

OCLPA

Orange County Local Partnership Agreement

Coronavirus-19...

Virtual & Other Transition Resources Spring 2020

Google Drive Spring 2020 4-3-20

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

(You will find a folder for the 4-3-20 resources.)

- ✚ Please send your COVID -19 & Transition Related Resources & Student Learning Strategies to linda_oneal@cox.net so we can share with each other on our google drive. There are 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 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. On a good note this does allow you the opportunity to try them out for possible purchase at-a-later-date.

RESOURCES:

1) Corona Virus (COVID-19 in California)

<https://covid19.ca.gov/> (US Senator Kamala Harris)

The State of California has launched [a new website](#) where constituents can find the most up-to-date information on our state's efforts to combat the coronavirus, including resources to apply for unemployment, disability benefits, and paid family leave. It's critical that everyone stays informed about the coronavirus and what you can do to protect yourself from it.

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

Last updated April 2, 2020 at 10:40 AM

This website is working around the clock to respond to COVID-19.



2) Internet for All Now

California Link for Helping with Free and Reduced Cost Internet Services
Educator's Tool Kit...Help your Students & Parents Stay Connected to School
During Health Emergency

(Barbara Sorter, Riverside COE)

http://www.internetforallnow.org/educators_toolkit

- Having an affordable home Internet connection is critical to stay informed and in contact with friends



and family during the COVID-19 emergency. Several Internet Service Providers offer **low-cost, affordable Home Internet** for qualifying low-income households. For the most up-to-date information, we recommend visiting EveryoneOn.org/cetf.

- For a limited time, AT&T, Charter/Spectrum and Comcast are offering 2-months free Home Internet for **new subscribers and offers carry conditions**. (Households with students in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must tell the Spectrum representative on the initial call that they want the free 60-day offer applied to Spectrum Internet Assist. Failing to do so means they will pay the full rate of \$55 a month when the free period ends.) Neither Spectrum nor Comcast allows existing customers to downgrade their services.

Several companies, including AT&T, Charter/Spectrum, Comcast, Cox, Frontier, T-Mobile, and other ISPs pledge for the next 60 days to not terminate service and they will waive late fees for any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the coronavirus pandemic.

(The English & Spanish Flyer are on the google drive.)



3) COVID-19 and Social Insurance and Benefit Programs

This is a 3-page handout put together by Cornell University's Institute on Employment & Disability. **(Joyce Montgomery, Vallejo UHSD)**
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Individuals who are receiving SSI need to be aware of several key elements related to the stimulus payment: 1. Stimulus payments are NOT taxable. 2. Stimulus payments received by the individual that are initiated through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) will not count as income in the calculation of the individual's SSI amount for that month (26 U.S. Code § 6409). 3. Stimulus payments will not be counted as "resources" for a twelve-month period following the receipt of the funds (26 U.S. Code § 6409).

(Please find this document on the google drive.)

4) 2020 Food Access Resources in California **(Fiona Ma, CPA, California State Treasurer)**

"I have been and continue to be inspired by how we are all rising together to meet the challenge of the moment. My office has additionally responded by creating an informational resource list for food access. View the food list [here](#). This google spread sheet can be printed from the website. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EA-ct0DEV5DF3wXSxlqd2sqfKIA_2j9fvunrRq1sb8w/edit#gid=0

This list was last updated on 3-30-20.

5) ServSafe Food Handler Certification **(Joyce Montgomery, Vallejo UHSD)**

This student/adult resource is for anyone interested in building skills for the food service industry:

- ServSafe is offering FREE Food Handler certification online through April 30.
- Create an account with the student, add the food handler's bundle (online course & assessment) to cart, and access the course through the established profile. Certification is valid for 3 years.



Here's a direct link with more info:

<https://www.servsafe.com/Landing-Pages/Free-Courses>

6) **EARN (Advancing Workforce Diversity)
Special COVID-19 Issue**



[COVID-19 Resources](#)

EARN and its funding entity, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, remain committed to helping employers protect the health and safety of their employees, during the COVID-19 pandemic and at all times. This special issue of the EARN newsletter provides resources that can assist employers and others in understanding the intersection between the pandemic and disability employment policies and practices.

- **EARN's Mental Health Toolkit**

- <https://askearn.org/mentalhealth/>

- EARN's Mental Health Toolkit is a gateway to background, tools and resources that can help employers learn more about mental health issues and cultivate a welcoming and supportive work environment for employees who may be facing mental health issues. It also presents an easy-to-follow framework for fostering a mental health-friendly workplace, all built around the "4 A's": *Awareness, Accommodations, Assistance and Access.*

- **Working Remotely During COVID 19: Your Mental Health & Well Being**

- <http://www.workplacentalhealth.org/getmedia/fd8a9b98-b491-4666-8f27-2bf59b00e475/Working-Remotely-During-COVID-19-CWMH-Guide>

- This 4-page resource provides practical tips on taking care of our mental health and well-being. It was developed by the American Psychiatric Foundation Center for Workplace Mental Health.

- **(This resource is available on the google drive.)**

7) **Promoting Financial Health and Resiliency for People with Disabilities and their Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic
(Center for Disability-Inclusive Community Development)**



The novel coronavirus, or COVID-19 pandemic, has created uncertainty for Americans' physical, mental and financial health. During this time, we must be vigilant in promoting healthy habits and resiliency. The Center for Disability-Inclusive Community Development (CDICD), managed by National Disability Institute (NDI), has developed five strategies and resources to assist you in taking steps to maintain your financial health.

<https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/financial-resiliency-tips.pdf>

(This 2-page handout is available on the google drive.)

8) **Pacific ADA Center**

The Pacific ADA Center is open for business to answer your questions on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), despite the current pandemic. Please call 1-800-949-4232 (V/TTY) or 510-285-5600 (V/TTY) during our regular business hours. You can also email

us at adatech@adapacific.org and we will respond the next business day. Please check our website regularly for updates on the ADA at <https://www.adapacific.org>.



9) Vital Source

www.vitalsource.com

Students will be able to access their class materials through VitalSource's Bookshelf app at no cost.

March 16th-May 25th, 2020 access to an expansive catalog of eTexts will be available for free to students at semester-calendar institutions who have been impacted by recent campus closures. Students simply log in to the VitalSource Bookshelf app using their school email address and can then view course materials from participating publishers via VitalSource's Explore capabilities within Bookshelf.

Students who need assistance accessing free eTexts can visit <https://get.vitalsource.com/vitalsource-helps> (Links to an external site.).



Inside Higher Ed:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/03/16/coronavirus-closures-force-colleges-move-students-online-ed-tech-experts-see>

10) Regional Center of Orange County Resources (Kathleen McFarland, RCOC Comfort Connection Family Resource Center & Reina Hernandez, RCOC)

Anh Nguyen has worked with our IT Department to develop the **Updates on Corona Virus/COVID-19**



webpage (<http://www.rcocdd.com/news-and-events/updates-on-coronaviruscovid-19/>). If you simply go to the RCOC home page and click on the virus box, you'll see a listing of information and new policies across the county and state.

AND – if you then click on the Resources for Community, Persons Served and Families link, you'll be taken to an even newer webpage **COVID-19/Corona Virus Community Resources** (<http://www.rcocdd.com/frc/ccfrc/covid-19coronavirus-family-resources/>) that provides current information on food availability, supplies, and in-home children's activities.

11) Autism at Work OC Online Meeting (Judi Uttal, OC Asperger's Support Group)

Finding employment was the top concern for OCASG Members per our 2018 survey. It is no wonder with 90% of those with Autism, either unemployed or under employed. In this webinar, we will bring together several individuals who are making a difference in finding employment for those on the Spectrum. Speakers include:

- Jimmy Lifton from Reel People
- Rebecca Beam from Auticon
- Jessica Lee & Herag Haleblian from The Spectrum Works
- Marcos Villa from New Vista Career Academy
- Tiffany Jameson from Grit and Flow Free Event. Please RSVP



www.memberplanet.com/events/ocasg/ocasgwebinarautismworkonline
(The flyer is available on the website.)

12) **JAN Accommodation and Compliance: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**
Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

<https://askjan.org/topics/COVID-19.cfm>

This accommodation and compliance information includes resources for employees with disabilities and employers on telework accommodations and managing a communicable disease like COVID-19 in the workplace.



13) **Voc Fit**

<http://www.vocfit.com/>

This is a free job training/employment assessment tool that was developed by The Ohio State University, Colorado State University and the National Institutes on Health.



It is currently utilized by many Project SEARCH Sites but other school and agencies are encouraged to use it. (These tools were originally developed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but has expanded its use to individuals (youth and adults) with a wide range of disabilities.)

" Job matching is the collaborative, data-based decision-making process used by transition teams to determine the best fit between an individual's abilities and preferences and the job's environmental and occupational demands"

Vocational Fit Assessment

- Valid and reliable assessment of student abilities & internship demands
- Demands & Abilities Transforming Algorithm**
- Consistent, efficient, & trustworthy data processing

Job Matching Reports

- Novel decision support system identifies the pros and cons of each potential job match.
- Reveals areas of need for goal setting and skill development

Step-by-Step Guide to VocFit.com

<http://www.vocfit.com/support.html>

Find both video & PDF options for step-by-step guidance on navigating VocFit.com.

14) **Work Opportunity Tax Credit 2020**

The [end-of-year spending and tax extension package](#) signed into law on Dec. 20 extended the [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#) (WOTC) through the end of 2020. If the credit had been allowed to expire at the end of 2019, employers would have lost an incentive to hire disadvantaged employees. But passing legislation to make the WOTC permanent is still needed, supporters of the credit say.



Enacted in 1996 and extended multiple times, the WOTC is a federal tax credit available to employers that hire and retain individuals from certain [groups that have consistently faced](#)

[significant employment barriers](#). About \$1 billion in tax credits are claimed each year under the WOTC program, according to the Department of Labor (DOL).

"The WOTC helps both employers that are experiencing labor shortages and certain groups of people who need assistance finding jobs, such as the long-term unemployed, the formerly incarcerated, individuals with disabilities and [qualified military veterans](#)," said Chatrane Birbal, director of policy engagement at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Other disadvantaged groups under the credit include people living in government-designated rural renewal counties or empowerment zones and recipients of certain welfare benefits.

The tax credit is equal to 25 percent of the qualified employee's first year of wages if the employee works between 120 and 400 hours in that year. It grows to 40 percent if the employee works more than 400 hours in that year.

15) Three Steps to a Career Pathway: Tips for Parents

PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment

<https://www.pacer.org/transition/resource-library/publications/NPC-63.pdf>

This new PACER publication looks at strategies that support a young adult's progress from education into and through the world of work. Self-exploration, career exploration, and career planning activities are key to helping students identify and prepare for a career pathway in a field that matches their strengths and interests. See related PACER video "[Connecting Youth to Careers](#)."

<https://www.pacer.org/transition/video/player.asp?video=275>

(This 2-page publication is on the google drive.)

WEBINARS:

16) Inclusive Career Pathways Community of Practice

The Nebraska CPAP Program & The ABLE National Resource Center (Webinar sponsored by WINTAC)

4-14-20 12-1:30 PM PT

Please join us for a discussion with Janet Drudik from Nebraska's Career Pathway Advancement Project (CPAP) and Laurie Schaller with the ABLE National Resource Center on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.



CPAP is one of four demonstration grants awarded nationally to state vocational rehabilitation agencies through the Rehabilitation Services Administration to promote Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities.

To register for the meeting on Tuesday, **April 14, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern**, go to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvco-oqjwpHfNoNvvWeQhiGZF5m2acAg>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email that contains information about how to join.

17) Transgender Awareness Training

Would a member of the transgender community feel welcome at your AJCC/One Stop Centers?

The LGBTQ Center Long Beach and the MUÑOZ Group in partnership with the California Workforce Association, are proud to offer an introductory training session focused on increasing awareness and inclusionary practices with transgender and nonbinary communities.

This session has been designed for individuals who are new to learning about transgender and nonbinary communities as well as those interested in taking action to improve work and/or service delivery environments.

This training is available to all local workforce boards, AJCC / One-Stop Center Staff, Public / Non-Profit Partners and all Workforce Service Providers!

April 27 th 8-12 PM	April 29 th 1-5PM
April 28 th 8-12 PM	April 30 th 1-5PM



Fee \$175

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/californiaworkforceassociation/355204>

**18) The National Resources for Access, Independence, Self-Advocacy and Employment Center (from the NTACTION Newsletter)
(Technical Assistance & Resources for RSA-funded Parent Training & Information Centers)**



College Transition for Students with Disabilities: Information for Service Providers

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

11:00am - 12:00pm (PT)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)



Students with physical disabilities, health conditions, and learning differences face a different set of challenges when transitioning to college.

This webinar will:

- Review the differences between IDEA and the ADA
- Discuss the evolving role of the university disability support office
- Outline areas on campus where students may request accommodations outside of academics
- Examine transition and accommodations for medically complex students
- Take questions

Participants will receive a handout with online resources for:

- Transition planning
 - Accessing support in college
 - Transition guides and tips for specific health conditions and physical disabilities
- Materials will be made available.

19) Mindfulness Matters (Christine Talbert, SCDD)

Presented by Illumination Institute – empowering children, families and communities by improving mental and general health.

It is a very difficult time. Parents are fulfilling multiple roles and leaving their self-care for last. You are going through the motions of what has to be done, but are you purposely focusing your attention on the present?



In this workshop, learn about mindfulness and some guided practices and techniques that you can implement at home. Practicing mindfulness can bring positive changes in health, attitudes and behaviors.

4-9-20 2-3:30 PM

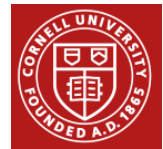
Register at bit.ly/Mindfulness4-09-20

20) ADA at Work: Considerations for COVID-19

This Cornell University webinar has been recorded and is available at...

<https://askearn.org/>

This webinar will discuss balancing guidance on COVID-19 containment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Hear from guest experts from two regional Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Centers on the implications of the pandemic on disability-related inquiries, medical examinations, and interpreting direct threat. Reasonable accommodations for telework, requests for which have spiked due to the required social distancing period, will also be discussed.



For Your Information (FYI):

21) The Cares Act (The Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) (Fred McFarlane, SDSU)



GOOD NEWS FOR SSI AND SSDI RECIPIENTS!

As you know, on Monday, March 30, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that people would have to file a tax return to receive stimulus rebate checks (economic impact payments). The IRS said it was developing a simplified return to make it easier for people to file who are not typically required to file tax returns, **but yesterday, Wednesday, April 1, the IRS announced that filing a tax return would not be required Afterall.**

the Treasury Department and the IRS announced that those who receive Social Security benefits and are not typically required to file tax returns will not need to file a "simple tax return" **to receive an economic impact payment. Instead, payments will be automatically deposited into their bank accounts.**

Yesterday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in a statement said, "We want to ensure that our senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income Americans receive Economic Impact Payments quickly and without undue burden **Social Security recipients who are not typically required to file a tax return need to take no action and will receive their payment directly to their bank account.**"

The IRS will use the information on the Form SSA-1099 and Form RRB-1099 to generate \$1,200 payments to Social Security recipients who did not file tax returns in 2018 or 2019. They will receive these payments as a direct deposit or by paper check.

Before the announcement, the IRS posted guidance [on its website](#) that said low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities would need to file a "simple tax return" to receive an economic impact payment. Yesterday's announcement makes sense and helps ensure that everyone who is entitled to help gets it without unnecessary red tape or delay.

Additional CARE Act Provisions:

- Allows state Medicaid programs to pay for direct support professionals to assist disabled individuals in the hospital
- Makes available \$13.5 billion for formula grants to States, which will then distribute 90 percent of funds to local educational agencies to meet needs of all students, including students with disabilities
- Provides \$85 million for Centers for Independent Living
- Provides \$50,000,000 for Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Extends Money Follows the Person and Spousal Impoverishment through November 30, 2020
- Waives nutrition requirements for Older Americans Act (OAA) meal programs during the public health emergency related to COVID-19 to ensure seniors can get meals in case certain food options are not available
- Authorizes recovery rebate payments (direct cash payments) to assist all people during the COVID-19 crisis, including those on SSI and SSDI, without counting against means tested programs like Medicaid
- Provides funding to assist states with voting and to ensure accessibility as states shift to absentee and mail-in voting.

Serious deficiencies in the CARES Act -

- Fails to provide paid leave for individuals who provide support to family members with disabilities

Note: If an employer grants paid leave to an individual to care for a family member with a disability, the employer will not receive the tax credits Congress authorized to cover the costs of paid sick days and expanded Family and Medical Leave Act coverage.

- Fails to provide additional grant funding for the home and community-based services (HCBS).
- Fails to provide permanent reauthorization of Money Follows the Person (MFP).
- Fails to recognize direct care workers as essential personnel; and
- Fails to provide additional funding for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients as proposed in the House bill.

Additional Resources:

The Center for Public Representation (CPR) has compiled detailed information on what was and was not included in the CARES Act. For additional details, click [here](#).

The ARC has also developed a comprehensive review of provisions vital to the lives of people with disabilities.

[Read the Arc's statement here.](#)



20)SCDD Announcements (Christine Talbert, SCDD)

In the times of uncertainty during this public health emergency,

the State Council on Developmental Disabilities wanted to reach out to you with a few helpful reminders for you, your family and friends. Our team continues to work to share important information in plain language as soon as we can and be here for you.

- **Benefit Re-determinations**

Governor Gavin Newsom has announced that Californians who rely on Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKS, Cash Assistance for immigrants and in-home supportive services will NOT lose access due to COVID-19. If you receive any of these services, you do not have to worry about your re-determination eligibility for 90 days. The 90-day period started yesterday.

- ✓ Medi-Cal health coverage
- ✓ CalFresh food assistance
- ✓ CalWORKS
- ✓ Cash Assistance for Immigrants; and
- ✓ In-Home Supportive Services

You can read the full order from the Governor here, <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>.

- **Services**

Services are still being provided by [Regional Centers](#), [In-Home Supportive Services](#), and through 211 (state information line).

- There are many ways to stay safe. All of our resources are posted on the [SCDD website](#) including these we released last week and today:

- ✓ [Ideas for Activities While Sheltering in Place](#)
- ✓ [Ideas para Actividades Mientras Se Refugia en el Lugar](#)
- ✓ [10 Tips to Support Someone During Times of Change](#)
- ✓ [10 consejos para apoyar a alguien en tiempos de cambio](#)

- **SCDD is open.** Call the toll-free number at (833) 818-9886 if you need to get in touch with any of the council's staff members or have questions for us. You can also access all our 12 regional office pages at

<https://bit.ly/regionalofficesinfo>

- **California Joint Bulletin**

In response to the Council's letter to Governor Gavin Newsom regarding the responsibility to care for people with disabilities during the current public health crisis, the Governor sent a joint bulletin with the Department of Health Care Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Managed Health Care.

- **In the joint bulletin, California assures...**

"The State of California understands that people with disabilities are concerned that medical providers might consider an individual's disability status when determining which patients to treat if hospitals or other health care facilities experience a surge of patients needing life-saving care. This joint bulletin reminds health care providers and payers that rationing care based on a person's disability status is impermissible and unlawful under both federal and state law."





We thank Governor Newsom and State health leaders for their quick action in protecting Californians with disabilities. You can read the full joint statement at <http://www.dmhc.ca.gov/Portals/0/Docs/DO/JointBulletinMedicalTreatmentForCOVID19Accessible.pdf>.
(This bulletin is available on the Google Drive.)

21) ABLÉ National Resource Center: March’s Top Three Questions
Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) National Resource Center
<https://www.ablenrc.org/march-april-2020-achievable-newsletter/#top-three-questions:-march-202>



Visit the website to see the answers to these top three Questions from the ABLÉ National Resource Center:

- Can I be taxed on third-party contributions to my 529 ABLÉ account?
- If funds in my 529 College Savings Plan are rolled over to a 529 ABLÉ account, are there any adverse tax consequences?
- Can I make a 529 ABLÉ program transfer to another 529 ABLÉ program for someone who is a non-family member?

22) SB-117 Summary (Mariam Ravkin, HopSkip Drive)



Soon after Coronavirus-driven school closures started, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB-117, an education budget trailer bill that primarily sought to protect the funding of California’s public school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools due to COVID-19 school closures.

The bill is lengthy, and it’s a lot of information, so we’ve broken out the **big takeaways from SB-117 for you:**

Funding

- Local Education Agencies **will not lose funding due to COVID-19 closures**. School districts will continue to receive funding as if they met the instructional minutes and number of school days required under state law.
- Ensures that the local educational agency’s **employees and contractors are compensated and paid** during the period of time a school is closed due to the coronavirus.

Revised requirements and timelines

- Waives average daily attendance relief and instructional minutes requirements.
- Waives attendance and reporting requirements for childcare and development programs.
- Extends timelines to assess pupils for english language proficiency by 45 days.
- Extends timelines for assessments.
- Extends timelines for uniform complaints.

- Extends timelines for proposed assessment plans for special education students.
- Extends timeline to respond to a request for student records by parents of students receiving special education services under special education statutes.
- Allows for charter schools to add independent study or distance learning programs without material revision of charter school.

We hope this quick summary helps — keep in mind that it is not comprehensive but the most salient points. Here's the [full CA SB-117 bill](#).

24) Unemployment: When to File a Claim

This 2-page document is a simple to read description of how to file an Unemployment Claim when you lose your job.



If you filed a Claim within the last year and didn't use all of your UI benefit you must reopen your claim to get benefits again.



Filing a Claim On-line is the fastest way to file a claim, but you can also file a claim by phone or by mail.