



## Welcome to the INCLUSION WORKS Community Update

We are excited to share new updates about Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) in the Community Update!



Stay tuned to hear about all the great things happening in CIE! New updates every month. [Click here](#) to join our mailing list!



## INCLUSION WORKS NEWS

### NCDHHS Awards \$4 Million to Enhance Inclusion Works

We are excited to announce that NCDHHS will be partnering with [Work Together NC](#) to expand and enhance services that support individuals to work in their communities!

A few of the things that Work Together NC will be assisting with are:

- Creating an advisory group of individuals with I/DD, family members, service providers and community partners to update and implement the Inclusion Works Strategic Plan
- Conducting a thorough assessment of the current availability of competitive integrated employment opportunities in our state
- Updating Career Planning and Assessment tools used by providers
- Implementing a communication plan to help individuals and families learn about supported employment opportunities
- Supporting service providers who may want to transform their current models of employment supports

For more information, read the press release here: [Inclusion Works Award](#)



## INCLUSION WORKS SPOTLIGHT

### Disability Inclusion at work is a Win-Win



Yusef Ewais, Executive Vice President of Human Resources for AP Emissions Technologies

Our spotlight this month is on AP Emissions Technologies.

It can be a challenge to obtain competitive integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At the same time, many employers are struggling to fill vacant positions.

A Goldsboro company specializing in automotive manufacturing of exhaust and emissions products has found a way to close the gap between job seekers and their hiring needs.

Read the full article [here](#) to find out more Yusef and AP Emissions Technologies!



## KEY UPDATES

### Benefits Counseling is available through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) and ServiceSource NC

North Carolina's Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program helps people with disabilities make informed decisions about work, benefits and the use of work incentives to achieve their employment goals. Benefits counselors can provide:

- Information about available benefits
- Referrals to government programs and community resources
- Counseling about the impact of paid employment on your benefits and financial independence
- Planning assistance to help you establish and achieve your goals for employment
- WIPA services are provided at no cost for eligible SSDI/SSI beneficiaries.

Additional information on benefits counseling can be found in this [presentation](#).

#### Finding a Benefits Counselor in North Carolina

There are multiple options to connect with a benefits counselor:



#### Are you a current or former vocational rehabilitation client?

- Connect with a counselor by contacting a local office near you. [Click here](#) to find an office near you



#### If you have not been a vocational rehabilitation client and want to explore work, call the Ticket to Work Helpline:

- 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### Inclusion Works Lunch & Learns

**Meeting time:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month

**Purpose:** Share information on Inclusion Works topics to individuals and the community.

**Topic for Lunch & Learn on 11/15:** Pre-Employment Transition Services

[Click here](#) to join invite list for Inclusion Works Lunch & Learns

You can view previous Lunch & Learn topics on the [Inclusion Works website](#).

If you want to hear about a certain topic, we want to know! [Send us an email](#)

### i2i Winter Conference & CIE Summit – December 6-8, 2023

[The i2i Conference](#) welcomes anyone in the NC Medicaid system that is managing, experiencing, or providing care to the BH/IDD population who wants to better understand the new structures, partnerships and program collaborations needed to move services toward an integrated whole person care approach.

**Where:** Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC

**CIE Summit December 6<sup>th</sup>** – From 1:00 – 4:30pm on 12/6/23, The [i2i Center for Integrative Health](#) is holding a summit on Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) on December 6, 2023. NCDHHS will be leading a conversation on CIE Service Options, Vocational Rehabilitation, national employment trends, and a look at the North Carolina employment landscape with data insights.

[Register here today](#) – Individuals with disabilities and family members can register at 50% of the cost

Additionally, The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities has limited funds available from the Jean Wolff-Rossi Fund for Participant Involvement for the CIE Summit and a few scholarships to the full i2i 2023 Winter Conference December 6, 7, and 8, 2023 (In-Person and Virtual options). To submit a Rossi-Fund Application, please click [here](#). Rossi-Fund requests are due 11/17/2023 and the i2i [Conference Registration](#) closes on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Funds are for reimbursement only, which will be processed after the conference concludes.

### North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

NCCDD advocates for improvements in policies and practices so individuals with I/DD can successfully live in the community. The following meetings are open to the public:

- **Policy Education Committee Meeting** – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:30am
- **Self-Advocate Discussion Series** – Check [Calendar](#) for next meeting

You can keep up with NCCDD meetings and other events impacting the DD community by going to [NCCDD's Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)

You can also [subscribe to the newsletter](#) to keep up with NCCDD, policy updates, and NCCDD initiatives.



## RESOURCES

### Helpful Links and Resources for Inclusion Works

- [North Carolina Inclusion Works Initiative](#)
- [North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services \(DVRS\)](#)
- [Vocational Rehabilitation Information Request](#)
- [North Carolina Division of Health Benefits \(DHB/ NC Medicaid\)](#)
- [NC LME/MCO Directory](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\) on CIE](#)

### Meet the Inclusion Works Team

- Kelly Crosbie, Director of DMHDDSUS
- Renee Rader, Deputy Director and COO of DMHDDSUS
- Ginger Yarbrough, I/DD & TBI Section Chief, DMHDDSUS
- Sandy Terrell, Chief Clinical Officer, NC Medicaid, DHB
- Pam Scott, Assistant General Counsel, OGC
- Chris Egan, Asst. Secretary for Employment & Inclusion, DVRS
- Kathie Trotter, Division Director, DVRS
- Kenneth Bausell, Sr. Dir. of Employment & Inclusion, DVRS
- LaCosta Parker, I/DD Program Manager, DHB

If you have questions, email or call: [dmhiddcontact@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dmhiddcontact@dhhs.nc.gov) • 984-236-5045

