



North Carolina Employment Collaborative

3/1/2019 – 2/29/2020

System Gap Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using a collective impact approach, support current efforts of the Community College System, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Health and Human Services, in aligning their joint efforts as outlined in the North Carolina Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified State Plan.
Initiative Goals and Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide input that is specific to the needs of individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and other disabilities as well as the business community as departments attempt to accomplish the goals laid out in the Unified State Plan.Support the formation of regional Business Advisory Councils (BACs) that will inform the efforts of prosperity zone committee members.Outline efforts to advise all three departments as they collaborate and engage to accomplish the goals of the Unified State Plan.Contractor will facilitate efforts to ensure that Unified State Plan Committee focus on areas that have a significant impact on competitive integrated employment for individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities.
Description of Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitate increased partnership between the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Community College System.Ensure that Unified State Plan Committee members focus on areas of the Unified State Plan that will have a significant impact on competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities.As employment policy is recommended, spotlight innovative approaches to competitive integrated employment for individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities.
Achievements and Outcomes to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote the ongoing work of the Business Advisory Councils through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishment of a workgroup that includes representation from self-advocates currently receiving employment services and/or employment related supports, business leaders and human resource professionals, cooperating agencies, and MCOs.Schedule and facilitate workgroup meetings over the next year to prepare recommendations for Prosperity Zone committee members. Prepare and distribute minutes following each workgroup meeting.Educate and inform the workgroup on best practices within and outside of the state.Facilitate interagency collaboration by the following:

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(continued)

Achievements and Outcomes to Date (continued)

- o Provide support for facilitating a common agenda, vision and mission alignment for the regional Business Advisory Council's (BACs) members as they provide input to regional Prosperity Zone committee members.
- o Identify and address current information gaps for people living with disabilities, as it pertains to employment and their knowledge and awareness of employment related services and supports as a baseline for shared measurement for system improvements, collaboration, and access to information for employment stakeholders.
- o Address system navigation challenges, and siloed information to eliminate the "wrong door" experience for self-advocates and their families.
- o Examine how to address the specific needs and unique challenges of citizens in rural areas from both an employer and self-advocate perspective.
- o Examine tools for measuring and tracking success for community based, competitive, integrated employment for individuals living with disabilities, including those living with I/DD.
- o Explore the potential of developing interagency agreements for what constitutes accurate data collection across multiple state agencies that provide employment related services and supports to measure this initiative's potential impact.
- o Identify and recruit business community leaders that are champions for employment opportunities for all North Carolina citizens to participate in this initiative.
- o Conduct a review of current progress made in accomplishing goals of the North Carolina Unified State Plan as it relates to employment for individuals living with I/DD and other disabilities.
- o Identify areas in the North Carolina Unified State Plan in which guidelines could be strengthened as it pertains to individuals living with I/DD.

Expected System Change as Result

- This initiative will support current efforts of the Community College System, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Health and Human Services, in aligning their joint efforts as outlined in the North Carolina Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified State Plan. This Employment Collaborative is also intended to continue to encourage North Carolina becoming an Employment First state.