

Evidence-based Practices from CaPROMISE Leading Toward Successful Post-school Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income)

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California Community of Practice

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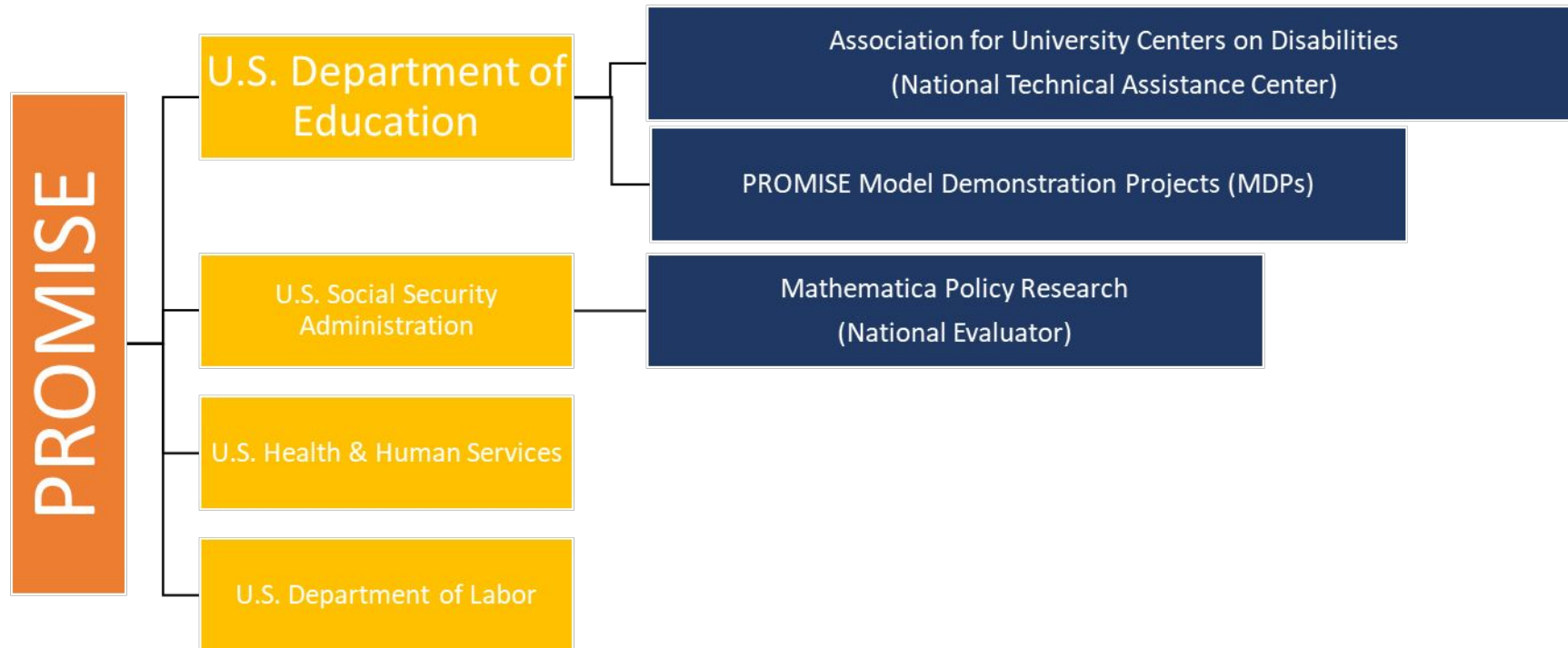
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An Orientation to CaPROMISE

Mari Guillermo, San Diego State University

Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE)



Purpose & Outcomes

- To improve the provision and coordination of services and supports for ***child SSI recipients and their families*** to enable them to achieve improved outcomes:
 - Increased educational attainment
 - Increased access to community services
 - Improved employment outcomes
 - Increased utilization of Social Security Work Incentives
 - Improved understanding of financial and benefits planning
 - Post-program reduction in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments

What did we learn?

<https://interwork.sdsu.edu/main/capromise>

COP March 1, 2021



I see myself (my child) getting a job after completing high school.



Intake

- Student - 49%
- Parent - 48%

Exit

- Student - 80%
- Parent - 79%

Higher Expectations

“Dad was convinced the student could not work. We invited him to come and watch his child work and he was amazed at what she was able to do. After graduation she was hired as a receptionist in a job that she absolutely loves.”

Increased Self-Confidence

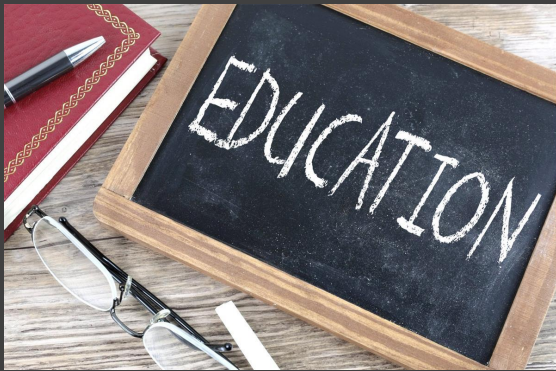
“The best part of being in CaPROMISE was being able to work, having a job, and seeing how it feels.”



Increased Opportunities

“I thought my sons can’t work because they have a disability. Now I can see my sons developing and the things they can do.”

High school retention and completion requires individualized support and follow-through.



Retention

- Continued enrollment - 18%
- Dropped out - 2%

Completion

- Diploma - 50%
- Certificate - 23%
- Other - 6%

Motivation and Support

“A troubled student, who hated school, and was credit deficient was motivated to complete his credits and graduate after the positive influence of his work placement.” (LEA Manager)

“My CSC helped me – making sure I had my credits and that my grades were up. Before CaPROMISE a few teachers helped me with that, but not really.” (Student)

Engaging and supporting the family is vital to reducing their reliance on SSI benefits.



465

family members enrolled in an academic program

448

family members completed an academic program

376

family members obtained part-time employment

603

family members obtained full-time employment

CSC

Career Service Coordinator

“CSC has been very resourceful presenting us with the options for the whole family. It shows that we’re all affected as a family and not just the individual. This is key for making programs like this flourish. Family unit is a key component.”

Certified Benefits Planner

Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability, Cornell University

“Need to dig deeper when parents say they don’t want student to work because they want him to concentrate on school when in fact parent may be afraid of child losing SSI. Take the time to ask “is it because of benefits?” Make time to educate parents.

LEA Region Manager Perspective

Joyce A. Montgomery, CaPROMISE Region I Manager, Vallejo City Unified School District

Challenges Working with CaPROMISE Families



Families mistrust of the benefit system



Families dependence on benefits and misinformation or no information



Families low expectations for students and lack of knowledge of available school & community resources



Families expectations for students to achieve



Families fear for student's safety



Multi barriers of the families



Misunderstanding of employer expectations

Successful Practices from a School Perspective

Engaging Families is the
key to success for the
student

Person Driven Planning – Student and Family focused

Family Participation – Families want to participate

Culture Change - Changing expectations for all PROMISE
students

Collaboration – Partnering with agencies for families

Work experience/Work-based Learning increasing engagement

Benefits Planning – Reducing fears and misconceptions

Increased post secondary opportunities by students graduating



Family Engagement Best Practices

Student Driven Planning

Family Nights

Google Classrooms Career Focused activities

After Hours Student Workshops

Parent Square

Designated Website for families

Online Parent Handbook for Transition Resources

Virtual forms and documents

Sharing Student Progress with families

Family Engagement Best Practices

Transition Fairs/Resource Fairs (Virtually)

Virtual Job Shadows

Virtual Job Interviews

Guest Speakers in Workshops

Virtual Celebrations for Student Success

CACSE - Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

Local Partnership Agreements to leverage resources for families and students



CaPROMISE Workforce Development Toolkit

CaPROMISE Toolkit - Interwork Institute, San Diego State University

<http://interwork.sdsu.edu/drupal/system/files/files/CaPROMISE-03-Toolkit-20-0114r-pt01.docx>

Transition CA - Thompson Policy Institute, Chapman University

<https://www.chapman.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/thompson-policy-institute/transition-initiative/index.aspx>



Financial Planning & Benefits Planning

Financial Planning & Benefits Planning Section 2

CaPROMISE RESOURCES

Financial Planning & Benefits Planning: There are very important things to know for individuals who are receiving SSI benefits. Some of the important things to know, as identified by our CaPROMISE team are in the following slides with links to access information and forms/documents.

Disability101 (DB101)

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Disability101 (DB101) -- California

DB101- Is a great tool/resource for financial planning and benefits planning. You can set up a profile and calculate/estimate various scenarios to help plan your future and how employment. You can get more information on IDEA's and Able Accounts. You can get information Cash Benefits, Health Care Coverage and Work Programs.

[DB101 California](#)

School and Work Calculators

Benefits and Work, PASS and School & Work calculators

What will happen to your income, benefits, and health coverage if you go to work? You can use the Benefits and Work Calculator to find out how a job may affect your total income and your health coverage.

[Disability Benefits 101 - Choose Your State](#)

Achieving a Better Life - (Able Account)

Achieving a Better Live— (Able Account)

The ABLE act allows a person to create a type of tax-advantaged account that would have limited effect on an individual's eligibility for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and other Federal means-tested programs. Eligible individuals would be limited to one ABLE Account.

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-able.html>

Age 18 Redetermination

Age 18 Redetermination

When you turn 18, Social Security will review your eligibility for continued SSI benefits based on disability rules for adults. SSA will contact you within a year of you turning age 18. During this medical review SSA will send you a letter and ask for information about your disability.

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005>

Section 301

SECTION 301 —

What is Section 301? Continued payment of disability or blind benefits (SSI and Title II) to individuals who have been medically ceased but continue to receive benefit payments because of their participation in an “appropriate program of Vocational Rehabilitation services, employment services, or other support services”. It is important because it Allows certain individuals to retain cash payments and medical insurance while preparing for employment, even though they no longer meet SSA’s disability definition. (IEP can count!)

Reporting wages

1) Reporting Wages

If you receive SSI and are working you must report all wages/earnings to SSA. There are options on how you can report. On line using MySSA account, by telephone (SSITWR), mobile device (SSIMWR), or you can report at your local SSA office. You should contact your local SSA office to see which way is the best to report. You must report all earnings or changes by the 10th day of the month following the earning or changes.

On-line-MySSA.gov- Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), their representative payees, and the spouse, parent(s), or sponsor of someone receiving SSI may use my Social Security to report wages online.
www.ssa.gov/myaccount

Wage Reporting Reminder, you can now sign up for email or text reminders to report **monthly** wages for SSI. <https://www.ssa.gov/ssiwagereporting/>

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Work Incentives

One of SSA's highest priorities is to help people with disabilities achieve independence by helping them take advantage of employment opportunities. Work incentive employment supports help disabled and blind SSI recipients go to work by minimizing the risk of losing their SSI or Medicaid benefits.

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-work-ussi.htm>

EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

SSA does not count the first \$65 of earned income plus one-half of the amount over \$65. SSI will reduce your SSI benefit only \$1 for every \$2 you earn over \$65.

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

Students can claim the student earned income exclusion to have part of their income from work disregarded when determining the SSI offset for earned income. If you are under age 22 and are regularly attending school (in grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours per week, in college or university for at least 8 hours per week, or in a training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours per week or 15 hours per week if the course includes shop practice). Alternatively, individuals who are home-schooled because of their disability are also entitled to the exclusion.

In January 2020 the amount excluded is \$1,900 monthly up to a yearly maximum of \$7,670

SEIE not automatic must be requested & must apply for every year.

[SSI Spotlight on Student Earned Income Exclusion](#)

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)

If you are disabled, SSA may exclude from your earned income any out-of-pocket expenses you pay for certain items and services that relate to your disability that you need in order to work as long as the cost is reasonable. For example, they may deduct the costs of co-pays, medications, counseling services, car modifications, assistive technology that people with disabilities use for employment-related purposes. These expenses are called impairment-related work expenses (IRWE).

Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)

If you are blind or have a disability, you may set up a plan to set aside income or resources for reaching an employment goal. If you are a child living with your parent(s), you may also exclude part of your parents' income and resources. You may use a PASS to exclude unearned income and resources as well as earned income and use that money to meet the expenses of reaching your occupational goal. SSA does not count income or resources set aside under a PASS when figuring the SSI benefit amount. You cannot use your SSI payment to pay the expenses necessary to reach your occupational goal. This is because you must use the SSI to pay ordinary living expenses. You can use a PASS to establish, maintain, or increase SSI benefits. [Social Security Online -Plan to Achieve Self-Support \(PASS\)](#)

Plan to Achieve Self-Support form. [Form SSA-545 | Plan To Achieve Self-Support](#)

Ticket To Work

The Ticket to Work provides several important opportunities for people ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability or SSI benefits and who want to go to work or increase their earnings. www.ssa.gov/work

Best Practices

Sample Letter for SEIE - See attached

Sample Letter for reporting wages - See attached

Notebook or binder to organize important information for and from Social Security Administration

Make copies, document dates etc in your binder

Applying for SSI benefits is a process and one that requires attention to detail

There is no such person as a SSI Case Worker/Manager at SSA

You always earn more by working! Even minimum wage.

Training Resources

Certification for Benefits Planners

Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability, Cornell University

<https://www.ytionline.org/courses>

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance

National Training and Data Center, Virginia Commonwealth University

<https://vcu-ntdc.org/>

Questions?