

California Health Incentives Improvement Project Medicaid Infrastructure Grant – Program and Partnership Overview 2008 Continuation Application

The History

The California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP) has been funded by the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for six years. The Medicaid Infrastructure Grant program is appropriated under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act through 2011. The intent of the authors is clear: expand opportunities to work and to access and/or maintain necessary healthcare supports, promoting self-sufficiency rather than poverty for people with disabilities. Originally awarded to the California Department of Health Services, grant administration moved to Sonoma State University in 2003. Founded on principles of multi-agency collaboration and infrastructure-building, CHIIP leverages resources within the Employment Development Department, the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and the Department of Health Services for office space, staff expertise and policy development.

Under the management of the California Institute on Human Services at Sonoma State University, the project has grown from a "Basic Grant" to a "Comprehensive Employment Opportunity" award, increasing funding from \$500,000 annually to its current \$2.1 million level. The partnerships of the state departments have been critical in this progress. Most notably through its charge in the Workforce Inclusion Act (Aroner, 2002) the Governor's Committee crafted a landmark multi-agency plan for the state in 2005: the Comprehensive Strategy on the Employment of People with Disabilities. CHIIP provided leadership and grant support for the plan development stakeholder input process and worked side-by-side with the Governor's Committee throughout 2005.

Highlights of Progress

Beginning January 2006, CHIIP activities have been directly connected to the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy as approved by CMS and the State. Results include continuation of youth initiatives; creation of benefits planning tools being used by Disability Program Navigators and other service providers; and state legislation calling for research on access to private long-term care coverage for California state employees with

disabilities. In addition, policy discussions relating to Medi-Cal Working Disabled program improvements have been hosted by the World Institute on Disability and agenda'd by the Governor's Committee... creating concurrent *and* connected interest in programmatic changes to meet the healthcare needs of workers with disabilities by community stakeholders and state and local government leaders. The resulting legislation has been moved to the Senate from the Assembly benefiting from both republican and democratic support. Of course, policy changes are only as good as implementation practices. We are pleased to report that training activities in Los Angeles County throughout 2006 and 2007 raised awareness of improvements that could be made to the county's Medi-Cal eligibility software and other program implementation strategies, so that we will see the county's implementation issues addressed within 2007.

Major Outcome Areas and Initiatives of the 2008 CHIIP Workplan

This is a critical year for California's CEO grant. Approaches to build infrastructure and collaboration in early grant years have taken root and therefore we have tremendous opportunity to extend those strategies and develop sustainability of proven practices. Our workplan structure is consistent with past years and addresses two overarching themes:

How we do our work: reflected in strategies of building intergovernmental infrastructure, building upon community advocacy through collaboration, research and organizational and community development, and

What we do: as reflected in our strategies around outreach, education and promotion of a strong benefits planner network, and reaches broadly to address public awareness, attitudinal change, and policy changes.

Sustainability is our end-game and it's evident in our approaches. In 2008 we seek to:

1. Create a critical mass of awareness and aspiration relating to employment, access to healthcare and self-sufficiency for Californians with disabilities that pushes recent policy efforts into the realm of normal practice. That push will occur on several fronts through our media campaign, transition-age youth and employer initiatives.
2. Develop and/or help implement new policies that will have a lasting influence on access to affordable healthcare and avenues for self-sufficiency by providing research and technical assistance support on AB1113 (Brownley, Democrat, Santa Monica); and especially by

providing knowledge and useful tools to a broad base of individuals, family members, and professional staff on the front line providing benefits planning through db101 information services and training.

3. Establish gold standards in research that policy makers and the public can rely upon over time for accurate information on the status of Californians with disabilities relating to employment, healthcare and self-sufficiency. Our research initiatives tackle the fundamental question of baselines: improving the information we could receive from state and state/national population surveys relating to disability, health and employment; characterizing the current experience of workers on the Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program; and relaying employer experiences in hiring, promoting, retaining and managing a diverse workforce.
4. Support lasting partnerships amongst state departments, education entities and with community based organizations for effective employment and career counseling services through initiatives. Examples include Youth Leadership Forum planning and implementation as well as support for subsequent connection to community based youth development activity for alumni. Additional infrastructure work includes seemingly mundane but essentially critical connection across committees... Olmstead, Special Education, Workforce Investment, State Rehabilitation, the University Centers on Excellence for Development Disabilities and others.

Major Outcome 1: Outreach and Training

- Deploy “Talent Knows No Limits” Public Awareness Campaign – Local Pilots
- Conduct Cross-Program Training on Benefits, Health, Disability and Employment
- Support LA Training Sessions (monthly)
- Disseminate brochures through direct mail campaigns and upon request
- Prepare presentations and exhibits at professional conferences and resource fairs

Major Outcome 2: Benefits Planner Network development and support

- Db101 website content development, maintenance, and support
- Benefits planning calculator features beta testing
- New Tools regional training for benefits planners

Major Outcomes 3: Research and Policy

- Potentially help implement GAPS Task Force recommendations to improve the Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program (AB1113, Brownley)
- Long Term Care Insurance – increased access to private plan coverage study
- Survey of Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program participants – longitudinal panel
- Employer Practices Case Studies
- Evaluation of Comprehensive Employment Strategy implementation and outcomes

Major Outcome 4: Intergovernmental Infrastructure to remove barriers to employment and healthcare.

- Develop cross-program outcome measures and the goal of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy on Aligning Systems
- Support leadership of cross-program planning and implementation of youth leadership and long-term care services
- Generate local cross-program steering committees to plan training and outreach activities

CHIIP Contractual and In-Kind Partnerships – 2008

Steering Committee

The CHIIP is guided by a steering committee comprised of consumers, community-based organizations, and representatives from state and county government that help to guide the work of the project. This group has been meeting quarterly since 2002. The CHIIP Steering Committee also meets quarterly with the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, as the two organizations share a common vision and goals. All activities of the CHIIP support implementation of California's Comprehensive Strategy on the Employment of People with Disabilities.

Some of our major partnerships are shown below.

Major Partner	Description
World Institute on Disability	Training, benefits planning and information resource website, and policy development/ stakeholder input

Major Partner	Description
<i>Competitive solicitation in process</i>	Public awareness campaign development and pilot implementation

UCSF Center on Disability Statistics	California Survey on Employment of People with Disability
Center for Workers with Disabilities	National Technical Assistance provider
Health and Disability Advocates (NCHSD)	National Technical Assistance provider
UC Davis	Employer Case Studies: Practices in employing Californians with disabilities
UC Berkeley	Long term care insurance research to expand access to private plan coverage
Dept of Health Care Services	Policy expertise and Medi-Cal data analysis, houses CHIIP staff including provision of OE&E
Employment Development Department	Policy development through the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and employment data analysis. Houses CHIIP staff including provision of OE&E
California Workforce Investment Board	Partner in Employer Case Studies and other activities integrating services for people with disability in WIA systems
Institute for Educational Leadership	Technical Assistance for CA's Youth Leadership Forum, Alumni Organizing Council
LA County Medi-Cal offices	Outreach and eligibility determination services
Protection and Advocacy, LA	Training and outreach
Personal Assistance Services Council, LA	Cross-program systems development, training and outreach
Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities	Manages implementation efforts of California's Comprehensive Employment Strategy. All CHIIP work is associated with the Strategy

California Health and Human Services Agency	Keeping work of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, Real Choice Systems Transformation Grant and Money Follows the Person initiative coordinated. CHIIP and the California Community Choices project share staffing expertise.
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