

Orange County Local Partnerships Agreement (OCLPA)

Coronavirus-19...

Virtual & Other Transition Resources 2021

Google Drive 1-15-21

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VXYCdN602MYSbIGcZ4f5YQzrFqTFnoC-?u>

(Please find a folder for the 1-15-21 resources.)



- Please send your no-cost/low cost COVID -19 & Transition Related Resources & Student Learning Strategies to linda_oneal@cox.net so we can share with each other on our google drive. We need items that pertain to all stakeholders, including students, families, adults with disabilities, educational staff, administrators, service providers, community colleges, universities, and any other interested individuals.
- Consider providing newsletters/emails and other social media to your students, families, co-workers, and business partners to ensure they get information that may include COVID-19 resources and emergency food distributions in your community.
- Keep in mind, many of these resources are free now, but may have a cost associated with them after the Pandemic is over.

Happy 2021!

- + Congratulations to Kurt Kosbab, HBUHSD, on his 12-31-20 retirement...we will miss him and thank him for his leadership with WorkAbility I Program and the OCLPA!
- + Thanks to Ray Bueche, SVUSD, who will replace Kurt on the OCLPA Leadership Team.

RESOURCES

1) Fraud Alert: COVID-19 Scams, Administration for Community Living News & Events

As the number of people and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic grows, so do the scams associated with it. Scammers use public health emergencies as opportunities for new fraud schemes, and because older adults and people with disabilities are at greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19, they may target these populations.



It's important to remember that although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health officials may contact you if they believe you may have been exposed to the virus, they will not need to ask you for insurance or financial information.

Scammers rapidly alter their tactics and adapt their schemes to the changing landscape, and we anticipate that they will leverage the COVID-19 vaccine to prey on unsuspecting people. Be vigilant and protect yourself from potential fraud concerning COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

<https://www.smpresource.org/Content/Medicare-Fraud/Fraud-Schemes/COVID-19-fraud.aspx>

- Fraud surrounding COVID-19 is Increasing
- Tips for Protecting Yourself & Medicare (Vaccine Schemes)

(See the information sheets on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

2) Helping Workers Displaced by the Covid-19 Economy (Wall Street Journal, 12/18/20

“Nine months into the Covid-19 pandemic, with millions of Americans still out of work and the nation hurtling into what most economists agree will be a period of sustained economic disruption, Washington has largely ignored worker retraining.

But there’s also good news: The last decade or so has seen a revolution in how we prepare people—high-school students, college-goers, midcareer adults and others—for the labor market. What used to be called vocational education, often disparagingly, has been reimagined.”

(Please see this article on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)



3) Maintaining Your Emotional Wellness During COVID-19

We here at the Implementation Science and Practice Advances Research Center (iSPARC) have seen many great resources and tips come out to help people support their mental health during this crisis. We’ve pointed out some of the ones we think are the most helpful and listed them below. The sources of the tips are on the information page.

(Please see the iSPARC Tip sheet on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

4) NTACT: the Collaborative... (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

is the technical assistance center funded jointly by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to build state education and vocational rehabilitation agency capacity to so that ALL students and youth with disabilities experience increased:

- enrollment in postsecondary education
- credential attainment
- competitive integrated employment
- community engagement



The following universities have been contracted with to provide technical assistance...

East Tennessee State University	University of Kansas
George Washington University	University of Maryland
Portland State University	University of Oregon

NTACT: will host the **Virtual Capacity Building Institute for interdisciplinary teams focused on improving outcomes for secondary students and youth with disabilities from 1 - 4 PM (Eastern) daily May 3 - 6, 2021.** Mark your calendars (and alert your fellow team members) now! There will be some additional pre-CBI planning with team leaders, asynchronous content, and facilitated team planning in conjunction with the synchronous online event. More details and registration coming soon!

5) Future of Work Recap: Defining Work

This WFGPS Future of Work Recap highlights resources that focused on redefining work: roles and responsibilities, value and opportunities, and trends.

(See booklet on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)



6) PEAT: Telework & Accessibility Tool Kits

Many employers and employees have shifted to telework. PEAT is here to help with the transition to ensure your digital communications and platforms are as accessible as possible for everyone, including people with disabilities.



The recent shift to telework for a staggering number of government and private sector employees has caused a surge in the use of digital communications systems. Employers and employees are now relying heavily on digital technologies to conduct business, collaborate with colleagues, host virtual events, and recruit and hire employees.

With digital devices, platforms, and documents becoming the primary methods used by individuals to execute work and engage in daily life, it's more important than ever to prioritize [digital accessibility](#). Because technology changes rapidly, you'll also want follow our explorations of how emerging technologies such as [artificial intelligence](#) and [extended reality](#) are impacting the future of work.

We've created the following resources to help equip employers with the information needed to ensure that the virtual workplace is accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.

<https://peatworks.org/digital-accessibility-toolkits/>

- ✓ Buy IT!
- ✓ Staff Training Toolkit
- ✓ Talent Works
- ✓ Tech Check
- ✓ Telework & Accessibility

7) LEAD On! Quarterly Newsletter-December (12/22/21)



The LEAD Center brings together Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners at the national, state, and local level to expand policy, employment, leadership, and economic advancement opportunities and outcomes for all people with disabilities. Below are highlights of some of the LEAD Center's activities during 2020 related to WIOA Performance Reporting, Equal Opportunity Regulations and Policy, Promoting Work and Financial Literacy, and Inclusive Career Pathways.

(Please see this newsletter on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

- Knowledge Translation Consortium...COVID-19 Related Disability Employment Resources

(Please see this resource list on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

- FYI: Coming Soon...The Financial Toolkit

The Financial Toolkit will focus on obtaining and maintaining employment, including an emphasis on the financial decisions an individual needs to make along the lifecycle of employment: (1) preparing for a job; (2) starting a job; (3) maintaining a job; (4) losing a job or changing jobs; and (5) or retiring. Each section of the Toolkit will offer users tools and resources to help think about and address financial questions related to each of the five stages of the work lifecycle.

8) ADA 30: Looking Ahead

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) released the final blog in its series commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), exploring the future of the ADA and its impact on people with disabilities.



The blog, "ADA30: Looking Ahead," discusses emerging technologies and trends, such as autonomous vehicles and digital accessibility, and how advances in these technologies can increase employment opportunities and access for individuals with disabilities. The blog was developed in collaboration with the State Exchange on Employment & Disability as a part of a yearlong focus on the ADA and disability-inclusive policymaking in the states.

[Read "ADA30: Looking Ahead"](#)

The following is an excerpt from this blog...

"Despite the protections outlined in the ADA, people with disabilities still face challenges with economic stability, equal opportunity, and inclusion. Today, disability rights advocates carry on the legislation's

legacy by fighting for fair wages and seeking to end labor market discrimination. But what will the next 30 years look like for people with disabilities? The answer may lie in the ever-evolving role that technology plays in our daily lives, both at home and at work. For many advocates, these emerging tools hold potential to help make every workplace inclusive.”

9) **Unpacking Disability: How to Enable Free Zoom Captions with any Zoom Account (12-18-20)**

This is a tutorial for how to set up free captions on Zoom – any account on Zoom, including your personal free account. Zoom has finally integrated free, live captions with any plan. The only thing that needs to be done is some enabling clicks from the back end. ANYONE CAN GET THIS. It’s free, and just by enabling it, you embed the captions directly onto the screen, below the presenter and participants. It’s really a game changer and it’s easy!

(Please see the information sheet on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

10) **Should I Attend College in the Fall/Spring? Tip Sheet, Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research**

This tip sheet is intended for use by students with mental health conditions, their supporters and family members.

(Please see this tip sheet on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)



11) **Inclusion Networks: Beautiful Minds at Work**

Joey Travolta’s Inclusion Networks is thrilled to announce plans to stream the award-winning film **CAROL OF THE BELLS**, starring RJ Mitte on December 24th and 25th, 2020. Inclusion Networks Promo Video available at

<https://youtu.be/BOibK2B02i0>.

INCLUSION NETWORKS



[Inclusion Networks](#) is a subscription based platform that features TV Series, documentaries, short films and special features created and produced by crews consisting of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Inclusion Networks is a groundbreaking and one of a kind channel that not only provides fresh monthly content and programming, but also provides disabled filmmakers with a platform for displaying their talents, stories and dreams.

Inclusion Networks, in partnership with the non profits [Options for All](#) and [Futures Explored](#) Inc as well as [Inclusion Films](#), has helped establish a network that gives a voice to an underrepresented community that is sure to entertain and inspire. In addition, Inclusion Network subscription revenue goes directly to increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities, helping provide more jobs in the film industry for those with disabilities and providing more exceptional content to discover.

12) **Executive Skills for Academic Success Workshop (Karen Kerner)**

“Is your teen struggling in school because of deficits in executive functioning (planning, working memory, attention, problem solving, verbal reasoning, inhibition, mental flexibility, multi-tasking, initiation, and monitoring of actions)? OCASG is partnering with Educational Therapist, Karen Lerner, to offer an Online Executive Skills Workshop for teens (ages 13-22) and their parents.”

Parents (only) Sessions: (Saturday Afternoon @3-4pm) Starting 2/20/21

Teens Sessions: (Saturday Afternoons @3-4pm) Starting 3/6/21

Check for Fees

(Please see the flyer on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

Register...

[Teen Executive Skills for Academic Success Workshop - 2021 \(memberplanet.com\)](https://memberplanet.com)



13) Effects of Expanding Pell Grant Eligibility for Short Occupational Training programs: Results from the Experimental Sites Initiative, Institute of Education Sciences 12/2020

To be eligible for a Pell Grant, students must also meet the general federal student aid eligibility requirements. See U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid. (n.d.). Eligibility requirements. <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>.



“ED’s spending on Pell Grants is now at close to \$30 billion annually. Some policymakers and stakeholders seek to expand the amounts awarded or who is eligible. Others question the increasing costs of federal financial aid and whether the grants, and the investment in short-term programs, encourage student success as intended (Kreighbaum 2019). It is therefore important to identify lessons for the future and still-open questions from this study, particularly given the potential costs of making the pilot eligibility expansions permanent policy. For example, if current very short noncredit occupational courses were eventually made credit-earning and eligible for Pell Grants, low-income students’ participation might add as much as \$500 million more to federal financial aid expenditures.

This cost should be balanced against a potential 10-percentage point impact on program completion.²³ Two important lessons stem from the way the study was conducted. This study was the first to evaluate the effects of offering Pell Grants using random assignment, the most rigorous methodology for assessing effectiveness. It was also the first time this method was used to evaluate a pilot under ED’s Experimental Sites Initiative, in place since the 1980s. The use of random assignment lends credibility to a growing body of evidence about the benefits of Pell Grants for low-income students. Other evaluations use different methods, but some have also found that this form of aid leads to higher rates of college enrollment and completion, particularly among older, nontraditional students.²⁴ The current study also underscores the feasibility of using random assignment in evaluating federal education programs, including financial aid, and in doing so on college campuses, as an increasing number of studies do.”

(This report is available on the Institute of Education Sciences website at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee>. This 19-page report is also available on the TPI OCLPA google Drive.)

13) National Skills Coalition

Twenty years ago, a group of local leaders from business, labor, community colleges, community organizations, and workforce boards came together to form a new, national, skills coalition.



A [new brand and website](#) has been developed that reflects how much our coalition has changed over the last two decades, our determination to tackle the enormous challenges facing our nation at this very moment, and the impact we’re poised to have together in the years ahead.

Our new logo represents what makes our coalition unique and powerful: **Our networks**. Our national network of tens of thousands of practitioner advocates shaping federal policy, our network of 20 SkillSPAN state policy coalitions, our Business Leaders United network of employers and soon to be 15 state BLU affiliates, our Voices for Skills network of 50,000 workers and grassroots advocates. Our networks shape our policy agendas and move them across the finish line. Our networks define us. And we honor them with this new mark. And with this new logo, we offer you a [new NSC website](#). One that will allow us to better inform, engage, and activate our networks to change policies that change lives.

14) Using Coaching & Navigation to Promote Economic Mobility: How Can Programs Ensure Equity? Report (August 2020)

Under its Economic Mobility and Opportunity strategy, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is interested in learning about meaningful, achievable solutions to facilitate economic mobility. To that end, the foundation is exploring the promise of coaching and navigation to improve economic mobility and reduce inequities. In June 2020, the foundation partnered with Mathematica to hold a virtual convening on the potential of coaching and navigation to promote economic mobility. This convening included a diverse group of experts, including designers and implementers of coaching and navigation programs, policy experts, researchers, coaches and navigators, people who had received coaching and navigation services, and foundation staff.

(This 4-page report is available on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

15) How the Economy is Actually Doing/ New York Times 12/17/21

Nearly a year after the coronavirus outbreak, the full impact of the pandemic on the U.S. economy and labor force remains unclear. Some of the most obvious indicators are in conflict: As some [companies report enormous profits](#), nearly 10 million more Americans are now unemployed compared with last February, and over one million filed new state and federal unemployment claims last week.

Are we still in the early stages of a long recession, or will the rollout of vaccines mean we'll soon see the end of a short-term crisis? How much are people suffering now, and for how long will the effects of the past 10 months persist?

We asked economists and experts with a variety of backgrounds how they would measure the state of the economy and labor market now and what indicators they thought were often overlooked.

(See this article on the TPI OCLPA google Drive.)

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS/PODCASTS/VIDEOS

16) Understanding CalABLE for 2021

For this webinar, presenters will focus their discussion on:

- Program Updates
- Tips on Opening a CalABLE Account
- Answers to Common CalABLE Account Questions



As always, the webinar will conclude with a Q&A session to give participants an opportunity to ask additional questions.

Guest Speaker: Malcolm Harmon, Service Delivery and Engagement Manager, Intuition ABLE Solutions.

This webinar will provide limited basic information. For a full presentation on the fundamentals of the program, view the [CalABLE 101 video](#) available on our YouTube channel.

If you would like to join us **via computer** and submit questions during the webinar, please [Register](#) to receive a confirmation email and login information.

There is an **audio only** option available as well. Please note that in using the audio only option, you will not be able to submit questions during the broadcast. To join via telephone:

1. Call +1 (669) 900-6833
2. Enter Webinar ID: 942 3100 9816

For those who are unable to make the live broadcast, a **replay** of the webinar will be made available on [CalABLE's YouTube channel](#).

17) Register for the 2021 Self Advocacy Chats

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is excited to announce

the first in a series of monthly California Statewide Self-Advocacy Chats planned for 2021 and encourage those who are interested to join the conversation!



What/Why: The “California Statewide Self-Advocacy Chats” provide self-advocates throughout California a safe space to talk about topics that matter to them. After each meeting, resources and information related to the topics discussed will be shared with participants in a follow-up email. Information and resources shared are intended to help advocates learn about issues and advocate for change in their communities.

When: The third Wednesday of each month. The first California Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat of 2021 will be held on **Wednesday, January 20th at 11:00 A.M.**

This month’s topic is From Victim to Advocate: Tools to Respond to Bullying.

Register for Zoom Self-Advocacy Chats:

https://bit.ly/ca_selfadvocacychats2021

18) Pre-Employment Transition Services: A Meta View with tools and Resources & Training

For this recorded webinar, Melissa Diehl and Christine Johnson from the Pre-ETS team in Center for Rehabilitation Counseling Research and Education at George Washington University and Ruth Allison from the Center for Transition and Career Innovation (CTCI) at the College of Education – University of Maryland **provide an overview of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.**

This 30-minute meta-view is an excellent resource to start or expand your journey of learning about these valuable services available to students with disabilities.

The focus of this webinar:

1. Provide an overview of pre-employment transition services
2. Tour: Explore the resources, tools, and training available for Pre-employment transition services
3. Technical Assistance and collaboration between VR and Education: Beyond 2020

This webinar is close-captioned and a transcript is available.

[Register Now!](#)

19) Time Management in a Pandemic: Better Productivity, Even When Everyday Could be Monday

Free Live Webinar

1-28-21 10:00 AM PST

ADDITUDE *Inside the ADHD mind*

“[Time management skills](#) help us choose what we do and when we do it. The better we are at choosing priorities, the more effective we can be. But unless we can take action, it doesn’t matter what we prioritize. Effective time management is how we take the right action at the right time.”

In this webinar, you will learn:

- How to establish the daily structure to combat time blindness in the pandemic
- Strategies to enable focused work, even while [working from home](#)
- Effective strategies to manage distractions and improve productivity in less-than-ideal conditions
- Actionable steps for limiting distractions
- Unconventional and creative time management strategies to improve work-life balance and productivity.

Register...

https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1414979&tp_key=203da15dba

20) SUPERFEST Sacramento Disability Film Festival (MaryEllen Stives, SCDD)

Celebrate cutting-edge cinema that portrays disability through a diverse, complex and engaging lens. The festival is one of a few worldwide, completely accessible to film-goers of all kinds.

- Short films selected by disability rights advocates and filmographers
- Featuring animated and dramatic shorts, plus full-length features
- Second annual event, first hosted by the library in January 2020

1-27-21 5:30-7:30 PM

(Please see the flyer on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

[View the lineup](#)

[Register for free](#)



21) OC Asperger's Support Group Activities (Judi Uttal, OCASG)

<https://ocaspergers.org/>

- Neurodiversity in the Workplace & Stanford Neurodiversity Project

(OCASG information is available on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)



22) A Heart-to-Heart with Mom Online Parent Support Group (Debora Smith, ARM)

Talk with us and learn that there's hope, there's help and you're not alone.

1-21-21 7-8:30 PST

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctf--vqD4oHtNicJsVSgb0-yLyMT1X4MQM>

The 2021 Parent Support group Schedule Every...2nd Thursday & 3rd Thursday

[Autism Resource Mom](#) www.autismresourcemom.org



FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI)

23) IRS Statement about Second Economic Impact Payments

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-statement-update-on-economic-impact-payments>

IRS and Treasury continue to work closely with our partners in the tax and financial industry to do everything possible to get the second round of Economic Impact Payments to the American people as quickly as possible.



At this point, over 100 million EIPs have been direct deposited into eligible recipients' accounts. Some recipients may have had their payment directed to the temporary bank account established when their 2019 tax return was filed. The IRS and tax industry partners are taking immediate steps to redirect stimulus payments to the correct account for those affected. The IRS anticipates many additional taxpayers will receive payments following this effort.

For those taxpayers who checked Get My Payment and received a response indicating a direct deposit was to be sent to an account they do not recognize, the IRS advises them to continue to monitor their bank accounts for deposits.

The IRS emphasizes that the information taxpayers see in the Get My Payment tool, including account numbers and potential deposit dates, may not display an accurate account number as we continue to work through updates. No action is necessary for taxpayers as this work continues; they do not need to call the IRS, their tax provider or their financial institution.

24) Updates to Unemployment Benefits

In December 2020, Congress passed legislation providing an additional \$300 per week to all workers receiving unemployment benefits. The supplement begins after December 26, 2020 and ends on March 14, 2021. The legislation also extends the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program which provides unemployment assistance to the self-employed and gig workers. Contact your state's unemployment office or program for information or to apply for benefits.

You can look to your [state's unemployment insurance office or program](#) to identify current options for benefits.

25) Student Loan Borrowers



https://www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus/student-loans/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wc&utm_term=Jan521

Principal and interest payments on federally-held student loans are automatically suspended through January 31, 2021.

What you need to know

- Interest and monthly payments on federally-held loans are suspended through January 31, 2021.
- You do not need to contact your student loan servicer or take any action on your federally-held student loans.
- Make sure your servicer has up-to-date contact information and check your mail or email so you can receive any updates or information about your loans.
- Suspended payments through January 31, 2021, will count towards any student loan forgiveness program, as long as, all other requirements of the loan forgiveness program are met.

26) Please see the OCLPA 2021 Meeting Schedule

(This schedule is available on the TPI OCLPA Google Drive.)

27) The Next OCLPA COVID-19 Transition Resource List will be sent on 2-12-21