

Title: National Policy Development Center for Preparing Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities for Employment

Lead Organization Name: The Council of State Governments (CSG)

Consortia Members: Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University

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The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the award of \$4 million for a four-year cooperative agreement to operate a policy development center focused on youth with disabilities. The center will build on the work of the Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth. During the performance period, the awardee – the Council of State Governments – will develop and manage the center. The center will conduct research, engage with the workforce system and its partners, identify effective policies and practices that support youth with disabilities, and provide resources and training to help support the transition of youth with disabilities to employment.

The Council of State Governments seeks to create a more coordinated transition system for promoting the employment of youth and young adults with disabilities. To support states' efforts to improve employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities, we will (1) Develop and implement frameworks for building capacity in the unique contexts of youth service delivery and workforce systems, both general and disability-specific; and (2) Establish a national resource center that leverages quality resources of all kinds and provides the human capital needed for full, problem-solving supports.

Consortia partners are poised to conduct sound research, share existing and new resources, and provide opportunities to expand career pathways, work-based learning, and professional development for youth and young adults with disabilities. We will build knowledge through research and conduct deep analyses of state systems to determine both unique and shared challenges. Intensive technical assistance and training to states will be delivered to adapt service delivery, and to improve outcomes for youth with disabilities.

See the press release at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20190828>.