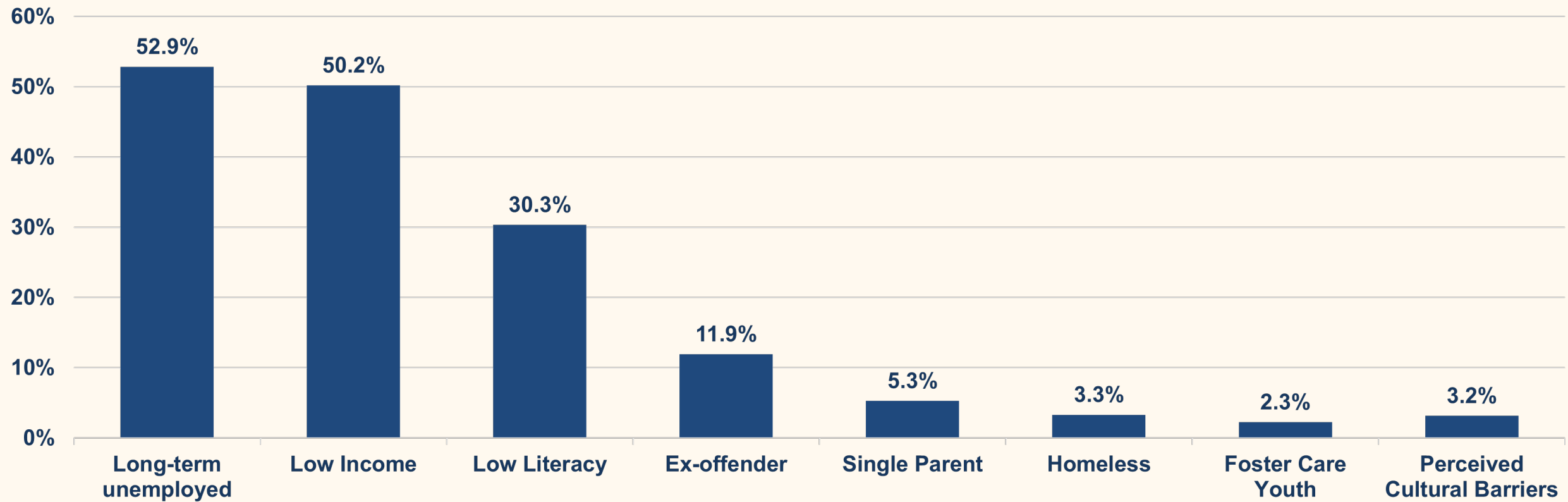
- Anxiety, Bipolar, Depression, Personality Disorders, Schizophrenia, Substance Use Disorder

Sensory

- Hearing, Vision, and Speech Impairments



Other Barriers



Vocational Supports

We provide counseling and assessments, training and on-the-job experiences, job search and placement assistance, and many other services, depending on an individual's unique needs and employment goal.



How EIPD Can Help - Examples

No work experience?



Help identify a career goal and get your first job

Returning to work?



Help you go back to same job or find a similar job

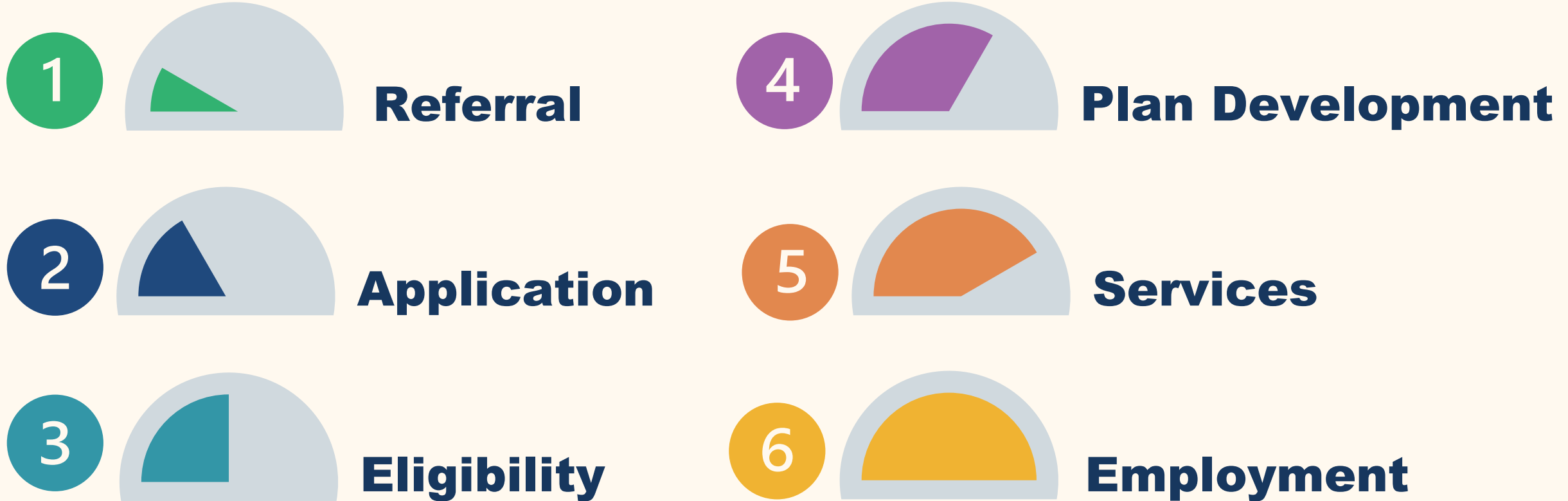
At risk of losing job?



Help you overcome barriers and keep working



Process: Steps to Employment Success



Timeline: Application to Employment

Up to 60 days

Up to 90 days

Varies by Client

Application

- Intake with EIPD staff
- Review existing medical and psychological records
- Referral for medical and/or psychological evaluations as needed
- Work assessment or trial work period

Eligibility

- Vocational assessments and interest testing
- Evaluate barriers
- Look at interests and capacities
- Comprehensive assessment

Individualized Plan

- Research jobs
- Job shadow and informational interviews
- Choose job goal
- Select services needed to achieve goal
- Write and sign Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Implement plan of services to achieve employment goal

Case Closure

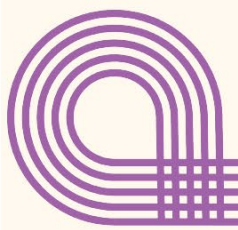
- Get hired in position that reflects employment goal
- Maintain employment for 90 days
- Case closed as successful employment outcome



EIPD Partnerships

We collaborate with disability service providers, local and national employers, workforce system and other community partners to support jobseekers with disabilities and connect them with careers.





Who is Eligible for EIPD's VR Services?



Individual is a legal resident and at least 14 years old



Individual wants to pursue employment



Individual faces disability-related barriers to employment

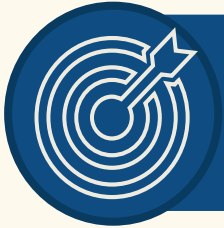


EIPD services can reduce or eliminate these barriers

Eligibility for Social Security Beneficiaries



If an individual receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), they are *presumed eligible* for services



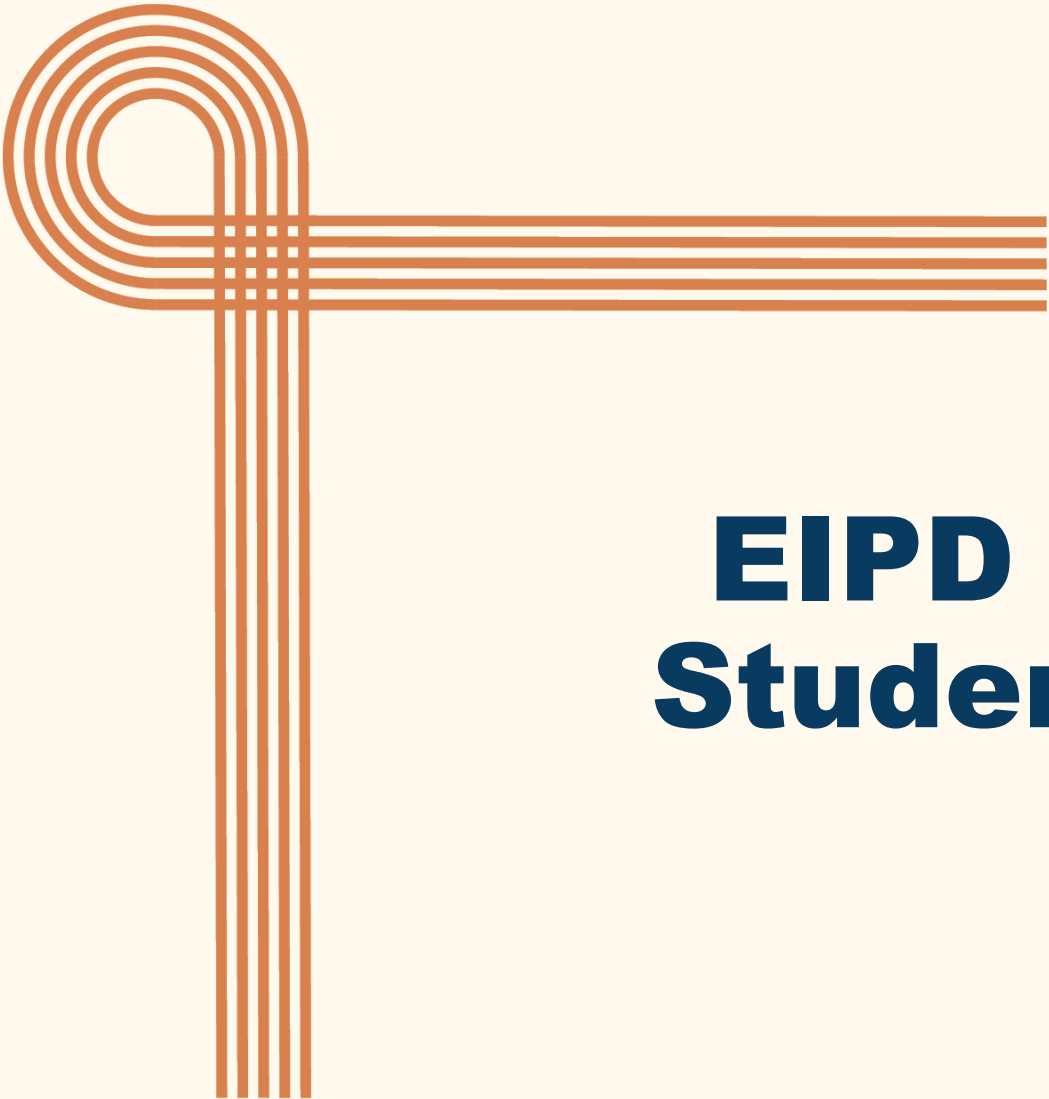
Working with an EIPD counselor, the individual will pick an employment goal and develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)



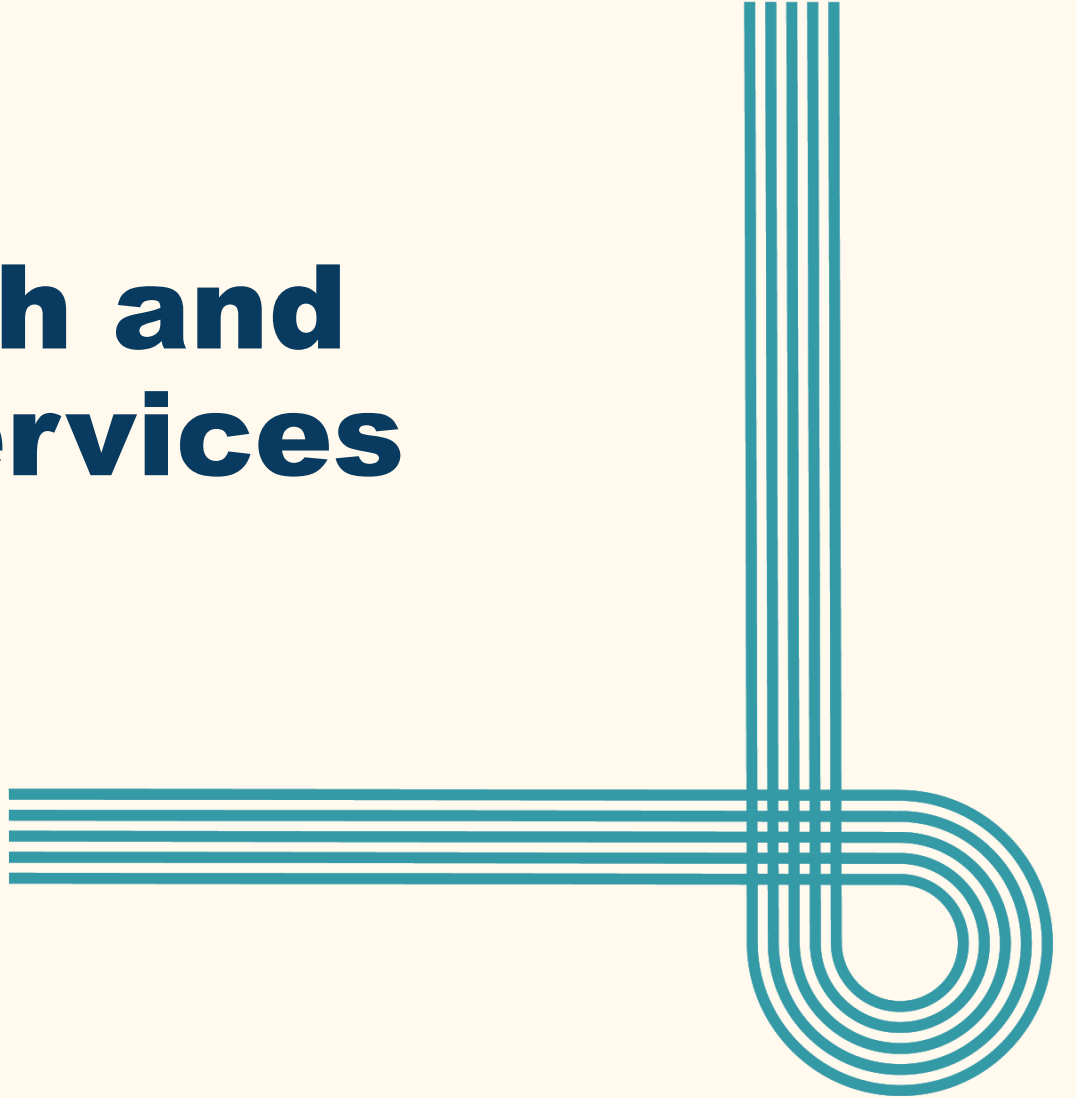
SSI/SSDI beneficiaries will be referred to a benefits counselor to discuss how earned income can impact their benefits



EIPD will include documentation of individual's disability and barriers to employment for their casefile

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of multiple parallel orange lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The top part of the 'L' is a horizontal line that curves into a semi-circle, and the bottom part is a vertical line.

EIPD Youth and Student Services

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page, consisting of multiple parallel teal lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The top part of the 'L' is a vertical line that curves into a semi-circle, and the bottom part is a horizontal line.

Student Services: Pre-ETS Overview

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Pre-ETS gives students with disabilities early access to career planning, work experience, and job readiness training to support a successful transition from high school to college, careers and adulthood.

To participate in Pre-ETS, you must:

- Be a student with a disability (IEP, 504 plan or other documentation)
- Be enrolled in a post-secondary program
- Have a signed consent form



Student Services: Pre-ETS Activities



Transition Services Overview

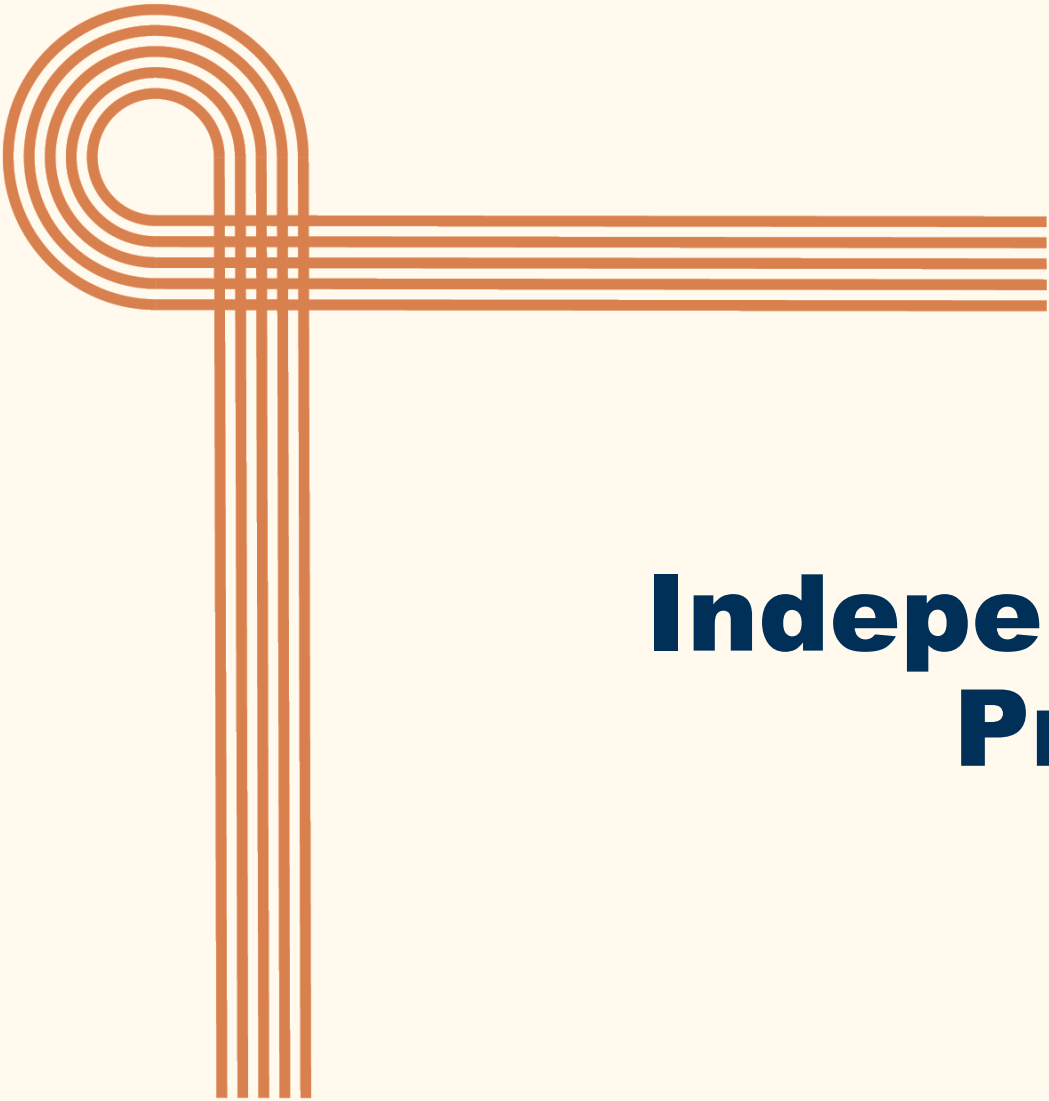


EIPD Transition Services

Young people with more significant disability-related barriers can apply to become an EIPD client. Eligible clients will partner with a counselor to explore career interests, identify an employment goal, develop a customized plan to achieve that goal, and overcome challenges they face along the way.

To participate in EIPD Transition Services, you must:

- Be a youth with a disability, age 14+
- Apply for EIPD services and be determined eligible



Independent Living Program

Independent Living Program Overview

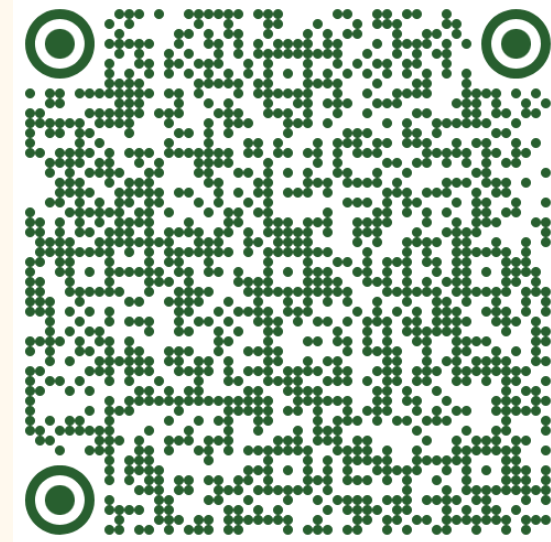


- **The Independent Living Rehabilitation Program – commonly known as IL – supports community living and independence for people with disabilities**
- **We believe that all people can live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society**

Independent Living Services

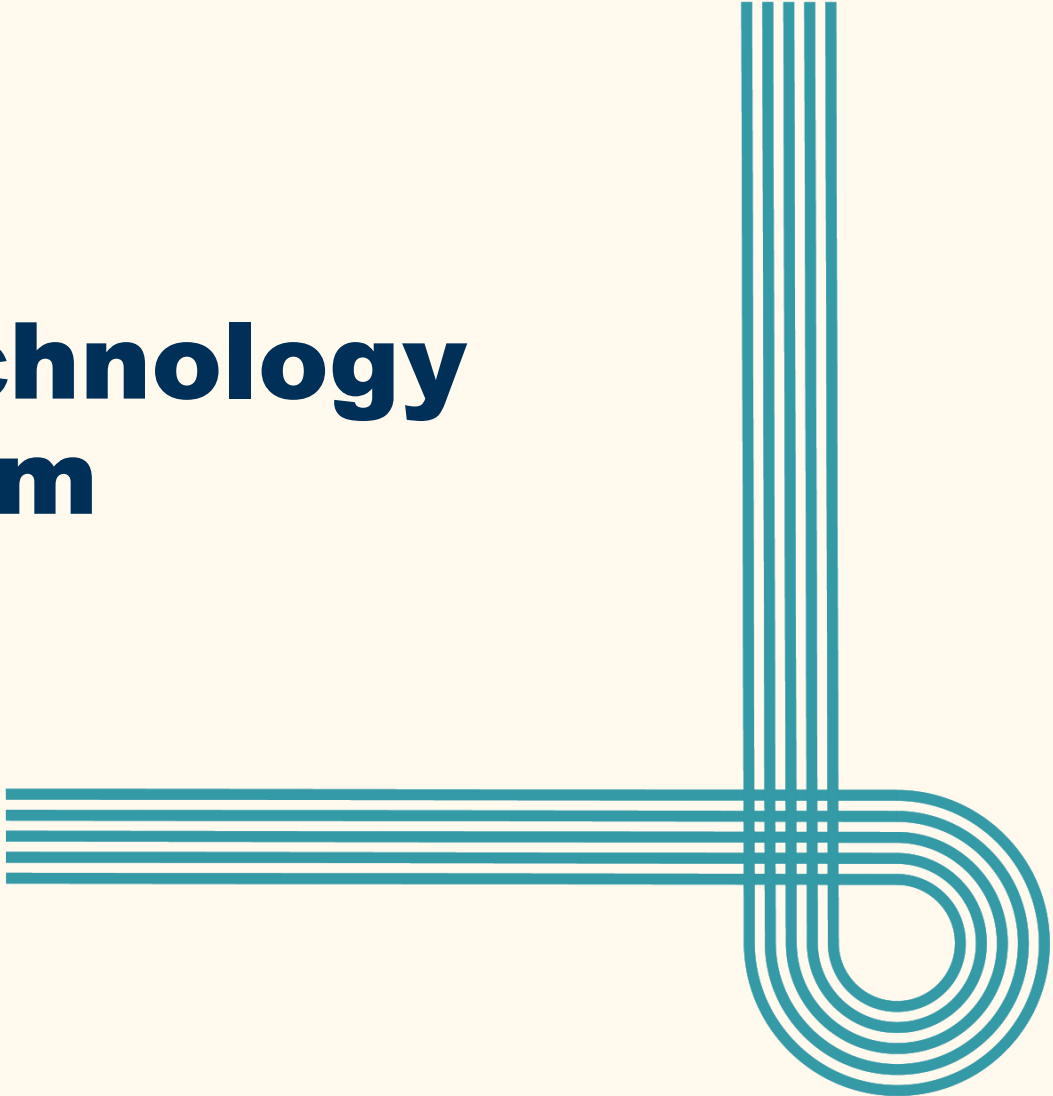
- IL program provides person-centered services to approximately 2000 people annually, focusing on de-institutionalization and independence
 - Guidance, Counseling and Assessments
 - Personal Assistance Services
 - Housing and Community Integration
 - Rehabilitation and Assistive Tech Services
 - Skills Training

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO:



A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of multiple parallel orange lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The vertical part of the 'L' is on the left, and the horizontal part extends to the right.

Assistive Technology Program

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page, consisting of multiple parallel teal lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The vertical part of the 'L' is on the right, and the horizontal part extends to the left.



NCATP Overview

- **The North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) is a state and federally funded program that provides assistive technology services statewide to people of all ages and abilities**
- **NCATP promotes independence for people with disabilities through access to technology for over 12,000 people with disabilities each year**





NCATP Services

NCATP leads North Carolina's efforts to carry out the Federal 21st Century Assistive Technology Act by providing:

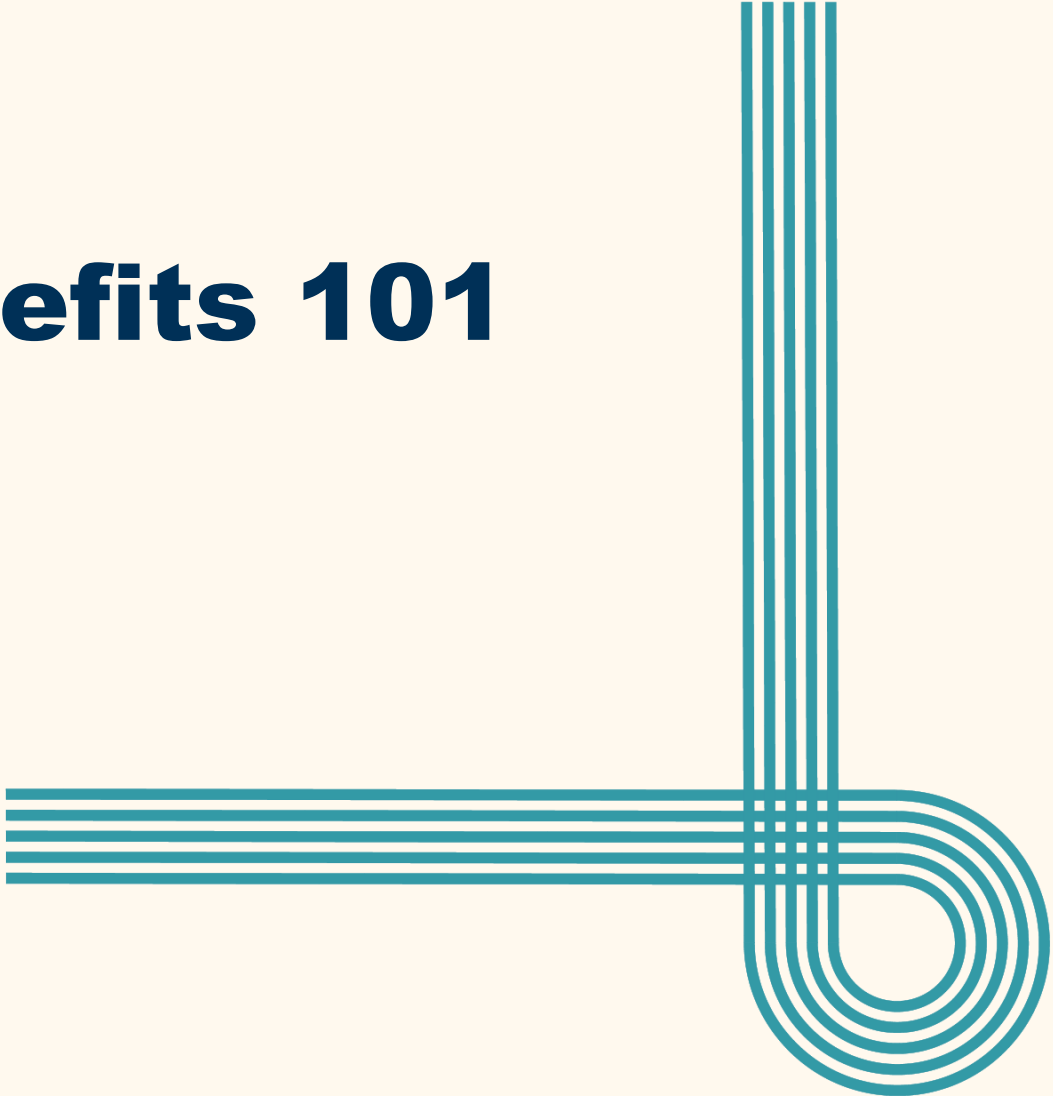
- Device demonstration
- Short-term device loans
- AT reutilization

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO:

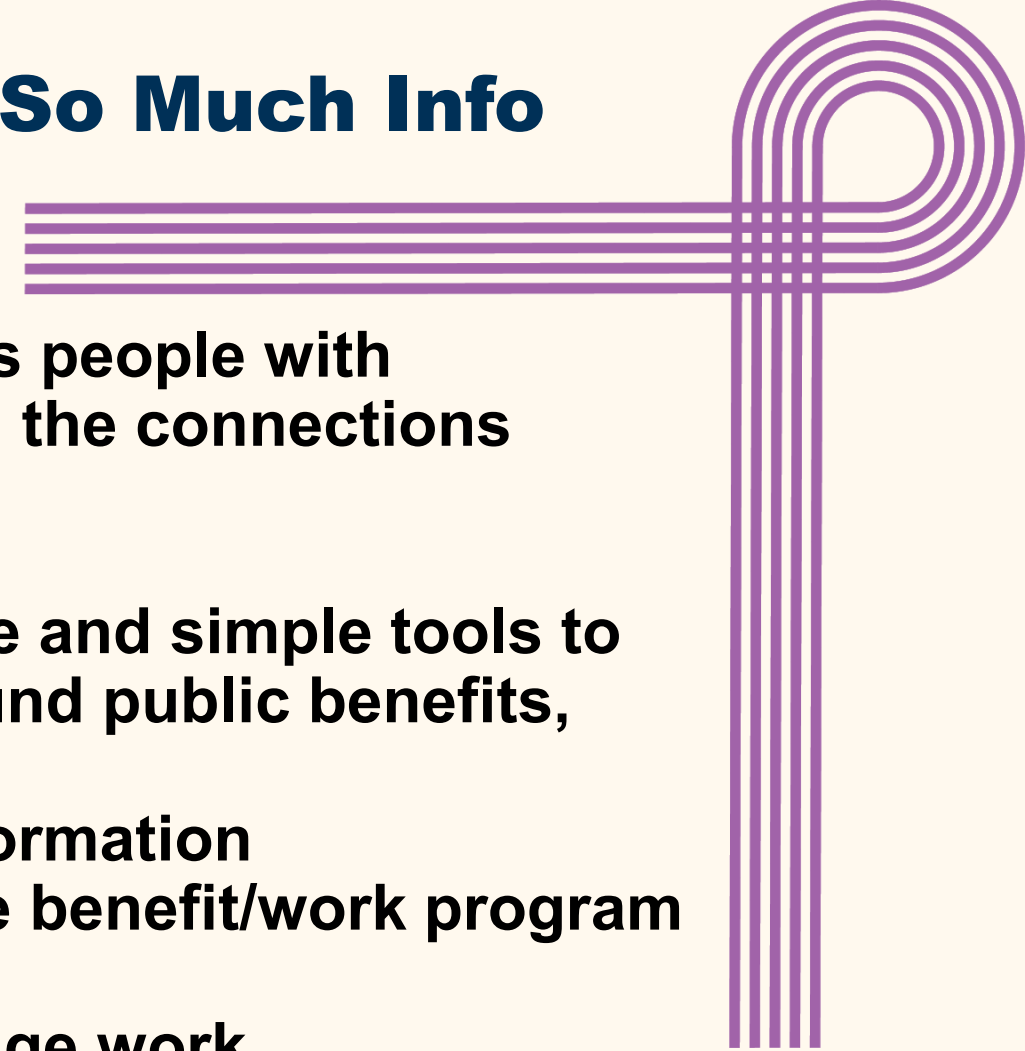


A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of multiple parallel orange lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The lines are arranged in a way that they appear to be layered, with some lines curving at the top and others extending straight down.

Disability Benefits 101

A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide, consisting of multiple parallel teal lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The lines are arranged in a way that they appear to be layered, with some lines curving at the bottom and others extending straight up.

Disability Benefits 101: One Tool, So Much Info

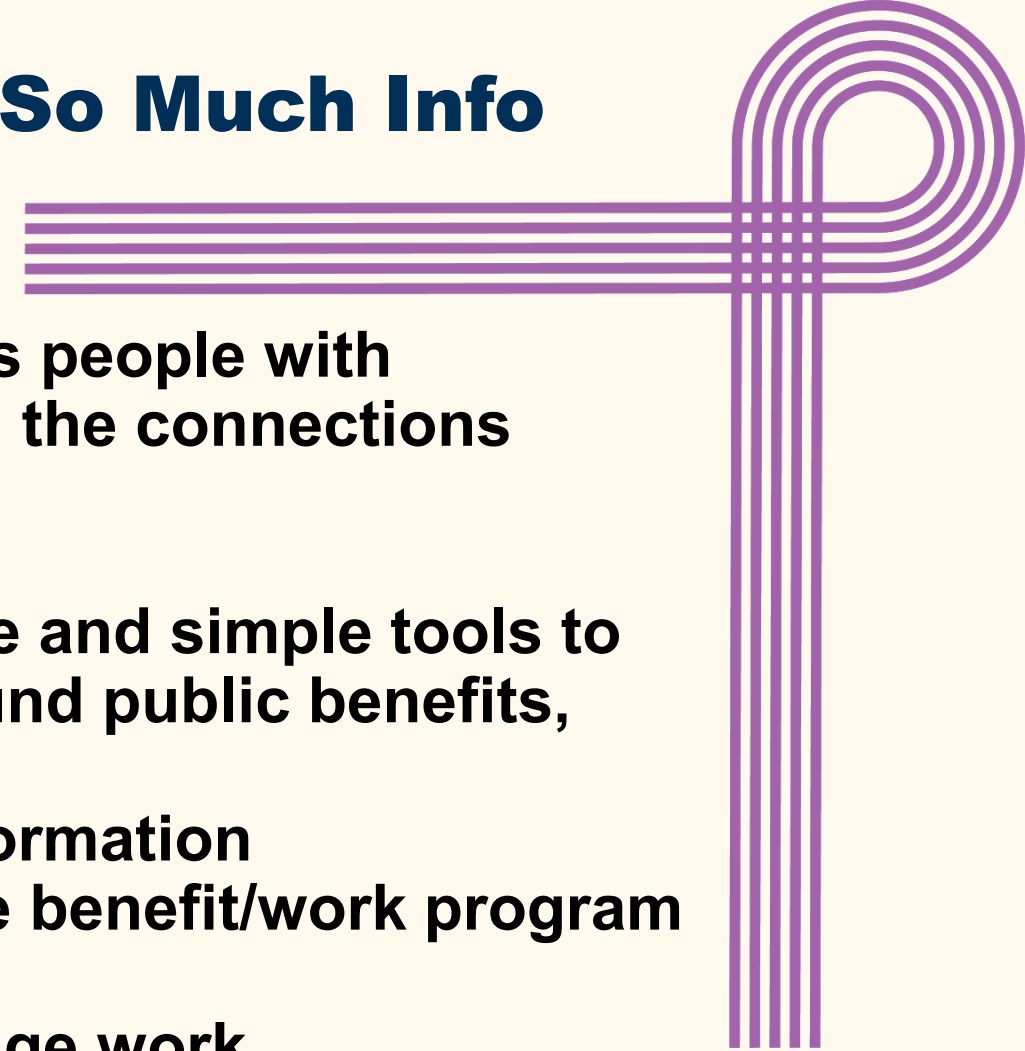


Disability Benefits 101 (www.db101.org) helps people with disabilities and service providers understand the connections between work and benefits.

DB101 provides information in plain language and simple tools to help dispel myths and reduce confusion around public benefits, earned income, health insurance, and more.

- **Safe Harbor: no personally identifying information**
- **User-friendly estimators help demonstrate benefit/work program interactions**
- **Features Disability Calculators to encourage work**
- **Live as of May 2025**

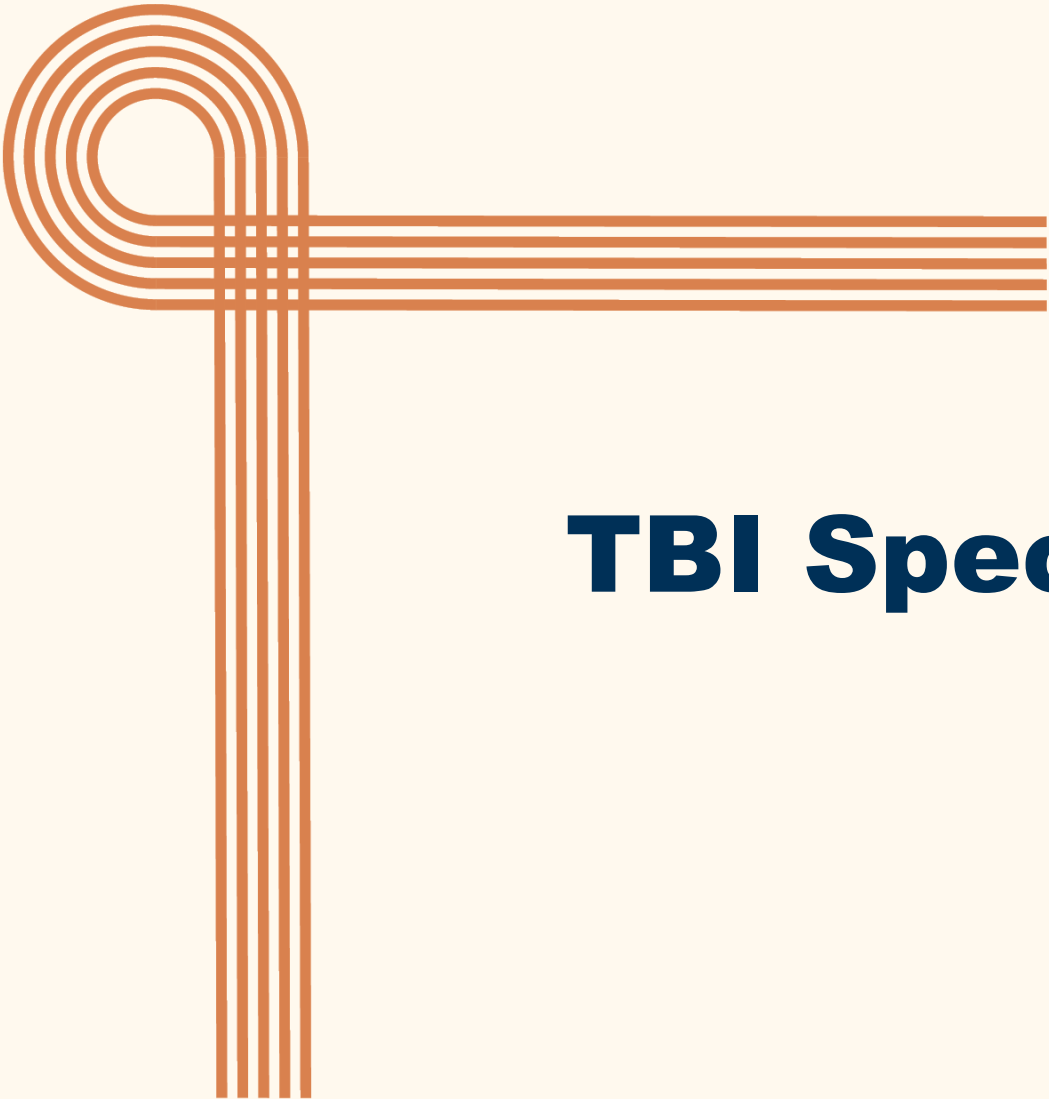
Disability Benefits 101: One Tool, So Much Info



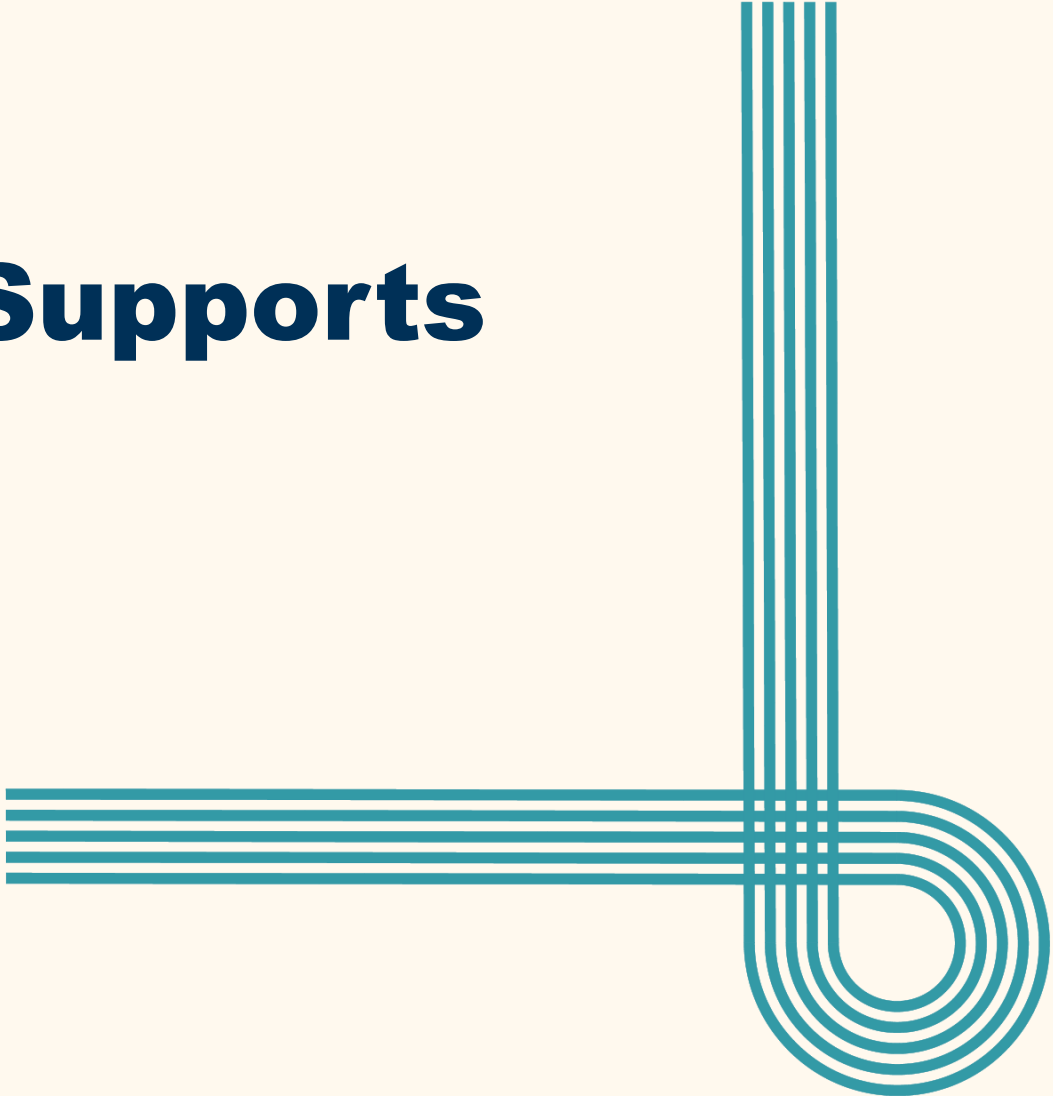
Disability Benefits 101 (www.db101.org) helps people with disabilities and service providers understand the connections between work and benefits.

DB101 provides information in plain language and simple tools to help dispel myths and reduce confusion around public benefits, earned income, health insurance, and more.

- **Safe Harbor: no personally identifying information**
- **User-friendly estimators help demonstrate benefit/work program interactions**
- **Features Disability Calculators to encourage work**
- **Live as of May 2025**

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of multiple parallel orange lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The top part of the 'L' is a horizontal line that curves into a semi-circle, and the bottom part is a vertical line.

TBI Specific Supports

A decorative graphic on the right side of the slide, consisting of multiple parallel teal lines that form a large, stylized 'L' shape. The top part of the 'L' is a vertical line that curves into a semi-circle, and the bottom part is a horizontal line.



Individuals served with a primary TBI diagnosis

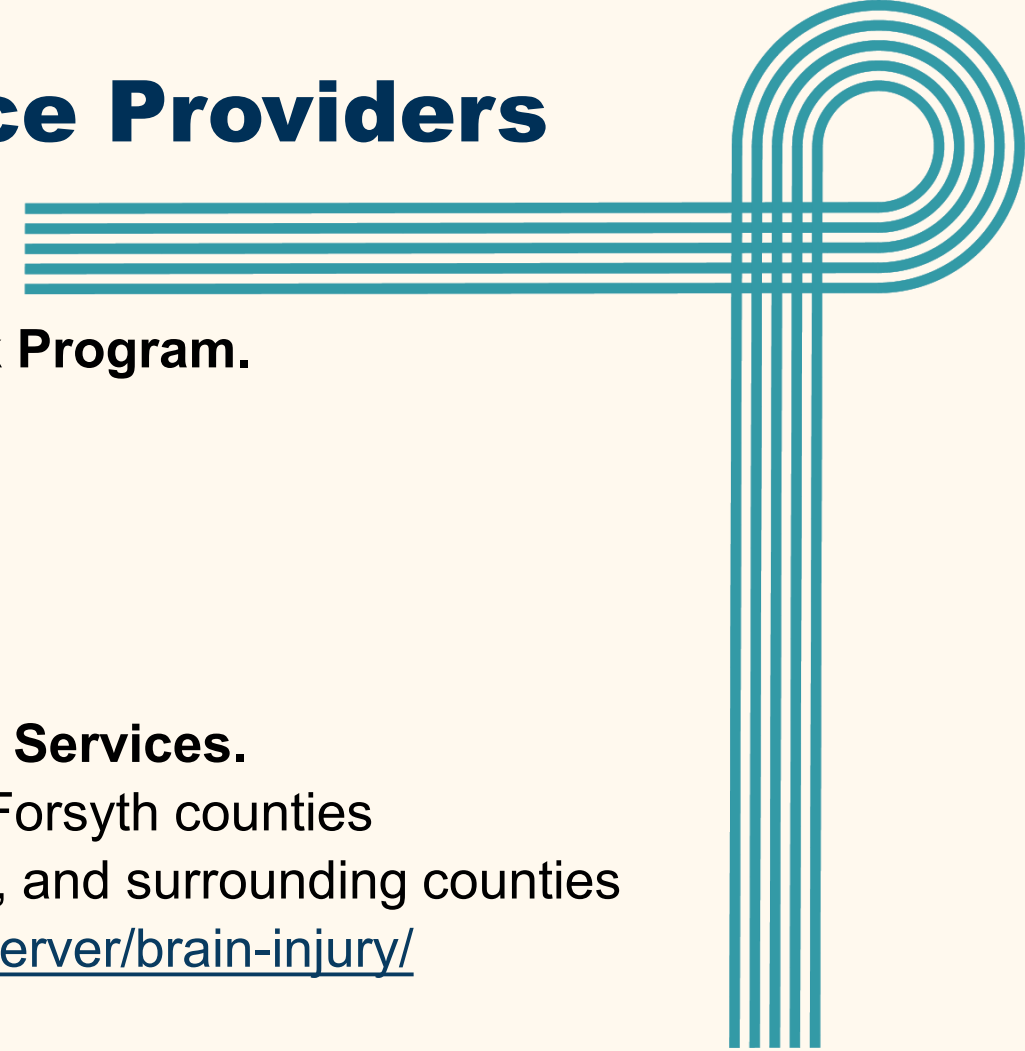
- **July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**
 - VR eligible served 401 and 37 reaching a successful employment closure.
 - IL eligible served 30 and 4 reaching a successful closure.
- **July 1, 2025 – May 11, 2026**
 - VR eligible served 389 and 34 reaching a successful employment closure.
 - IL eligible served 27 and 6 reaching a successful closure.



Brain Injury Support Services

- Outcome based comprehensive service specific to the needs of individuals diagnosed with either a traumatic or non traumatic brain injury that would like to go to work.
- Service involves an assessment to identify the individual's specific needs in the areas of Cognitive Rehabilitation, Therapy/Counseling, Case Management, and Occupational Information and Exploration.
- Cognitive rehabilitation is focused on overcoming specific barriers to employment prior to beginning job development.
- The individuals will then move forward with supports for job development and placement, 90 day follow along supports leading to successful closure and will receive extended follow along supports post EIPD case closure.
- Services are provided by a Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapist that is also a Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) under the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialist (ACBIS) at the time of hire or within one year from the state day of employment.
- Overarching goal is to assist individuals with brain injuries pursue and finding meaningful employment.

Brain Injury Support Service Providers



- **Community Workforce Solutions Gateway to Work Program.**
 - Location in Wake County
 - Serves Wake and surrounding counties
 - <https://www.gatewayclubhouse.org/services>
- **Community Partnerships Inc. Brain Injury Support Services.**
 - Locations in Greenville, Mecklenburg, Wake, and Forsyth counties
 - Serves Wake, Durham, Mecklenburg, Pitt, Forsyth, and surrounding counties
 - <https://www.communitypartnerships.org/who-we-server/brain-injury/>
- **Contact Marcia Gibson EIPD Program Specialist regarding further information on Brain Injury Support Services.**
 - Email: marcia.gibson@dhhs.nc.gov
 - Phone: 919-855-3598



Questions?